



Strong local govt essential for stronger democracy: President

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Sunday said democracy must be institutionalised and local government must be strengthened to make democracy stronger. He made the remarks when administrators of 33 district councils met him at Bangabhaban in the afternoon, President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam told UNB.

Describing local government the biggest strength of democracy, the President instructed the district council administrators to remain active and vigilant to break away from the corruption left behind by the fascist regime. During the meeting, the district council administrators placed various demands before the President, including enhancement of their status. Mirza Fakhrul assured them that steps will be taken promptly to resolve their problems, saying the present government is a government of the people.

He also said the government is working with due importance to strengthen the local government system as part of its efforts to decentralise power. The President recalled with gratitude the active participation of the district council administrators in restoring democracy and in the long struggle against fascism. He also gave the administrators necessary

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Chevron team meets PM, discusses investment in Bangladesh's gas sector

Staff correspondent

A high-level delegation from Chevron met Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Sunday and discussed the US energy giant's potential investment in Bangladesh's energy sector, particularly gas. President of Chevron's Base Assets and Emerging Countries Javier La Rosa led the delegation during the meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office at Bangladesh Secretariat in the morning, said a release issued by the PM's Press Wing. During the meeting, the delegation discussed increasing Chevron's investment in Bangladesh's existing and mature gas fields, as well as exploring opportunities for investment in new gas fields. The discussions came amid the government's efforts to strengthen domestic gas production and attract investment to the energy sector to meet the country's growing energy demand. Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral

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Salahuddin, IRI delegation discuss cybercrime, online bullying

Staff correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Sunday held a meeting with a delegation of the International Republican Institute (IRI), with discussions focusing on preventing cybercrime and online bullying, and the proposed Cyber Security (Amendment) Act 2026. The courtesy meeting took place at the minister's office at noon. The delegation was led by IRI Resident Programme Director John Fluharty. Helen Jerin Khan, MP, IRI Technical Adviser Ruksana Haque, and young politicians and IRI trainees Chamon Faria and Mohammad Prince were also present. During the meeting, Fluharty briefed the minister on IRI's ongoing programmes aimed at developing youth leadership and promoting violence-free political practices.

He said young people and political activists in Bangladesh are currently facing harassment and defamation due to cyberbullying and organised disinformation. Fluharty called for a consensus-based policy and legal protection for both the government and opposition parties in this regard. The minister assured the delegation that the government is aware of citizens' freedom of expression and personal security. "Under Article 39 of the Constitution, every citizen has the right to express opinions and engage in constructive criticism, subject to reasonable restrictions. However, constructive criticism is not the same as character assassination

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New office inauguration and monthly discussion meeting of Journalist Development Society of Bangladesh, Chattogram North District Branch held on 12/09/2026 afternoon



Mirsarai, Chattogram, Correspondent

The meeting featured valuable, directive

speeches on various aspects of the organization by the Senior Vice-President of the organization and Editor of The Daily Bangla Sky. Newspaper, Md. Neyamul Hossain. Present at the meeting were the Honorable Advisor, President Oliur Rahman Oli, General Secretary Mizanur Rahman, along with other executive members and members of the Journalist Development Society of Bangladesh, Chattogram North District Branch. Senior Vice-President Mr. Neyamul Hossain said, "Collecting objective news and bringing the realities around you including irregularities, corruption, and various inspiring activities to the people through your writing is what we aim for. That is our goal. That is our work. Nowadays, while gathering news, journalists are facing various kinds of harassment, and even attacks. Within such a disorganized society, I am hopeful that you will carry out your responsibilities properly." In this monthly discussion, the President, General Secretary and other speakers discussed various

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Zubaida stresses inclusive, affordable healthcare for all



Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's wife and Vice President of the Ziaur Rahman Foundation Dr Zubaida Rahman yesterday stressed the need for making quality healthcare accessible to every citizen of Bangladesh irrespective of income, location or social status, saying health is not a privilege but a basic human right. Sophisticated hospitals or procurement of advanced apparatus should not be considered the sole measure of the level of healthcare, she said. Dr Zubaida said this while speaking in a plenary discussion titled- Helath Innovation for All: Expanding Access to Affordable and Inclusive Care at Bangladesh Innovation Fair 2026 at plenary hall of Novotheatre in the city. The fair is being held under the auspices of Ministry of Sciences and Technology. Dr Zubaida said, many people come specialist

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Katimon keeps Naogaon mango market brisk in off-season

Staff correspondent

While the season for popular mango varieties such as Amrapali, Fazli, Gopalbhog and Himsagar has ended, Katimon mangoes are keeping Naogaon's markets active in the off-season. At Sapahar, the district's largest mango market, farmers are bringing fresh Katimon from their orchards and buyers are continuing to purchase the fruit even after the traditional mango season. A visit to the Sapahar market on September 10 and 11 found the market

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French senators eye stronger political engagement with Bangladesh

Staff correspondent

A delegation of three French senators on Sunday met State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam at her office and discussed issues and ways to further strengthen political engagement between Bangladesh and France. They discussed bilateral and multilateral issues during the meeting. Senators Guillaume Chevrollier, Pierre-Alain Roiron and Olivier Henno arrived in Dhaka on Saturday night on a three-day official visit. Ambassador of France to Bangladesh Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet and Head of the Political Wing of the Embassy Christian Bec accompanied the senators during their meeting with the State Minister. They are part of the French-Southeast Asia and Bangladesh Senate Friendship Group, and the visit is particularly meaningful as it is the first political-level visit from France since the new democratically elected government took office in Bangladesh, said the French Embassy in Dhaka. They will discuss strengthening political and parliamentary ties, exchange perspectives with their Bangladeshi counterparts and explore new areas of cooperation between the two countries. The French Senate (Sénat) is the upper chamber of the French Parliament, alongside the National Assembly. The senators are scheduled to meet Speaker of Parliament Hafiz Uddin Ahmad and hold discussions with various Bangladeshi interlocutors. Their programme also includes visits to places associated with French development cooperation, museums, and meetings with members of the French community in Dhaka, as well as engagements with representatives of the business community.

Kidney patients to get dialysis services at district, upazila level

Staff correspondent

The government is set to introduce dialysis services for kidney patients at all district and upazila levels across the country soon. Under the plan a three-month training programme is underway for 5,000 nurses and medical technologists on dialysis care, Director General of the Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery Dil Afroza told BSS. The government has also decided to create 2,500 new posts for nurses and medical technologists, she said. She said a three-month training programme on kidney dialysis is going on. Ninety nurses are taking training at National Kidney Foundation, 20 in Pabna and 10 in Rajshahi. Such training programme will begin on a larger scale in several other places including Sylhet, within a few days, she said adding that more nurses would be recruited to ensure dialysis services for kidney patients across the country within the quickest possible time. Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md Sakawat Husain said 50-bed kidney dialysis centres would be established in every medical college hospital and 10-bed dialysis centres

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AI, robotics, technical education being added to textbooks for grades 6-10: Mahdi

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Education and Primary Mass Education Adviser Mahdi Amin said the government is bringing about a revolutionary change in the country's education system to produce world-class skilled human

resources and a technology-driven future generation.

"From the next academic year, modern subjects such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, machine learning and cybersecurity are being given special priority in textbooks for grades six

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Concerns Raised Over 'Camp-Fire' Bar Near Educational Institutions in Uttara

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

Various complaints have surfaced regarding the presence and operations of a bar named 'Camp-Fire' near educational institutions in the capital's Uttara area. Locals allege that the bar engages in various irregularities, including the sale of foreign liquor banned for import and the illegal supply of liquor parcels. It is also claimed that allegations regarding drugs and prostitution have previously been raised against the establishment. Inquiries revealed that the bar previously operated out of a building on Gausul Azam Road in Uttara Sector 14, right next to Mastermind School and College. It is alleged that the relevant authorities issued a relocation notice after the location sparked dissatisfaction among locals. Subsequently, the bar was relocated to the BNS Building area in Uttara Model Town.

However, questions have arisen again as the new location is also in close proximity to educational institutions. According to locals, Rajuk College is situated on one side of the bar, while Paramoni Laboratory School and Cambrian School and College are on the other. Consequently, the operation of a bar so close to these institutions has caused concern among teachers, students, and guardians. Officials from the affected educational institutions have reportedly raised objections regarding the bar's location. Allegations suggest that various types of foreign liquor are sold and supplied as parcels from the bar at night; however, there are questions regarding whether this liquor was obtained through legal imports. Locals have demanded that the relevant authorities monitor the situation and conduct an investigation. Despite multiple attempts to contact Shamim Ahmed, Deputy

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Journalist killed in bus collision with motorcycle in Bhanga, Faridpur

Biplob Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A journalist named Kazi Ashraf (45) has been killed in a collision between a motorcycle and a bus in Bhanga, Faridpur. He tragically died in the morning when the bus collided with the motorcycle he was riding on the Dhaka-Khulna highway. He was the Lohagara correspondent for Asian Television in Narail district. At the time, another person named Mahamudul Hasan Anik, who was with him, was injured. This accident occurred today, Friday (13 September), in the Monsurabad area of Bhanga upazila on the Dhaka-Khulna highway. The deceased Kazi Ashraf was the son of Kazi Shamsur Rahman from Gopinathpur village in Lohagara municipality, Narail. The deceased's son-in-law, Soni Chowdhury, stated that on Sunday morning, Kazi Ashraf and Mahamudul Hasan Anik were heading to Dhaka on a motorcycle for personal work from Lohagara. Meanwhile, when they reached the Monsurabad area of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur district on the Khulna-Dhaka highway, the motorcycle lost control and fell on the road. As a result, he was severely injured after colliding

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We need a long-term dengue control plan

We fail to comprehend how, despite over a decade of dedicated spending on mosquito control, government agencies’ response to the yearly dengue outbreak can still be so threadbare. According to DGHS data, at least 143 dengue patients have died—over 40 in September alone—while 50,276 were hospitalised this year as of Saturday. But the figures could be higher, as the current DGHS data only covers 139 hospitals,

At this point, there can be no excuse for such lacklustre dengue preparedness. Alarmingly, due to the past interim government’s cancellation of the proposed fifth Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP) and the resultant funding gap, the DGHS could not conduct its three entomological surveys last year. Meanwhile, no survey has yet been conducted this year, save for a small-scale

pre-monsoon one by the DSCC. And although we have researchers and entomologists equipped with the knowledge needed to prevent dengue outbreaks, only one out of 12 city corporations has an entomologist to help authorities control mosquito-borne diseases. Meanwhile, civil surgeon offices in only 24 out of 64 districts have approved posts for entomologists. Of the 24 districts with approved posts, in at least six, the post has remained vacant for years. Is it any surprise then that dengue has spread to all 64 districts? The government’s three-month dengue prevention campaign is surely a timely intervention. It promotes cleanliness at the individual level, encouraging citizens, including students, scouts, cleaning workers, and young people, to keep their respective surroundings free of trash and stagnant water. This collective action can go a long way to prevent Aedes mosquito breeding grounds from persisting. But, more crucially, the government must adopt a science-based approach to countering dengue. And as a first step, the near-absence of entomologists in relevant public agencies and departments must be rectified.

It is reassuring that the government has directed civil surgeons to step up hospital preparedness and public awareness efforts, as the peak of the dengue outbreak could occur over the next one month. However, it is equally important to resume the DGHS’ annual surveys. Besides, experts’ input must be welcomed and implemented properly. Dengue has unfortunately become a year-long danger now. The situation must be reversed so that by next year the dengue situation can be much better managed.

Strong local govt

directives to accelerate development activities of the district councils, ensure citizen services at the local level and maintain administrative transparency.

Chevron team meets PM, discusses

Resources Aninda Islam Amit, Chevron Bangladesh President and Managing Director Shu Xiong and senior officials concerned were present.

Salahuddin, IRI delegation

or abusive language for political purposes,” he said.Salahuddin said the government has been seeking opinions from the international community, media personalities, senior editors and civil society stakeholders for the past two months as part of efforts to revise the proposed Cyber Security (Amendment) Act.He said the main objectives of the law is to restore civility in the digital space, protect women and young people from cyberbullying and ensure professional protection for journalists while preventing any misuse of the law.The minister said the government will welcome constructive recommendations from both international and local stakeholders to strengthen digital security and establish a violence-free political environment. Additional Home Secretary (Political and Immigration Wings) Dr Ziauddin Ahmed and Joint Secretary of the Political-1 Branch Rebeka Khan, among others, attended the meeting.

New office inauguration and monthly

issues including the rules and discipline of the organization. At the end, everyone had snacks together and expressed gratitude to Almighty Rabbul Alamín.

Zubaida stresses inclusive, afford

hospitals only after their conditions become complicated. Patients travel long distances to take necessary service as such service is not available close to home.She said modern tertiary healthcare has also become extremely expensive, though it’s not the problem of Bangladesh alone. Many advanced countries are facing such problems, she added.Dr Zubaida said, “We often say that prevention is better than cure. It’s true, but healthcare system must diagnose the disease and its risks before they become severe.” She said that healthcare should be made accessible to the remotest villages so that every citizen can receive healthcare. Patients suffering from dengue should not need to travel long distances for treatment. Parents with children suffering from measles should have access to healthcare closer to their homes, she noted.She also stressed that all screening programs must connect patients to a confirmatory diagnosis, counseling, treatment, medication, monitoring, and referrals. “Bangladesh can also begin preparing for the health needs of an aging society, including dementia, Parkinsons disease and other diseases affecting geriatric populations,” she said. Dr Zubaida said the health vision should be based on a clear principle that quality healthcare should not be a privilege determined by income, location or social status. It should be accessible to every citizen in every part of Bangladesh.She said the vision should includes strengthening primary healthcare, bringing care closer to home, expanding preventive programs, developing the health force and gradually increasing public investment in health toward five percent of the GDP.The planned recruitment of 100,000 health workers par-

What we can learn from other countries to tackle our NPL crisis

Md. Neyamul Hossain

to purchase NPLs at a discount and sell them off at high prices. Capital was injected into healthy banks through public bonds and insolvent banks were acquired through the Korea Deposit Insurance Corporation (KDIC). KAMCO’s NPL disposition methods included bulk/individual sales to domestic and international investors, asset-backed securities issuance, bankruptcy auctions, debt collection, and loan restructuring. It also conducted massive debt-for-equity swaps and mergers and acquisitions. Korea’s relatively mature legal framework and further reforms to its bankruptcy legislation contributed to

China’s NPL ratio was over 25 percent following the 1997 financial crisis. In 1999, the government established four specialised AMC’s to take over, manage, and dispose of bad loans from the big four state-owned banks. China also imposed heavy restrictions on loan defaulters enjoying some social benefits. Defaulters were not allowed to buy air and high-speed train tickets, to serve as executives of corporate entities, or to avail further credit; their personal ID cards used to avail hotel accommodation facilities were banned. Even though many politicians, legislative and government staff were among the defaulted borrowers, there was no exception to punishment. The court, in partnership with telecommunication operators, implemented a public shaming tactic whereby anyone calling the debtor would hear the message: “The person you are calling has been put on a blacklist by the courts for failing to repay their debts. Please urge this person to honour the legal obligations.” Between 2000 and 2011, China’s NPL rate declined from over 25 percent to around 1 percent. By June 2026, the country’s NPL rate reached only 1.5 percent.

KAMCO’s accomplishments. KAMCO’s success can also be attributed to political will backed by strong public interest in ensuring the right use of public funds. By 2001, the NPL ratio in Korea declined significantly. It stood at only 0.5 percent in March 2026. The NPL rate in Malaysia peaked at over 20 percent in early 1999. Malaysia blacklisted defaulters and prohibited them from leaving the country. The government guaranteed depositors’ funds and decided that troubled institutions would not be closed. Three new state-run agencies were established in 1998: (i) Danamodal (recapitalisation), a subsidiary of the central bank to recapitalise, restructure, and monitor the performance of insolvent financial institutions; (ii) Corporate Debt Restructuring Committee to restructure corporate debts by creating a forum for lenders and borrowers; and (iii) Danaharta, an asset management company to buy, manage, restructure, or dispose of NPLs and assets attached as collateral, and to maximise the recovery value of the acquired assets. Subsequently, the NPL ratio dropped below 5 percent by the mid-2000s, reaching 2.1 percent by 2009. The country’s NPL ratio hovered around 1.4 percent in March 2026. Japan’s NPL rate peaked at 8.4 percent in 2002 after the crisis. The government launched a major effort to clean up the banking sector, including injecting public funds to stabilise

the system and facilitate NPL disposal. The Resolution and Collection Corporation (RCC) was established in 1999 to take over NPLs from the failed financial institutions. Initially, the RCC resorted to straight loan collection, but later it turned to restructuring. NPL securitisation was facilitated by important amendments to its legal framework. Reorganisation of companies has been facilitated by the Corporate Reorganization Law, effective since April 2003. This legislation was accompanied by the establishment of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan (IRCJ), a joint-stock company with government-guaranteed loans to focus on reorganisations. The IRCJ reviewed reorganisation plans and purchased loans from banks—that were not the principal lender of the debtor corporations—at the request of corporations with excessive debts. The country’s NPL ratios fell from a peak of 8.4 percent in 2002 to 1.8 percent in 2006. By 2025, the NPL ratio fell to 1 percent. China’s NPL ratio was over 25 percent following the 1997 financial crisis. In 1999, the government established four specialised AMC’s to take over, manage, and dispose of bad loans from the big four state-owned banks. China also imposed heavy restrictions on loan defaulters enjoying some social benefits. Defaulters were not allowed to buy air and high-speed train tickets, to serve as executives of corporate entities, or to avail further credit; their personal ID cards

used to avail hotel accommodation facilities were banned. Even though many politicians, legislative and government staff were among the defaulted borrowers, there was no exception to punishment. The court, in partnership with telecommunication operators, implemented a public shaming tactic whereby anyone calling the debtor would hear the message: “The person you are calling has been put on a blacklist by the courts for failing to repay their debts. Please urge this person to honour the legal obligations.” Between 2000 and 2011, China’s NPL rate declined from over 25 percent to around 1 percent. By June 2026, the country’s NPL rate reached only 1.5 percent.

Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, and China successfully reduced their NPL rates mainly through mergers and acquisitions, loan restructuring, recapitalisation, reorganisation, securitisation, debt-for-equity swaps, asset-backed securities, and out-of-court workout. Bangladesh can also reduce its NPLs by punishing wilful defaulters, making the money loan courts (aarthā rin adalat) vibrant, stopping political interference in loan sanction and establishing good governance in the banking sector. For that political will, good intention and strong public interest are required; otherwise, NPLs will continue to pile up.

value of Katimon mangoes is around Tk 59.67 crore, officials said.The district currently has around 30,310 hectares of mango orchards, according to the DAE.

Although the traditional mango season generally ends by June, late varieties such as Ashwina, BARI-4, Gaurmati and Katimon continue to reach the market afterwards. With Katimon now available well beyond the traditional mango season, farmers in Naogaon are increasingly looking to the variety as a source of higher returns and year-round employment.

Concerns Raised Over ‘Camp-Fire

Director (North Division) of the Department of Narcotics Control, regarding these allegations, no statement could be obtained from him. However, Dewan Md. Zillur Rahman, the inspector for the area, stated that he would discuss the matter at the office. He added that regulations are not violated and that necessary action would be taken if a written complaint is received.

Meanwhile, allegations involving multiple criminal cases have also surfaced against Jewel, an individual associated with the bar’s ownership. However, court records and statements from relevant authorities need to be verified regarding these allegations. When contacted by phone, Khan Monir, the Managing Director of the bar, stated that schools and colleges are located at some distance and emphasized that they possess all valid documentation for foreign liquor. He remarked that the bar had previously been located in a residential neighborhood, which led to its relocation. However, reports indicate that the bar was forced to relocate in the face of protests by students involved in the anti-discrimination movement.

The most significant question arising is how a bar obtained approval to operate in such close proximity to educational institutions and whether its operations comply with relevant regulations.

Locals are demanding a swift investigation into the bar’s location, licensing, the legality of its liquor imports and sales, and its overall operations. They insist that if the allegations are substantiated, legal action should be taken against the parties involved.

Kidney patients to get dialysis

tries in every district sadar hospital. Meanwhile, applications have already been collected from nurses working at public medical college hospitals, specialised hospitals and district sadar hospitals for participating in the training under 2026-27 fiscal year programme.A decision in this regard had been taken at a meeting of the Health Services Division with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair on August 12.The meeting was organised by the Coordination Cell responsible for implementing commitments and proposed programmes of members of parliament.Following the decisions, the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) sent the minutes of the meeting, in the form of a Record of Notes, to the Secretary of the Health Services Division on August 24 for taking necessary steps.Earlier, at a meeting held during the Prime Minister’s visit to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on July 20, a decision was taken to establish 10-bed kidney dialysis centres in every district of the country.According to data from the Kidney Awareness Monitoring and Prevention Society (KAMPS), around 3.8 crore people in Bangladesh are suffering from kidney disease. Around 40,000 patients are dependent on dialysis.However, dialysis services are largely concentrated in Dhaka and other major cities, leaving many patients in remote areas deprived of access to treatment. Against this backdrop, the government is planning to expand dialysis services to hospitals at district and upazila levels.



ECNEC to consider 15 projects at third meeting on Wednesday

Staff correspondent

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) is set to hold its third meeting of the 2026-27 fiscal year on Wednesday, with a 15-project agenda spanning transport, defence, health, water resources and land management sectors, according to a notice issued by the Planning Division. The meeting will be held at 10:00am at the Cabinet Room of Secretariat, chaired by Prime Minister and ECNEC Chairman Tarique Rahman, according to the notice.

Under the Physical Infrastructure Division, the committee will examine Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development

Project (Line-5): Southern Route, to run from September 2026 to August 2033 under the Road Transport and Highways Division. Also on the list are upgradation of district highways under Rajshahi Road Zone and under Chattogram Road Zone in its third phase, both under the same division. Defence-related infrastructure proposals include the second phase of Barisal Cantonment establishment (July 2026-December 2030) and construction of accommodation and other facilities for naval personnel in the Khulna Naval Zone (July 2026-June 2029), both proposed by the Ministry of Defence.

The Khulna Drainage System Development Project (first revised),

running since July 2020 through June 2027 under the Local Government Division, is also listed, alongside two railway projects from the Ministry of Railways: the Implementation of Electric Traction Along the Narayanganj-Dhaka-Joydebpur Section of Bangladesh Railway and the first-revised project for a new dual-gauge railway line from Bogura to Sirajganj. Under the Industries and Energy Division, ECNEC will review the Improved Working Condition and Social Protection for Workers in the Textile and Leather Sector project from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and the first-revised upgradation and expansion of the

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PM to present new Bangladesh vision at UNGA: Humaiun

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will present Bangladesh's new outlook and future vision before world leaders during his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York later this month, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said yesterday. "The prime minister will present Bangladesh's new outlook and vision, what the new Bangladesh will look like," Kobir told journalists at the foreign ministry here this afternoon. He said the prime minister is scheduled to

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Necessary manpower, vehicles to be provided to improve law and order: Yasser

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Yasser Khan Choudhury yesterday said necessary manpower and vehicles will be provided to the law enforcers in phases for improving the law and order situations. He said as drug a serious obstruction of any development, and causes of increasing crimes in the society, so it should be controlled unitedly. He directed

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No revenge, no more 'ghost' cases: Law Minister



Staff correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman on Sunday said the government is not pursuing a policy of revenge and does not want to do so in the future.

"We have not become vengeful, nor do we want to be," he said while speaking at an exchange of views on law and order, corruption control, drug prevention, good governance and accountability at Sathkira Deputy Commissioner's office. Responding to questions from journalists, the law minister said police were used to file politically motivated cases. "There is not a single example of the police filing politically motivated cases after Aug 5," he said. He said police cannot refuse

to register a case if an individual submits a complaint but they must investigate the allegations. "We have reached a position of balance. There are no more false 'ghost' cases like before," he said. Asaduzzaman said the police force had been turned into a tool of political servitude. "After August 2024, we had to give the police mental strength and courage. They are

now trying to work impartially and continuing their efforts," he said. On drug control, the minister said drug trafficking is not being carried out solely by a handful of people in Bangladesh as consignments were also entering the country from a neighbouring state. Addressing corruption, he said, "Financial corruption is one thing. Another is intellectual corruption, when someone sitting in a position of authority thinks about how to harm people instead of ensuring justice." "We must stop both forms of corruption," he added. The minister said the government would continue working under the prime minister's guidance to ensure good governance for the people. "We are speaking out against drugs as

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Pirojpur DC Inspects Construction Work of Signature Road

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

Pirojpur Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Abu Saeed today inspected the ongoing construction work of the Signature Road, including the road and drainage system being implemented by Pirojpur Municipality. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner visited the ongoing construction site and reviewed the progress of the work, construction quality, and implementation process. He also discussed the overall progress with officials and personnel involved in the project. He emphasized ensuring that the construction work is carried out according to the approved design and required standards, maintaining the quality of construction materials, and completing the project within the stipulated timeframe. Deputy Commissioner Abu Saeed said, "Development projects of this kind will play an important role in improving key roads in the city, ensuring an effective drainage system, and making public movement safer and more convenient. He also added that the Pirojpur District Administration will continue its monitoring and coordination efforts to ensure infrastructural development and better civic services in the city."

Allegation after allegation yet promotion for UNO

M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria

A series of allegations including irregularities, corruption, abuse of power, and bias in recruitment and leasing processes have been raised against Shahina Nasrin, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Nasirnagar in Brahmanbaria. Cases have also been filed in court over some of these allegations.

Amid this, she has been promoted to the post of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Gopalganj. The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification regarding this on August 25. During her tenure in Nasirnagar, allegations were raised against her regarding recruitment at the model mosque, distribution of government salt, leasing of khas ponds, water bodies, and cattle markets. The case filed against her over irregularities in the appointment of an imam at the model mosque is currently under trial in court. The most recent issue to draw attention is the registration of Bhalakut Ekota Matsyajibi Cooperative Society Limited. Local fishermen allege that the purported fake society was registered through irregularities, excluding genuine fishermen. They have also alleged bribery in this regard. In protest against the allegations, more than a hundred fishermen recently held a human chain and demonstration in Bhalakut. In addition, there are allegations of irregularities in the leasing of Bila Kupa water body in Manoharpur, the khas pond in Buriswar, and various cattle markets. Locals have also alleged irregularities in the distribution of government salt and in the allocation of 3 million taka for road construction in Chatolpara. Regarding

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Boat Racing Storm on the Titas in Brahmanbaria, Thousands Cheer as Sadar Upazila Becomes Champion

M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria

The traditional boat race competition-2026 was held in a festive atmosphere on the Titas River in Brahmanbaria. Organized by the Brahmanbaria District Administration on Saturday (September 12) afternoon, the event drew a huge crowd to both banks of the river. People of all ages gathered on both sides of the Titas from the morning to witness this age-old Bengali tradition.

Competitors from nine upazilas of the district took part in the race with their boats. The sight of the competing boats racing across the Titas River created great enthusiasm among the spectators. During the competition, the entire area echoed with applause, cheers, and shouts from the crowds on both banks. With the sound of drums and the festive mood, the Titas River seemed to come alive. At the end of the day-long

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Tarek Rahman Gifts House to Martyred Jubo Dal Leader's Family in Feni; Rizvi Hands Over Key

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Senior Joint Secretary General of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, has called on everyone to remain vigilant to ensure that no darkness or difficult times return to the country following the end of 17 years of political oppression. He stated that during the 17 years of Awami rule, a reign of terror was unleashed on political dissidents, pushing thousands of families into an uncertain future. MZKvj He made these remarks as the chief guest at a remembrance meeting and key-handover ceremony on Sunday afternoon at the Omoria Farukia Dakhil Madrasa premises in Forhadnagar, Bhorbaraz, under Feni Sadar Upazila. The event was organized by "Amra BNP Paribar" to hand over the keys to a newly constructed house gifted to the family of Jubo Dal leader Harunur Rashid—who was killed in police firing during a political program

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Against Illegal Sand Extraction in Gowainghat 3 are Fined Tk 150,000



Naem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

A task force has conducted a drive against illegal sand extraction in Gowainghat, Sylhet, fining three individuals a total of Tk 150,000. During the operation, two boats used for illegal sand extraction were dismantled and

destroyed at the scene. The operation was conducted from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Saturday (September 12) in the New Bhanga Haor, Bichanakandi Zero Point, Goragram and Manorotal Bazar areas of the upazila. The drive was led by Zakaria Hossain, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate of Gowainghat. During the operation, six people were detained on suspicion of involvement in illegal sand extraction. After verifying statements from the detainees and testimony from local dignitaries, three of them were found not to be directly involved in sand extraction and were released after signing undertakings. The other three were fined

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Local production of affordable smartphones to begin in October: Rehan

Staff correspondent

Local production of affordable smartphones is set to begin in October, with the government aiming to bring smartphones with data connectivity to around five crore people who currently do not have smartphones within 18 to 24 months.

Talking to BSS, Prime Minister's Adviser on Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Rehan Asif Asad said the initiative aims to bring the effective cost of a smartphone down to Tk 2,000-3,000 for ordinary people, including agricultural workers, farmers and rickshaw pullers. He said around seven crore people currently do not have smartphones, while around 50 percent of people in the country still use feature phones. "Their (manufacturers) offer is that they can give up to Tk 1,000 per device. They will subsidise it. So, roughly, we are

◆ see page 7



17 Rounds of Ammunition and Cartridges Recovered in Rangpur

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)-13 has recovered 17 rounds of live ammunition and cartridges found abandoned. These munitions were seized during a raid conducted late Saturday night (September 12) in Rashidpur village under Latipur Union of the upazila.

RAB stated that, acting on a tip-off, a team from RAB-13 conducted a raid at 1:40 AM near a pond in Rashidpur village. During the operation, they recovered 8 rounds of lead-ball shotgun cartridges, 8 rounds of rubber shotgun cartridges, and one round of live 7.62mm rifle ammunition, all wrapped in polythene. Following the operation, the recovered ammunition was handed over to Mithapukur Police Station for further legal action.

RAB-13 stated that they are investigating whether the items had been hidden there with any malicious intent. Intelligence surveillance has been stepped up to identify the perpetrators, and such operations against illegal arms and terrorism will continue.

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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

সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

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ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

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



Tragedy strikes Chittagong wedding party: 4 killed in highway crash

Jahangir Alam, MZKvj Staff Reporter

CHITTAGONG: A celebration turned into mourning late Saturday night when a head-on collision between a covered van and a microbus claimed four lives, including a child and a teenager, on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway.

MZKvj At least eight others were injured in the crash, with several reported to be in critical condition.

MZKvj The incident occurred around 2:45 AM on Sunday in the Sikalbaha Chaumuhani area under Karnafuli Police Station.

MZKvj Three of the deceased have been identified as Md. Ferdous Alam (5), Mipta (17), and the microbus driver, Munna (40). The identity of the fourth victim, an unidentified man aged around 35, could not immediately be confirmed by the police.

MZKvj According to police and eyewitness accounts, the microbus was carrying guests back to Eidgaon in Cox's Bazar after a wedding reception at a community center in the Agrabad area of Chittagong city. As the vehicle reached Sikalbaha Chaumuhani, it collided head-on with a speeding covered van taking a U-turn from the opposite direction.

MZKvj The impact crushed the front section of the microbus. MZKvj Child Ferdous and teenager Mipta died on the spot. Upon receiving the news, local residents, Fire Service personnel, and Karnafuli police rushed to the scene to rescue the victims and transport them to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Driver Munna and another passenger succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

MZKvj Confirming the incident, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Karnafuli Police Station, Nur Ahmad, stated, "Both the microbus and the covered van have been seized. However, the driver and assistant of the covered van fled the scene immediately after the accident. A police operation is underway to arrest them, and legal proceedings are in progress."

MZKvj The sudden tragedy has plunged the victims' families into deep grief, leaving tears and mourning across the CMCH premises.

AI, robotics, technical education

to ten. At the same time, technical education is being institutionally integrated with mainstream education and made compulsory for all students," he said.

He made the remarks while speaking at a plenary session of 'Bangladesh Innovation Fair 2026', organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology at Novo Theatre in the capital yesterday.

Mahdi, also Prime Minister's Office spokesperson said, "The government is giving the highest priority to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education to keep pace with the technology-driven and rapidly changing global framework. The Prime Minister has given direct instructions to give equal priority to STEM education not only at the secondary and higher secondary levels but also at the tertiary level."

Outlining the details of the curriculum reform, he said necessary reforms are underway at every stage from primary to higher education to overcome the limitations of theoretical education and reduce the gap between book-based learning and practical application.

He said two new subjects, 'Sports' and 'Culture', will be introduced at the primary level in the fourth grade from the next academic year. Meanwhile, 'Learning with Happiness' will be introduced in the sixth grade, which will help students acquire interpersonal and transferable skills necessary for real life. The adviser said, "At present, technical education is not compulsory for all students. However, it will be introduced in the sixth grade from the next academic year, and gradually, completing technical education will be made compulsory for students from grades six to ten in schools of all regions and all levels across the country. The government's objective is to integrate technical education with mainstream education, without treating it as a 'taboo', as in developed countries."

Emphasizing the need to link higher education with the demands of real life, Mahdi Amin said work is underway to determine how technical and vocational education can be integrated into the curricula of around 2,500 affiliated institutions of the National University across the country.

Praising the calibre of Bangladeshi youth by international standards, the Prime Minister's adviser said Bangladeshi young people are working with distinction on the global stage. If provided with appropriate resources and platforms, they are capable of conquering the world. The government wants to prevent 'brain drain' and transform it into 'brain circulation'.

In this regard, he said the government plans to build a strong industry-academia ecosystem by utilising endowment funds, CSR funds and the experience of Bangladeshi alumni, as is done at world-class universities, while also involving Bangladeshi experts working abroad in the country's curriculum and industrial development through special fellowships. The seminar, titled 'STEM for a Future-Ready Bangladesh: Building the Backbone of the Innovative Economy', was moderated by Science and Technology Ministry Secretary Md Anwar Hossain. Also participating in the discussion were National University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr ASM Amanullah, UNESCO Dhaka Office Chief of Education S Kyung Ko, senior official of a leading telecommunications company in the country Tanvir Mohammad, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr M Tamim, among others.

Journalist killed in bus

with a bus of Dola Paribahan. At that time, Mahamudul Hasan Anik, who was with him on the motorcycle, was slightly injured. Later, the police and locals rescued them and took them to the Bhanga Upazila Health Complex, where Kazi Ashraf's condition was critical, so he was taken to Dhaka Medical College for advanced treatment. He died around 12 PM while undergoing treatment there.

Regarding this, Sub-Inspector (SI) Sohel Rana of Bhanga Highway Police Station stated that in the morning, two motorcycle riders were rescued in an injured condition from a road accident in the Monsurabad area of the Khulna-Dhaka highway and taken to the Bhanga Upazila Health Complex. It was reported that one of them was in critical condition and died after being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

ECNEC to consider 15

electricity distribution system in Manpura island area under the Power Division.

Three proposals fall under the Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, all from the Health Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Financial Institutions Division; Health System Strengthening through MNCH Services Improvement and NCDs Control ,Integrated Health System Response to Fight Against TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria in Bangladesh ,and Financial Sector Support Project-II or FSSP-II.

Rounding off the approval list under the Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Institutions Division are the construction of the Musapur Regulator with integrated flood and river management and drainage improvement of the Chhoto Feni and Bamni rivers, part-1 from the Ministry of Water Resources, and the second-revised Digital Land Management System project, covering digital land surveys in three city corporations, one pourashava and two rural upazilas (July 2018-December 2028) from the Ministry of Land.The notice also lists 15 additional projects already approved by the minister concerned to be placed before ECNEC for information.

These include the second-revised Automation of Land Management project and the first-revised construction of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's national headquarters, both from the Ministry of Land and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief respectively.Also featured are the first-revised Establishing Green Belt at Bhasan Char and Reforestation of areas affected by Rohingyaas in Cox's Bazar, from the Ministry of Environment and a project on strengthening research, conservation and development of indigenous poultry from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.Infrastructure items on this list include the first-revised establishment of a telecommunication network in economic zones, replacement of ageing and risky bridges in the Rangpur zone, construction of an RDA building from the fifth to tenth floor, construction of a quarter guard and ancillary infrastructure at Jalalabad Cantonment, and preparation of a Digital Elevation (3D) Model of Sylhet division to enhance flood forecasting capacity.Education, social welfare and sports-related projects for information include infrastructure development at Cantonment Public School and College, Saidpur; further infrastructure development at Military Collegiate School, Khulna; the first-revised Strengthening Social Protection for Improved Resilience, Inclusion and Targeting (SSPIRIT) project; and development works at the Barguna and Dinajpur district stadiums. Besides, second-revised drilling of the Sylhet-10 exploration well, under the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

PM to present new Bangladesh

leave for New York on September 21 and stay there until September 26, with a busy programme involving his UNGA address and meetings with world leaders.Kobir said the prime minister would highlight Bangladesh's democratic transformation and how a government was elected through a free and fair election.

He would also share with world leaders his thoughts and vision for the country's future and outline how Bangladesh intends to play an influential and positive role in promoting global peace, sustainable solutions and resolution of various crises, the state minister said.Domestic priorities, including poverty eradication, generating new hope in the economy and Bangladesh's leadership on climate action, particularly climate finance, would also feature in the prime minister's address, he added.Kobir said the Rohingya crisis would remain a major priority during the visit with Bangladesh planning a high-level discussion and a side event on the issue.

"We will organise a side event on the Rohingya issue," he said, adding that Bangladesh would continue its efforts to keep the protracted crisis high on the international community's agenda. Asked about possible bilateral meetings, including one with US President Donald Trump, Kobir said meetings on the sidelines of major international conferences are often finalised at the last moment.

"The main purpose of the prime minister's visit is to address the United Nations General Assembly," he said. obir said Bangladesh would hold necessary bilateral and multilateral discussions with different countries during the gathering, while details of confirmed meetings would be announced in due course.

Necessary manpower, vehicles to be

to form committees in grassroots levels to help the law enforcers for eradicating drugs.The state minister said while speaking at district monthly law and order meeting at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner.

Yasser Khan Choudhury said there is no crisis of fertilizer in the country and sufficient quantities are in the stock to continue cultivation. He directed the concerned authorities to monitor the distribution of fertilizer. Local Lawmaker Advocate Shah Md Wares Ali Mamun,, AE Sultan Mahmud Babu, MP, Md Faridul Kabir Talukdar Shamim, MP, Mostafizur Rahman Babul, MP, Administrator of Jamalpur Zilla Parishad, Sirazul Haque, Superintendent of Police, Mst Farhana Yasmin and Commander, 35 Battalion of BGB, Lt Col Hasanur Rahman, spoke at the meeting among others.

Boat Racing Storm on the Titas in

competition, the boat team from Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila won the championship. Prizes were also distributed among the teams that secured second and third places.

The first-place boat team received 2 lakh taka, the second-place team 1.5 lakh taka, and the third-place team 1 lakh taka. Later, guests handed over trophies and prize money to the winning teams.

There was widespread joy and excitement among the spectators when the winning Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila boat team received the award. The venue was filled with the cheers of the champion team members and their supporters.

Engineer Khaled Hossain Mahbub Shyamal, Member of Parliament for Brahmanbaria-3 and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Commerce, attended as the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony.

Special guests included District Council Administrator Sirajul Islam, Superintendent of Police Shah Md. Abdur Rouf, Members of Parliament Nadia Rahman Papon, Zahirul Haque Khokon, Ali Azam, Hafizur Rahman Molla Kochi, Mobarak Hossain, Asaduzzaman Shahin, and Brahmanbaria Municipal Administrator Shariful Islam, along with political, social, and administrative figures from various levels of the district.

The event was presided over by Md. Absar, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Brahmanbaria.

Leaders and activists of various wings and associate organizations of the District BNP provided overall support to ensure the boat race was completed successfully and smoothly. Members of Brahmanbaria Red Crescent Society and social organizations such as Dheu, Nongor, Tari, and Oikyoboddho Brahmanbaria also took part in providing support.

Law enforcement personnel played a key role in maintaining security and order during the boat race. Security was strengthened on the Titas River and along both banks. Fire service members were also on standby to deal with any kind of accident. With the coordinated cooperation of the administration,

law enforcement agencies, and volunteer organizations, the competition concluded in a peaceful and festive environment. From morning, the number of people on both banks of the Titas River continued to grow. Some came with family, some with friends, and others came from far away to enjoy the boat race on the riverbank. With people of all ages, from children to the elderly, both banks of the Titas turned into a huge gathering.

According to the organizers, boat racing is an important part of Bengal's thousand-year-old folk culture and heritage. The event was organized to preserve this rural tradition in the age of modernity and to present the enduring culture of Bengal to the new generation.

The festive atmosphere on both banks of the Titas River continued until evening after the day-long competition and prize distribution. The Brahmanbaria traditional boat race competition-2026 concluded with the enthusiasm of thousands of people, the fierce speed of the competing boats, and the joy of the winners.

Tarek Rahman Gifts House to

in Feni on December 4, 2013—on behalf of BNP Acting Chairman Tarek Rahman.

MZKvj Speaking at the ceremony, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, "Countless leaders and activists across the country fell victim to enforced disappearances and killings while doing politics. Field-level activists like Harun, who gave their lives to police bullets, did not embezzle funds from projects like the Padma Bridge or Metro Rail; their dream was to establish a democratic and discrimination-free future."

MZKvj Overwhelmed with emotion upon receiving a new roof over her head, Zohra Begum, the widow of the deceased Harun, expressed her deep gratitude to Tarek Rahman and the party leaders. Notably, Tarek Rahman had personally funded the marriage of Harun's elder daughter in 2017. Currently, "Amra BNP Paribar" is bearing the entire financial responsibility of the family, including the education of his younger son, who is in ninth grade.

MZKvj Chaired by Feni District BNP Convener Sheikh Farid Bahar, the event was attended by "Amra BNP Paribar" Member Secretary Agriculturist Moksedul Momin Mithun, BNP leaders Professor Zainal Abedin, Engineer Ashraf Uddin Bokul, Munshi Rafiqul Alam Majnu, Rehana Akhtar Ranu, Mashiur Rahman Biplob, alongside a large number of local Jubo Dal and affiliate organization leaders.

MZKvj Following the remembrance meeting, the leaders offered prayers (Ziyarat) at the grave of the late Harunur Rashid and officially inaugurated the new house by cutting the ribbon. Later in the afternoon, the senior BNP leader left for Chauddagram in Cumilla to hand over another house key on behalf of Tarek Rahman to an affected family devastated by a fire.

No alternative to strong

strong and effective local government system is specially needed in delivering government services to people's doorsteps. He also stressed increasing the financial capacity of local government institutions alongside transforming the country's vast population into a skilled workforce.

Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said genuine decentralisation is necessary to make local government truly effective and strong, adding these institutions can be further strengthened by expanding the scope for decision-making at the local level and people's participation. He also mentioned that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is committed to holding free, fair and impartial local government elections.

The meeting discussed various bilateral issues, including strengthening mutual relations between the two countries, reinforcing democracy and the local government system, increasing rural women's participation in economic activities and addressing the impact of climate change.The Switzerland's Ambassador highlighted the existing friendly relations between the two countries and expressed interest in enhancing cooperation in various fields. Reto Renggli stressed exchanging mutual experiences in areas such as increasing the capacity and public accountability of local government institutions and women's empowerment.Briefing journalists after the meeting, Mir Shahe Alam said the meeting discussed various aspects of further strengthening and enriching the local government system alongside consolidating democracy. Both sides agreed on increasing the financial capacity of local government institutions, decentralisation of power and enhancing people's participation at the grassroots level, he said.

He further said there is scope for cooperation between Bangladesh and Switzerland in increasing women's involvement in the rural economy, addressing the challenges of climate change and exchanging experiences on local government elections. He hoped that mutual cooperation and exchange of experiences in these areas would further strengthen relations between the two countries.

Local Government Division Secretary Md Shahidul Hasan, along with senior officials of the ministry, were present at the meeting.

No revenge, no more

well as political thugery," he said.Members of Parliament from the district, the district council administrator, the deputy commissioner, officials of law enforcement agencies, political leaders and prominent citizens attended the meeting.Participants discussed various problems and prospects of the district. The minister is scheduled to attend a meeting with party leaders and activists at the district Shilpakala Academy in the afternoon.

Against Illegal Sand Extraction in

Tk 50,000 each, totaling Tk 150,000, under the Sand and Soil Management Act, 2010, for their involvement in illegal sand extraction. At the same time, two boats used in the illegal operation were dismantled and destroyed at the scene. Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), police and Ansar also took part in the operation to maintain law and order and assist the task force.

After the operation, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Zakaria Hossain said that strict action against illegal extraction of sand and soil would continue to protect government resources and the environment. "No one will be spared if they violate the law and cause damage to the environment and government resources," he said.

He further said that task force drives and mobile courts would continue in the future with the cooperation of the BGB, police and Ansar.

Allegation after allegation

the allegations, UNO Shahina Nasrin said all activities were carried out in accordance with the rules. She said the allegations against her are not true. However, amid a string of allegations, court cases, and local protests, her promotion has raised questions — whether any administrative investigation was conducted into the allegations, what the findings were, and what considerations were made to promote her to an important post before the allegations were resolved. Local complainants have demanded a neutral investigation into these matters and necessary action.

Local production of

there within Tk 5,500," Rehan Asif Asad said. According to the adviser, discussions were held with three mobile operators

and the mobile manufacturing association to develop a plan for making smartphones available within Tk 5,000. Manufacturers said raw materials and taxes would have to be exempted for the initiative. He said the government has implemented the requested budgetary line items and credits, while manufacturers spent more than four weeks in China as part of preparations. The adviser said an LCD screen that currently costs \$17 would be used in the device, while the motherboard, processor and other components would cost \$23. Batteries and casing would cost another \$15 to \$16, putting the total cost at around \$55. He said manufacturers had offered to subsidise up to Tk 1,000 per device.Rehan Asif Asad said he had also spoken to three operators about bundling the devices with free data and voice services for three months, with the aim of reducing the effective cost to Tk 2,000-3,000. He said around five crore people would be targeted through the initiative, while the government plans to use the SOF fund for another two crore people living below the poverty line. "The SOF fund has around Tk 1,200 crore," he said, adding that the government would have to identify people living below the poverty level and determine how to reach them.

He said the government wants to achieve 100 percent coverage within 18 to 24 months.The adviser also said Bangladesh Bank had lifted its previous restriction on mobile phone purchases under its EMI programme, allowing any bank to provide EMI facilities for mobile phones. He said the devices would be developed with different specifications and prices according to users' requirements, adding that button phones are preferred by many people in rural areas. He said the initiative could not be implemented by the government alone, and that was why mobile phone manufacturers, mobile operators and Bangladesh Bank were involved in their respective roles.

Rehan Asif Asad said the first locally produced phone could be available, while full local production by dealers was expected around the middle of October. The phone would be manufactured locally, he added.

Misdeeds abroad will not go unpunished: Nitai Roy

Staff correspondent

Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury on Sunday said misdeeds will not go unpunished even if committed outside the country, stressing that both "evil and good" forces exist at home and abroad.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters after a law-and-order committee meeting and an exchange of views with heads of government offices at the deputy commissioner's conference room in the morning.

Regarding the harassment of actress Azmeri Haque Badhan in Italy, the minister said the government has taken strong steps over the incident. "The state minister for foreign affairs made a landmark statement in Parliament on the issue. I have also spoken to Badhan personally. Justice will be ensured for what happened to her," he said.Nitai Roy said the government has never sought to evade responsibility over incidents of harassment involving artistes, either inside or outside the country.Earlier, at the law-and-order committee meeting and the discussion with heads of government offices, the minister focused on measures to curb various crimes.

He also warned against irregularities in the education, health and agriculture sectors. Reserved-seat MP Newaz Halima Arly, Chuadanga Deputy Commissioner Lutfun Naher, Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ruhul Kabir Khan, Lt Col Nazmul Hasan, commanding officer of Chuadanga-6 Border Guard Bangladesh, and Zila Parishad Administrator Md Sorifuzzaman, along with officials from various government offices and BNP leaders, attended the meetings.

HC wants action against bus owners, workers' bodies for calling strike

Staff correspondent

The High Court (HC) has declared illegal any strike or hartal called against a court judgment and directed authorities to take action against bus owners' associations or workers' organisations if they call such programmes.A High Court division bench of Justice Sashanka Shekhar Sarkar and Justice Faysal Hasan Arif pronounced the judgment, declaring absolute a rule it had issued earlier.

"Court judgments are binding on all under Article 112 of the Constitution. Although there is a provision for appealing against a court judgment, calling a strike in protest against the judgment is illegal and unconstitutional," the court said.Senior advocate Manjil Murshid moved the plea filed by rights body Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), while Deputy Attorney General Mohammad Ashan Habib argued for the state. Advocate Md Rafiul Islam stood for Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

Educational qualification not mandatory for candidacy in local polls: Shahe Alam

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam has said educational qualification is not mandatory for candidates in local government elections.

"In our five laws related to local government polls, there is no provision of educational qualifications for participating in the elections. So, I urge those wishing to contest the elections not to be misled," he said.

Shahe Alam said this while talking to journalists following a meeting with the Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh at the Secretariat here yesterday.He clarified that there is no mandatory educational requirement for contesting any post in union parishad (UP), upazila parishad, zila parishad, municipality and city corporation elections.But, the state minister said, there is, of course, an age requirement. To qualify, one must be a registered voter and at least 25 years old."Even for members of parliament (MPs), there is no specific educational qualification requirement. I became an MP without needing to declare any educational qualification on the nomination form," he said.

Shahe Alam said since the issue of educational qualification does not arise for lawmakers, we did not include it in the five laws enacted for local government as it will be a violation of the constitution and human rights.

Noting that a social worker might not have formal schooling but could be self-educated, he said someone might not have attended an educational institution but he/she would be talented having knowledge blessed by Almighty Allah.



BRICS summit: Modi warns geopolitical tensions, supply shocks threaten global stability

International Desk

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday warned that growing geopolitical tensions, disruptions to supply chains and climate-related crises are increasingly affecting people around the world, and called for stronger cooperation and support among countries of the Global South.

Addressing the BRICS summit on its second day in New Delhi, Modi also cautioned that the "weaponization of technology and critical minerals" could hamper global development and shared prosperity.

BRICS, founded in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India and China, has expanded to 11 members, representing about half of the world's population and a significant portion of the global economy. The grouping has pushed for greater representation of developing countries in global institutions and promoted alternatives to Western-dominated financial systems.

"The number of conflicts and tensions in the world is continuously increasing, and this is having an increasingly negative and far-reaching impact on the lives of ordinary people," Modi said in the presence of bloc leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

"Pandemics, climate disasters and supply-chain disruptions have shown that in yesterday's interconnected world, no crisis remains confined to a single region," Modi said.



He also announced that BRICS members had agreed to establish an integrated early warning system for infectious diseases to strengthen preparedness for and responses to future outbreaks.

In a joint declaration issued Saturday, the group expressed concern over escalating tensions in the Middle East and Sudan and called for disputes to be settled through dialogue and diplomacy.

The bloc reaffirmed its support for a multipolar world order and called for reforms to the United Nations, including its Security Council, as well as international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

BRICS leaders opposed unilateral sanctions and coercive economic measures and criticized sanctions that have not been authorized by the United Nations. They also criticized increasing tariffs and such measures undermine global nontariff barriers, saying trade and supply chains.

The bloc supported greater use of local currencies in trade and stronger cross-border payment systems, while also calling for cooperation in food security, energy, digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence and climate action.

The joint declaration marked a significant diplomatic breakthrough, as reaching consensus among Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — which have competing positions on major regional and geopolitical issues — posed a complex challenge amid ongoing conflicts and heightened tensions.

Death toll from burned Philippine ferry rises to 76



International Desk

Rescuers recovered more bodies from a passenger ferry that was engulfed by fire in the Philippines, raising the death toll to 76, while 13 people remained missing on Saturday.

Forty-three passengers survived Wednesday night's blaze, which broke out while 132 people were aboard the vessel.

The ferry had departed Manila and was about 39 kilometres (24 miles) from its destination in Coron, southwestern Palawan province, when the fire broke out.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. However, a coast guard spokesperson said a survivor reported that it may have started in the cargo hold.

The survivor said they heard a blast before smoke and flames rapidly spread through the vessel, helped by strong winds, officials said.

Tents were erected at the Port of Borac in Coron as body bags were brought ashore from a ship that had transported the recovered remains from the burned ferry.

Commodore Noemie Cayabyab, a coast guard

spokesperson, said authorities were searching for the vessel's captain, who reportedly survived the incident but was not included on the list of survivors.

She said a multiagency maritime safety and criminal investigation would examine all aspects of the incident, including any possible liability of the captain and crew.

According to Cayabyab, survivors said the fire spread so quickly that they had no time to put on life jackets.

She also said a tarpaulin covering the ship's open areas to protect passengers from rain "may be a possible contributing factor," although investigators could not yet determine whether anyone was trapped inside.

Investigators will also determine whether proper emergency procedures were followed, including whether the captain sounded an alarm or issued warnings and instructions, and whether crew members helped passengers evacuate, she said.

Ferries are a common means of transportation across the Philippine archipelago, where maritime accidents frequently occur due to storms, poorly maintained vessels, overcrowding and inconsistent enforcement of safety regulations, particularly in remote provinces.

In 1987, the ferry Dona Paz sank after colliding with a fuel tanker in the central Philippines, killing more than 4,300 people in what remains the world's deadliest peacetime maritime disaster.



Xi says China's 15th Five-Year Plan offers cooperation opportunities to world

International Desk

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday said China's 15th Five-Year Plan is not only a blueprint for the country's own development but also offers a range of cooperation opportunities for countries around the world.

Xi made the remarks while attending the second day of the BRICS summit in New Delhi.

Noting that China is launching its 15th Five-Year Plan this year, Xi said the country would continue to pursue high-quality development and expand high-standard opening up.

China will also implement the Global Development Initiative, advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and share development opportunities with countries around the world, he said.

Xi said China seeks to work with other countries to create greater prosperity and share the opportunities arising from its development.

Iranian commercial vessel hit near Strait of Hormuz, 1 killed

International Desk

An Iranian commercial vessel was struck early Sunday near the Strait of Hormuz, leaving one person dead and three others wounded, Iranian state media reported.

The vessel was hit off Qeshm Island, according to the reports.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) separately said a vessel was struck by a projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, but provided no further details.

There was no immediate comment from the US military. US forces have previously targeted Iranian-flagged vessels as part of an ongoing blockade of Iranian ports.

The incident came amid heightened tensions around the strategic waterway, which Iran says had been regarded as an international route before the United States and Israel launched their war on Feb. 28.

Iran said Saturday that foreign ministers from regional countries would meet to discuss efforts by Iran and Oman, located on opposite sides of the strait, to manage shipping through the vital waterway.



Saudi Arabia, Houthis trade strikes over Bab al-Mandeb

International Desk

Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi forces have traded strikes as fighting intensifies around the strategic Bab al-Mandeb chokepoint on Yemen's Red Sea coast.

The escalation comes as Houthi forces have seized Mayun Island, also known as Perim, giving the group a strategic position in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait and strengthening its control over Yemen's Red Sea coastline.

US President Donald Trump said the Houthis had contacted Washington and asked it not to intervene in the conflict involving Yemen's internationally recognized government.

The developments came amid wider regional tensions after Iraq temporarily closed three border crossings with Iran following a drone attack launched from Iraqi territory that targeted Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline.

Saudi Arabia suspended the pipeline as a precaution and has so far held off on an immediate response.

Meanwhile, Iran is expected to meet Gulf states in Oman on Monday to discuss the Strait of Hormuz and efforts to promote regional security.

Houthis gain strategic foothold

Mayun Island, a 13-square-kilometre volcanic island in the middle of the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, divides the waterway into two channels and overlooks one of the world's most important maritime routes. The Houthis also control nearby coastal areas, including the port city of Mocha, strengthening their ability to threaten shipping through the strategic waterway.

Iran's economic ties to Dubai hard to break despite war

International Desk

In the markets of old Dubai, saffron, cumin, pistachios and almonds from Iran still fill the stalls, as if the two shores of the Gulf were not separated by war.

Last month, the United Arab Emirates announced the suspension of trade and financial exchanges with Tehran, which has responded to American attacks by targeting the US-allied country and tightening its grip on the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

But in old Dubai, where Iranian merchants are firmly established, they do not believe there will be a break in the ties forged over decades between the UAE's financial hub and southern Iran.

Since the start of the war, certain Iranian products have become scarcer, and others have seen their prices soar, says Morteza Asaadi, who runs the grocery store his father founded in 1963. Most traditional foodstuffs, such as nuts or zereshk -- small red berries used in Persian cuisine -- remain available, however.

"It's just coming. How? I don't know, but it's coming," he said. Two wholesalers interviewed by AFP on condition of anonymity said they are still sourcing from Iran, notably via Omani ports.

"We can't export from the Emirates anymore, but we can still bring in certain goods," one of them said. In Yasser's saffron shop, the precious spice arrives by air from Mashhad, in northeastern Iran, thanks to the resumption of air links after a brief interruption.

- Dubai's Iranian community -

Dubai is home to a large Iranian community, estimated at several hundred thousand people, which has contributed to the emirate's commercial development and weathered the various periods of tension with Tehran. After the US tightened its sanctions against the Islamic republic in 2012, "those in Dubai managed to convince their partners in Abu Dhabi that the trade, regardless of the sanctions, needed to continue because it was contributing to the UAE economy," Mehran Haghirian of the London-based Bourse & Bazaar Foundation think tank told AFP.

In 2024, the UAE was the main entry point for goods into Iran, accounting for more than 30 percent of imports, worth \$21 billion. It was also Iran's third-largest customer, absorbing nearly 12 percent of its exports, worth more than \$7 billion, according to the World Trade Organization.

Dubai is an important financial hub for Iranian businesses, with Washington accusing it of being a key node in financial networks used to circumvent sanctions. As part of its policy of economic pressure on Iran, the United States announced new measures at the end of August targeting Iran's trading partners, and sanctioned the director of the Dubai branch of Iran's Bank Melli. The institution nonetheless continues to welcome clients.

"We've been under sanctions for years," sighs an employee at one of two branches in Dubai.

For Haghirian, Abu Dhabi's announcement of the suspension of relations with Iran is part of efforts to bring Tehran back to the negotiating table, and is meant to show the Gulf country's alignment with the United States. But it will not necessarily cut informal flows or exchanges between private actors, which are deeply rooted on both sides of the Gulf.

In the long run, a lasting rupture could even weigh on Dubai's economy.

"It's difficult to just suddenly cut it off and not have an impact, leave a huge chunk. That chunk cannot easily be replaced," he stressed. But at a conference in Dubai, Emirati businessman and former senior official in the emirate, Nasser al-Shaikh, downplayed these concerns, saying that Iran is "no longer as important to the emirate's economy as it was a few years ago".

"The relationship was mutually beneficial," he conceded, but "in times of war, priorities change... National security comes first".



Swedes vote as conservative government, far-right party vie for power

International Desk

Swedish voters are heading to the polls Sunday in a parliamentary election that will decide whether Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson secures a second term and whether the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats enter government for the first time, or the center-left returns to power.

Kristersson is seeking another four-year term leading the European Union's newest NATO member, while former Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson is seeking to bring the center-left Social Democrats back to power.

The campaign has largely focused on which parties can form the next government rather than policy issues such as healthcare, with experts describing it as fragmented and lacking coherence.

"Crime has come down, inflation has come down. So these topics are not really what people discuss," said Zeth Isaksson, a sociologist specializing in electoral behavior at Stockholm University and a political scientist at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

"People discuss who is going to be in government, and that's what the election is about," he said. Kristersson has governed since 2022 through a three-party center-right coalition that depends on support from the Sweden Democrats to maintain a parliamentary majority.

The Sweden Democrats, an anti-immigration party with far-right roots that has moved closer to the political mainstream, are expected to receive Cabinet positions if the right retains power. Andersson, leader of the Social Democrats, previously served as prime minister from 2021 until her party lost power in the

2022 election. The Social Democrats have historically dominated Swedish governments, leading most administrations since World War II.

Swedish politics is broadly divided into two four-party blocs, one on the right and another on the left. The key question is therefore which bloc can secure enough support to form a government. Parties must win at least 4% of the vote to gain seats in parliament.

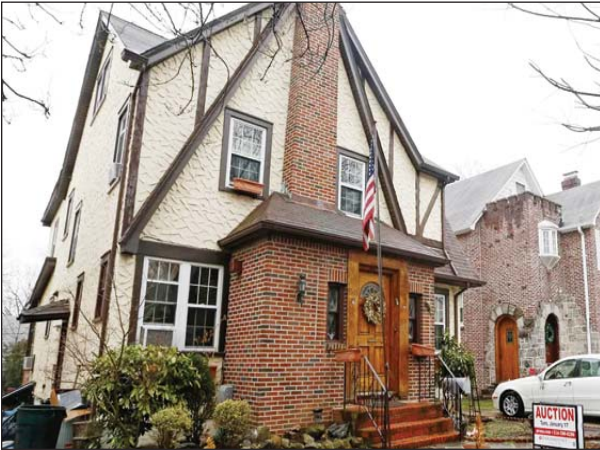
The Sweden Democrats won 20.5% of the vote in 2022, making them the largest party on the right.

Kristersson announced in April that his Moderate Party would allow the Sweden Democrats to join the government if the right wins a majority. He also said he would remain prime minister even if the Sweden Democrats emerge as the strongest party in the bloc.

The Sweden Democrats were founded in the 1980s by members of right-wing extremist groups, including neo-Nazis. Under leader Jimmie Åkesson, who has headed the party since 2005, it has moderated its rhetoric, expelled openly racist members and grown from a marginal political force.

The party's potential role in government has gained added attention amid the rise of populist and far-right movements across Europe, including the far-right Alternative for Germany's first-place finish in a regional election on Sept. 6.

More than 8 million people in Sweden, which has a population of about 10.6 million, are eligible to vote for the 349-member Riksdag, the country's parliament that will determine the next prime minister. The Swedish Election Authority said the first preliminary results are expected around 9 p.m. local time Sunday, or 1900 GMT.



Trump's childhood home in New York sells for \$1.93 million

International Desk

US President Donald Trump's childhood home in New York City has been sold for \$1.93 million following an extensive renovation that transformed the once-neglected property into a modern residence.

Trump lived in the Tudor-style house in Queens until he was 4. His father, real estate developer Fred Trump, built the five-bedroom, three-bathroom home in 1940 in the affluent Jamaica Estates neighborhood. The Trump family has not owned the property for years.

The sale price appeared on real estate websites Friday after an undisclosed buyer entered into a contract for the property in July.

The seller, developer Tommy Lin, bought the house last year for \$835,000 after it had remained vacant and fallen into disrepair.

Lin subsequently spent about \$500,000 on an eight-month renovation, adding features including a chef's kitchen, herringbone wood flooring and spa-style bathrooms, according to the New York Post.

The property has changed hands several times in recent years. It sold for \$2.14 million in 2017, a few months after Trump became president, according to Zillow.

The buyer at the time was an entity called Trump Birth Home LLC. The property was briefly listed on Airbnb and marketed with Trump-themed items, including life-size cardboard cutouts of the president, copies of his book The Art of the Deal and a framed People magazine cover featuring Trump.

The house was put back on the market in 2019 with an asking price of \$2.9 million but remained unsold until Lin purchased it.

In the intervening years, the property deteriorated significantly. The Post reported that a burst pipe caused water damage and mold, while a colony of feral cats had taken shelter inside the home where Trump spent his earliest childhood years.

Trump, now 80, built his fortune through real estate, including the development of Trump Tower in Manhattan, where he lived for decades, before using his fame and wealth to enter politics.

As president, Trump is also overseeing major changes to his current residence, including the addition of a large ballroom at the White House and the installation of gold-plated fixtures in the Oval Office that reflect the style associated with his properties.

Ukrainian drones kill 2 in Russia as Moscow strikes Odesa

International Desk

Overnight drone and missile strikes between Russia and Ukraine killed civilians and damaged vital energy and port infrastructure on both sides on Sunday.

In Russia's Tatarstan region, Ukrainian drones hit the industrial city of Nizhnekamsk, killing two people and injuring 12 after a drone struck near a parked car. Local officials reported a fire at an enterprise in the city, which houses major oil and petrochemical plants.

Kyiv also claimed a drone strike on a major oil refinery in Slavyansk-on-Kuban in Krasnodar, which local authorities said injured three people and damaged a pipeline. Russian forces shot down 389 Ukrainian drones overnight, according to Moscow's defense ministry.

The Defense Intelligence of Ukraine (DIU) agency said its drones struck a key oil processing unit and the refinery's tank farm overnight, sparking a massive blaze visible from dozens of kilometers (miles) away.

Meanwhile, Russian strikes targeted Ukraine's main Black Sea port hub of Odesa, injuring at least nine people in a massive overnight barrage. That followed a Saturday drone strike on an Odesa high-rise that killed two and injured 26.

Russian attacks also hit western Ukraine, igniting a petrol station near the Yahodyn-Dorohusk border crossing with Poland. Moscow continues targeting Ukraine's power grid ahead of winter, while Kyiv pursues long-range strikes against Russian oil infrastructure.



Two-day ‘Nazrul Dance Festival 2026’ underway at BSA

Entertainment Desk

A two-day “Nazrul Dance Festival 2026”, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as part of the Nazrul Barsha celebrations, is underway at the academy featuring dance performances inspired by the works and philosophy of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The festival, which began on Saturday, will conclude yesterday with the final day’s programme starting at 6:30pm at the National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium. Different dance groups are presenting performances based on Nazrul’s songs and creative works, exploring themes of rebellion, love, equality, humanity and beauty. The festival aims to explore Nazrul’s multifaceted creative world through dance and present his spirit of humanism, communal harmony and resistance in contemporary dance language. Culture Affairs Secretary Yasmin Begum, who presided over the inaugural session on Saturday, said Nazrul always stood beside the oppressed and helpless people and sought to revitalise society through his works. “We want to remember him in this way through various forms of art,” she said. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General poet Sheikh Rezauddin Ahmed (Rezauddin Stalin), in his welcome address, said Nazrul occupies a significant place in the tradition of classical music and that the festival was organised around dance based on his songs. “Love and separation of the people of Bengal find expression through rhythm and dance. Rhythm is pres-

ent in every stage of life. Dance influences our lives and expands our imaginative world,” he said. Ekushey Padak-winning dancer and dance researcher Amanul Haque, the keynote speaker, said the themes of Nazrul’s humanism and rebellion could be conveyed through dance. “We want to embrace his thoughts and philosophy in our hearts and express them through dance,” he said. On the first day, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy presented “Shankashunyo Lakkho Konthe” at the beginning of the second segment of the programme. Naim Khan Dance Company performed “Amar Kaifiyat”, while Nrityayatan, Mymensingh, presented “O Bhai Khati Sonar Cheye Khati”, choreographed by Md Nazmul Haque. Other participating groups included Spondon, Bhabna, Nrityalok Cultural Centre, Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts and Kayashram. Dance groups from different parts of the country also took part in the festival, including Swapnik Nritya Bikash of Madaripur, Anjali Nrityangan Academy, Artisty, Sadhana, Nrityayan, Nabodoot Cultural Academy of Kishoreganj, Diksha, Tapasya, Nandan Kalakendra, Nrityomi of Mymensingh, Paraspura, Nrityakkho, Nrityasur, Swapnachura Cultural Academy, Gurukul Cultural Centre, Zinia Nrityakala Academy, Bakul Nrityalay and Nrityam Nrityashilan Kendra. The academy hopes the festival will create a creative dialogue between Nazrul’s diverse body of work and dance, encouraging new productions that explore his songs, rhythms, ideas, love, rebellion, equality and

From Mirzapur to Dhurandhar, Bollywood keeps returning to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

Entertainment Desk

Decades after his death, the legendary Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan continues to find new audiences through Bollywood, as filmmakers and musicians repeatedly revisit his timeless qawwalis and ghazals. Widely known as the “Shahenshah-e-Qawwali”, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan transformed the traditional Sufi musical form of qawwali into a global phenomenon, taking it from small gatherings in Pakistan to major international stages and Western music festivals. His extraordinary vocal range and innovative approach have inspired generations, while his compositions continue to return in films through recreations, adaptations and samples that often add emotional weight to key scenes. Nusrat’s latest Bollywood appearances One of the latest examples is Saanson Ki Mala, featured in Mirzapur: The Film. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan’s original vocals were blended with new renditions by Madhur Sharma and Vaibhav Pani, giving the song a renewed energy. The track appears in a mid-credit sequence involving Beena Tripathi, played by Rasika Dugal, and a chapter from her past. The composition has also appeared in earlier Bollywood films, including Jeet (1996) and Koyla (1997), which starred Madhuri Dixit and Shah Rukh Khan. Another recent adaptation is Jaan Se Guzarthe Hain in Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar 2. The song draws from Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan’s 1977 classic Dil Pe Zakhm Khaate Hai and was reimaged by Shashwat Sachdev, featuring vocals by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Sachdev. The qawwali complements the film’s intense themes of love, betrayal and emotional resilience, adding further tension to its dramatic narrative. Nusrat’s influence on Bollywood extends far beyond these recent releases. One of his best-known compositions, Mere Rashke Qamar, composed and sung by Nusrat with lyrics by Fana Bulandshahri, remains a popular concert favourite. The ghazal-qawwali was recreated by Tanishk Bagchi and sung by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan for the 2017 film Baadshah. His romantic composition Ye Jo Halka Halka Suroor Hai



has also been repeatedly adapted. It inspired the 2016 single Halka Halka and was loosely incorporated into the 2018 film Fanny Khan. Another notable example is Tere Bin Nahi Lagda, which was incorporated into Tere Bin for Ranveer Singh and Sara Ali Khan’s Simmba. The song was re-recorded by Nusrat’s nephew Rahat Fateh Ali Khan with Asees Kaur. Similarly, Sanu Ek Pal Chain Na Aave was reimaged for the 2018 film Raid, with Rahat Fateh Ali Khan providing the vocals. Another Nusrat composition, Nit Khair Manga, was also featured in the film in a softer acoustic arrangement. Kinna Sohna Tenu Rab Ne Banaya, composed and performed by Nusrat, has appeared in films including Aamir Khan and Karisma Kapoor’s Raja Hindustani (1996) and Marjaavaan (2019). Mera Piya Ghar Aaya, written by eighth-century Punjabi Sufi poet Baba Bulleh Shah and popularised by Nusrat, was recreated for the 1995 film Yaarana. Anu Malik gave it a commercial jazz treatment, while Kavita Krishnamurthy’s rendition helped turn it into an iconic dance number for Madhuri Dixit. Music that refuses to fade Across generations, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan’s music has continued to find new life through modern arrangements, fresh vocals and film soundtracks. His ability to blend spiritual depth, romance and powerful emotion has allowed his qawwalis and ghazals to transcend their original era and connect with audiences decades later. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan died at the age of 48 after a sudden cardiac arrest linked to kidney and liver failure. Yet his music remains alive, continuing to resonate with listeners and filmmakers—and reminding generations why his voice earned him the title “Shahenshah-e-Qawwali.”



Rob Reiner receives posthumous Emmy

Entertainment Desk

Hollywood actor and producer Rob Reiner died in December last year. The bodies of Rob Reiner and his wife Michelle Singer Reiner were recovered from their Los Angeles home. Nine months after his death, legendary director and actor Rob Reiner has received an honorary Emmy Award. He was given the posthumous honor in the ‘Outstanding Guest Actor (Comedy)’ category for his performance in the series ‘The Bear’. The Creative Arts Emmy Awards, held on September 5 and 6, honoured the cast and guest artists. Presenter Wendy McClendon-Covey accepted the award on behalf of Rob Reiner. The audience in the auditorium gave a standing ovation for a minute.



Shanta Islam receives Lifetime Achievement Award in Canada

Entertainment Desk

Once a widely popular actress in numerous television dramas and a National Film Award winner, Shanta Islam has now received a Lifetime Achievement Award from an organisation outside Bangladesh. The Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA) presented her with the honour at the Don Valley Hotel and Suites in Toronto, Canada. Speaking to The Daily Star over the phone from Canada, Shanta Islam said, “I am extremely happy and delighted. FOBANA has given me a Lifetime Achievement Award in Canada. I feel deeply honoured.” She said, “I have acted in numerous dramas throughout my career and have received the love of many people. I received the Bachsas Award for my performance in ‘Mayur Singhasan’ with Aranyak Natyadal. I also received the National Film Award for acting in films. However, this is the first time I have received such a major honour outside the country — and that too a Lifetime Achievement Award.” Asked about the recognition, Shanta said, “I truly feel proud to receive this honour. I am grateful to the organisers. I would also like to express my gratitude and love to all the directors, producers, fellow artistes and journalists in my own country.” She added, “We artistes work for the people. Alongside receiving,

My mother Runa Laila is healthy, alive: Tani Laila

Entertainment Desk

A rumour has spread on the internet that legendary singer Runa Laila is sick and ‘fighting death’. The rumour has been spread through photos and videos made with AI. The artiste’s family is very angry and disappointed over the incident. Her only daughter Tani Laila has reacted to the matter on Facebook. Tani said that Runa Laila is completely healthy. Tani wrote in her post, “I am really annoyed and disgusted by the spread of such posts, AI-generated YouTube videos, and fake news just for the sake of earning a little money! I will personally start reporting such content — one by one, until these fatheads stop their evil deeds.” Expressing regret, Tani wrote, “My moth-



er dedicated six decades of her life to the service of music. Yet people still continue to disrespect her like this; what an extreme shame and humiliation for us!” Confirming the artiste’s health, Tani wrote, “My mother is completely healthy and alive; no one has died or is on the verge of death. These are videos and pictures created through AI. My request to the media, please verify the information and take appropriate precautions.”

Neha, Sunidhi get into an argument over reality show



Entertainment Desk

Music reality shows are very popular in India. Every year, multiple shows are shown on various televisions. However, the debate about how true stories of the contestants in those reality shows are about overcoming thousands of adversities and tears is a very old one in entertainment world. Now, two of India’s most popular singers, Sunidhi Chauhan and Neha Kakkar, have got into an argument about these issues of reality shows. Both Sunidhi and Neha have experience of judging singing reality shows. In a recent interview, Sunidhi claimed that current reality shows are more dramatic than before. Much of the emotion shown in front of the camera is fake or pre-planned. Sunidhi said that she has removed herself from the judg-

ing seat of these reality shows because of the way the audience’s emotions are played on for TRP and the show makers instruct a particular contestant to be praised in advance. Neha Kakkar reacted strongly after Sunidhi’s explosive comments. Recently, when Neha was asked about Sunidhi’s comments during the promotion of the reality show ‘I-Popstar Volume 2’, she said, “Those who don’t have access to grapes will find it sour. Anyone can say whatever they want, but this show is not scripted in any way. When people don’t get something they want, they say it that way. If I get emotional after hearing about someone’s life’s hardships or background, it is completely genuine and natural.” Neha then clarified her opinion on these incidents in the reality show. She said, “The struggles of the contestants’ lives or the tears of the judges cannot be part of any drama. The stories of the youth coming from remote areas and small towns are real. Crying after hearing the sad stories or hardships of someone’s life is an emotion, not a script.” On the other hand, Neha Kakkar has faced criticism on social media for criticising artistes like Sunidhi Chauhan. Netizens are making various negative comments about Neha.

Tulu’s regret about Noble, ‘An amazing talent was destroyed by his own will’

Entertainment Desk

Mainul Ahsan Noble – A beacon of new possibilities in Bengali music. He created a storm by attending the ‘Sa Re Ga Ma Pa’ event in Kolkata. After that, he sang in Srijit Mukherjee’s movies and was busy with singing and concerts in the country. Noble started like a dream. But it didn’t take long for that dream to break and turn into a nightmare. Noble fell off the path due to his chaotic lifestyle. Controversy continued to shadow him. He also served time in jail. Yet, everyone believed that this artiste with a rich voice could have reached unique heights if he wanted to. Renowned singer, lyricist and composer Ashiquzzaman Tulu expressed the same regret. According to him, who is famous for the bands ‘Chime’ and ‘Ark’, Noble himself has ruined his talent. In a message on Facebook on Thursday, Tulu wrote, “I feel very bad for Noble, thinking about it, what a strange talent he completely destroyed on his own accord.



His singing was so beautiful, aha!” Noble’s song ‘Ovinoy’ was released about five years ago. The song has gained immense popularity. Tulu writes, citing the song, “I listened to the song ‘Ki Agun Jwlchhe Buke’, his expression, singing, skill, tone, everything is absolutely crazy. If he had been serious, he would have done extremely well, he could have gone to another level. It feels very bad to see it being wasted like this.” Tulu has indicated that the influence of ‘drugs’ is behind this decline of Noble. He commented, “Actually, I don’t like to see these things anymore. I have seen several people get destroyed by drugs in front of my own eyes; that’s why I don’t like to see these things anymore.”



Mbappe at the double as Real Madrid sink Rayo



Bellingham notched Madrid's third goal and his third of the season after Vinicius charged down the left and cut the ball back for the England international, who has started the season in top form. Mourinho defended Vinicius in midweek after some Madrid supporters whistled him in the Champions League win over Inter Milan. Mbappe powered a strike from distance against the post as Madrid sought a fourth, while Pedro Diaz forced a rare save from Thibaut Courtois at the other end, the Belgian with a strong hand to push away his effort. Diaz hit the post early in the second half as Rayo tried to find a foothold at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Sports Desk
Kylian Mbappe struck twice to help Real Madrid smash Rayo Vallecano 4-1 on Saturday to pull level with Barcelona at the top of La Liga. Jose Mourinho's side got back to winning ways after a defeat by Real Betis in their previous top-flight outing, with a convincing victory against neighbours Rayo. Jude Bellingham and Alvaro Carreras were also on target for Real Madrid, while Sergio Camello pulled one back for the visitors early in the second half. Champions Barcelona visit Levante on Sunday looking to extend their 100 percent start to the campaign and restore their lead on Madrid. Mourinho's side took a commanding three-goal lead against Rayo by half-time. "It was fundamental to win, above all after losing the last game in La Liga," Mourinho told Real Madrid TV. "We killed the game in the first half -- that's not easy, working like we did after the Champions League game, not just physically, but mentally." Los Blancos took the lead from the penalty spot in the 14th minute after Florian Lejeune clumsily felled Carreras. Mbappe sent Rayo goalkeeper Emil Audero the wrong way. The French forward helped create the second, after Lejeune gave the ball away under pressure from Vinicius Junior. Carreras exchanged passes with Mbappe and drilled home. Handed a first start for Madrid, the club's record signing Yan Diomande cut inside from the right flank with a rapid dribble that left Rayo's defence scrambling but lashed his shot high and wide.

Crash and burn: Pakistan cricket at a new low after England humiliation



Sports Desk
Pakistan cricket hit a fresh low during the dismal 3-0 Test whitewash in England, even if a dazzling cameo by debutant Razaullah at least ensured a tour marred by mid-series sackings ended with a flicker of hope. Described as the worst team to tour England in the last 50 years, Pakistan's cycle of chopping and changing continued when head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowling chief Umar Gul were sacked from their posts. Seven players were expelled from the squad as the often vulnerable batting fell to a new low, failing to cross 200 in five of the six innings. White-ball coach Mike Hesson was brought in to take charge of the side for the third and final Test, a move which failed to reverse Pakistan's fortunes. The turmoil intensified when expelled players Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq were investigated by the national cybercrime agency on charges of leaking team information. Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said he had predicted this free fall. "It's a disappointing state but I could see this coming for the last five years and you can't blame one particular person and one factor because there are many," Akram told AFP. His fellow former star Shahid Afridi described the situation as "bleak". "These are gloomy times in Pakistan cricket," Afridi told AFP. "You don't disrespect players like this and your system is not strong." - Nothing new - Changes and upheaval after defeats are hardly new for Pakistan. The cricket team has had three captains and six head coaches for Tests over the last three years. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has also

had five different chairmen in as many years, resulting in a lack of consistent planning that has hurt the game's development. Punishing players has often gone hand in hand with those changes. The PCB banned then-captain Mohammad Yousuf and senior batter Younis Khan for an indefinite period and disciplined five other players, including Afridi, after a disastrous 3-0 whitewash in Australia in 2010. The third-test defeat to England at Edgbaston was Pakistan's 16th in their last 21 Tests, leaving them ninth and last on the World Test Championship (WTC) table, the same position in which they finished the previous cycle. Results in white-ball cricket have not been encouraging either. Pakistan crashed out in the first round of the ODI Champions Trophy last year, even though the event had marked the revival of their hosting rights after a 29-year exile caused by security concerns. Their Twenty20 fortunes have also gone into free fall. Pakistan failed to reach the semi-finals of the 2026 T20 World Cup, while another campaign two years earlier ended in an embarrassing group-stage exit that included a shock defeat against an unfancied USA side. No quick fix - Former leg-spinner and 1992 World Cup winner Mushtaq Ahmed blamed the decline on a lack of planning. "We had a great number of match-winners and a strong legacy, and that is why we produced results in the past," Ahmed told AFP. "Now the decline is steep and will take time to fix." With a flawed and inconsistent domestic system failing to prepare players for the demands of international cricket, an immediate solution appears unlikely. "We need to realise that we lack talent in red-ball cricket. White-ball teams are okay," said Akram. "It's easy to blame the PCB chairman but when we were sleeping and not addressing the overall flaws then such a fall happens." Meanwhile, fans are fast losing interest. "All my four sons and I used to play in a local academy but in the last two years we all have lost interest as our team is not doing well," said Mohammad Afzal, a banker. "Cricket is fast losing ground in Pakistan and we need strong measures to revive the glory."



Messi scores but Miami held by Nashville

Sports Desk
Lionel Messi extended his incredible scoring streak against MLS-leaders Nashville on Saturday as Inter Miami battled to a 2-2 draw in their top-of-the-table Eastern Conference clash. Messi curled in a superb strike on 62 minutes at Miami's Nu Stadium to fire Inter into a 2-1 lead but Nashville grabbed a share of the points after striker Sam Surridge bundled in an injury-time equaliser. The 39-year-old Messi has now scored a remarkable 17 goals in 14 games against Nashville in all competitions since joining Miami in 2023. And Messi could have even improved his goals record against in Saturday's game between the first and second-placed sides in the Eastern Conference. Messi saw a shot crash off the underside of the bar in the 50th minute and also saw a shot cannon off the post in the 78th minute. A late Messi effort was also headed clear by Nashville defender Jeisson Palacios before Surridge's leveler. The result leaves Inter nine points adrift of Nashville in the race for top seeding with nine regular season games remaining. Earlier, Nashville had got off to a dream start when English striker Surridge sprang the off-side trap before burying a low shot into the bottom corner in the fourth minute. But Miami drew level midway through the half and again Messi was involved. The World Cup-winner's wicked in-swinging corner found the head of Nashville defender Reed Baker-Whiting, who glanced in an own goal. It looked as if Messi had grabbed the winner midway through the second half when he combined with former Argentina international teammate Rodrigo De Paul on the edge of the area before curling a shot beyond the dive of Brian Schwake.

Nationwide T20 tournament to be held in Arafat Rahman Koko's memory

Sports Desk
A nationwide T20 cricket tournament will be organised in memory of late Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and also the former chairman of Development Committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, to unearth cricketers from remote areas and provide them an opportunity to showcase their talent on a bigger stage. The Arafat Rahman Koko Memorial Trust is planning to launch the tournament in mid-December, with teams from different districts taking part in the competition. The tournament will be organised in 10 regional phases, covering the country's eight administrative divisions, with Faridpur and Cumilla treated as separate regions. The champions from each region will qualify for the final phase in Dhaka, where the semifinals and final will be held. BCB director Sharforaj Ahmed, also the co-ordinator of the trust, disclosed the tournament plan at Mirpur yesterday. "There are many cricketers in remote areas of our country who do not get opportunities to play. Through this tournament, they will get a chance to participate in a good competition," Sharforaj said. There will be no specific player-category restrictions for the tournament. Players from the national team, Premier League, first division and other levels will be eligible to participate based on their availability during the



South Africa defeat New Zealand 43-28 to complete 3-1 series victory

Sports Desk
South Africa thrashed New Zealand 43-28 to complete a 3-1 victory in the fourth and final match of the Southern Hemisphere rivals' Test series in Baltimore on Saturday. The Springboks, who led the series 2-1 after the opening three Tests in South Africa, produced a devastating second-half display at Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium to seal victory. Tries from Damian de Allende, Morne van den Berg, Malcolm Marx, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Kurt Lee Arendse and Cameron Hanekom clinched a deserved win for the Springboks in front of a capacity 71,000 crowd. New Zealand's tries came from recalled captain Codie Taylor, Will Jordan, Ethan Blackadder and Beauden Barrett but the All Blacks were always chasing the South Africans in a fast-paced game. There was controversy in the first half when play was held up for more than eight minutes after a failure in communication equipment between the match officials. But that interruption had no impact on the outcome as South Africa's total dominance at the breakdown, setpiece and aerial battle

proved decisive. Springbok captain Siya Kolisi paid tribute to South Africa coach Rassie Erasmus following the victory. "He knows how to get us up, and when he speaks to us he reminds us where we come from, the country that we come from," Kolisi said. "The players who are in the group who are not playing. We do it for them. The guys that are injured, the guys that couldn't make the tour, and also for the people of South Africa." New Zealand skipper Taylor, meanwhile, had few complaints with the defeat. "We talk a lot about moments throughout the week when we review our Test matches and South Africa just stacked a few more moments against us over the last couple of games," the veteran hooker said. "Full credit to them -- they're a great side and they've proven why they're world champions." Taylor, though, said New Zealand would take positives from the series defeat as they build towards the 2027 Rugby World Cup. "It's a good stepping stone," he said. "We're at an interesting place at the moment as a rugby nation. We've fallen short in this series but I can assure you and everyone back home that we're working hard."



Guimaraes strike lights up Arsenal win over Sunderland

Sports Desk
Bruno Guimaraes's brilliant first Arsenal goal and David Raya's penalty save inspired the Gunners to a 2-0 victory at Sunderland on Saturday to extend a flawless start to their Premier League title defence. Mikel Arteta's men have conceded just once in five games in all competitions but Sunderland had the chance to breach Arsenal's imposing rearguard when Raya tipped Enzo Le Fee's spot-kick onto the post. Just over two minutes later Guimaraes silenced the Stadium of Light as the Brazilian smashed into the top corner from outside the box. Bukayo Saka's penalty sealed the victory with the final kick of the game after Sunderland defender Reinildo saw a second yellow card for taking down the England international. Despite the victory Arteta was still seething after the game at the award of Sunderland's penalty for Ezri Konsa's pull on Dan Ballard. "It is unacceptable at this level. Unacceptable!" Arteta said. "This can change the course of a season, the championship it is not acceptable." The Arsenal boss added: "I've been in football for almost 28 years. It is not a penalty in any case, in any game, in any context, in any league." Arsenal open up a three-point lead over Manchester City, who face local rivals Manchester United on Sunday, at the top of the table. Their lead is already five ahead of Chelsea, six in front of Liverpool and eight clear of United as Arsenal threaten to run away with the title unless a new-look City under Enzo Maresca can keep pace. Despite only winning by a single goal, Arsenal showed signs of blossoming into a more potent attacking force in statement wins over Chelsea last weekend and Napoli on Wednesday to get their Champions League campaign off to a flying start. But the visitors had to rely on their organisation off the ball to grind out a vital three points as they failed to sparkle in attack but for a moment of magic from Guimaraes. The former Newcastle captain was given a hostile reception on his arrival to the home of the Magpies' biggest rivals. Guimaraes was Arsenal's big-money recruit of the transfer window, but the £75 million (\$87 million) signing is yet to start for his new club as Arteta has kept faith with Myles Lewis-Skelly alongside Declan Rice and Martin Odegaard in midfield. Kai Havertz came closest to breaking the deadlock of a cagey first half when his shot on the spin was tipped over by Robin Roefs. Arteta made his move at the break by introducing Guimaraes for Lewis-Skelly, while Jurrien Timber also replaced the injured Ben White. Sunderland are one of few sides capable of matching Arsenal's physicality and a set-piece wrestling match led to the penalty. Konsa dragged Ballard to the ground although Arsenal argued it was the Sunderland defender who initiated contact. Le Fee's effort was arrowed toward the bottom corner, but Raya produced a brilliant save to turn it onto the post. From potentially being behind, Arsenal were in front 122 seconds later.





Satla Beel awakens: thousands of crimson water lilies paint Barishal red

Barishal Correspondent

As the first rays of morning sunlight sweep across Satla Beel in Barishal, thousands of crimson water lilies burst into bloom, covering the crystal-clear waters with a stunning carpet of red. The breathtaking scene draws visitors to the wetland, where rows of vibrant blossoms create a spectacular natural display. Small boats carrying visitors slowly make their way through the flowers. With every stroke of the oar, the lilies sway gently and tiny ripples spread across the water. The calls of birds echo through the quiet surroundings. Cormorants dive into the water in search of fish, while kingfishers sit motionless, watching for their prey.

This is Satla Beel—one of the most remarkable natural attractions in Barishal, where the beauty of red water lilies blends with the tranquillity of rural Bangladesh. Known as a kingdom of red water lilies, Satla Beel itself covers roughly 200 acres. During the monsoon, however, the surrounding villages and floodplains expand the wetland landscape to nearly 10,000 acres, much of which becomes covered with water lilies.

Water remains in the beel throughout the year, but the monsoon brings it back to life. By autumn, the wetland transforms into a vast kingdom of red water lilies, drawing nature lovers and tourists from different parts of the country. Located in northern Satla village of Wazirpur upazila, around 60 kilometres from Barishal city, the beel usually begins blooming in July. The flowers generally continue to colour the vast wetland until November, turning the area into one of the region's most picturesque seasonal destinations. Although locals simply call it Satla Beel, its abundance of crimson flowers has earned it nationwide recognition as the "Satlar Lal Shaplar Beel"—Satla's Red Water Lily Wetland. Every year during the flowering season, visitors arrive from distant parts of Bangladesh to experience its unique beauty. Local residents say they have watched the lilies bloom in Satla for generations. Red lilies dominate the wetland, although white and purple varieties can also be found.

For people living in houses scattered across the middle of the beel, boats remain an important means of transportation. Visitors, too, can hire small boats and travel deep into the wetland. Moving between the flowers, the boats add another dimension to the already captivating landscape. "Satla's water lily beel is truly mesmerizing," said Shiuli Akter, who travelled from Dhaka. "If planned tourism infrastructure can be developed without disturbing the natural beauty, this could become one of the country's most attractive



A striking entrance gate is being constructed at the entrance to the water lily area. Development work is also under way on facilities including viewing points and ghats for visitors. The local administration is also seeking to promote Satla's scenic landscape more widely through photographs and video content while encouraging greater participation of local residents in tourism-related activities. Local boatmen such as Saurav, Jabbar and Monir see the tourism season as an important

opportunity to supplement their incomes. Improved tourism infrastructure could create further opportunities for local young people through boat operations, food businesses, tourism services and small enterprises. Such activities could inject new momentum into the local economy. For generations, Satla Beel was primarily a wetland and a source of livelihood for local communities. Yesterday, tourism has added a new economic dimension to the area. Wazirpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Ali Suza said Satla's water lily beel is one of the upazila's most important natural resources and has significant tourism potential. "Steps have been taken to improve necessary facilities for tourists while preserving the natural beauty of the area," he said. "Development work, including the entrance gate, viewing points and ghats, is intended to make the destination more attractive and visitor-friendly." "If tourism facilities can be expanded in a planned manner, Satla can become an important tourism destination not only for Wazirpur but also for Barishal and the entire southern region," he said. This will create employment opportunities and increase economic activity among local people, he added.



RpMP recovers 2,450 liters of fermented liquor's raw material

Rangpur Correspondent

The Kotwali Police Station of Rangpur Metropolitan Police (RpMP) recovered 2,450 liters of "wash" (raw material for producing fermented liquor) buried underground from the city's Santal Para area on Saturday night. Under the overall guidance of RpMP Commissioner Md Mahbubur Rashid, the Kotwali Police Station during a special operation recovered the raw material used to produce fermented liquor, an RpMP Media Cell press release said this afternoon.

Acting on a tip-off, a raiding team from Kotwali police station conducted an operation at the site and recovered 28 plastic drums buried underground at various locations at 7:10 pm. The drums contained a total of 2,450 liters of "wash" (raw material for making liquor). Subsequently, in the presence of officials, local residents, witnesses, and journalists, a two-liter sample of the seized "wash" was collected for further legal proceedings, and the remaining 2,448 liters were destroyed on the spot.

Youth Arrested with Cannabis in Amtali



Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

Police have arrested a man named Md. Sharif Howlader (35) with 400 grams of cannabis during a special anti-drug operation. He was arrested on Saturday afternoon following a raid in the Charpara area of Gazipur Bazar, located in Atharogachia Union of Amtali Upazila.

According to police sources, a joint team comprising personnel from the Gazipur Police Outpost and Amtali Police Station conducted the operation around 4:55 PM on Saturday as part of an ongoing nationwide special drive. Led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Shawkat Hossain, the police team raided the premises of an abandoned, under-construction building belonging to dentist Nurul Islam Talukdar in the Charpara area of Gazipur Bazar (Ward No. 9, Atharogachia Union). Md. Sharif Howlader was detained during the operation. Police stated that 400 grams of cannabis were subsequently recovered from his possession. The arrested individual, Sharif Howlader, is the son of the late Khalil Howlader from Ward No. 9 (Gazipur Uttar Kanda) of Atharogachia Union. He currently resides as a tenant of Amanullah, a grocer in Gazipur Bazar. Md. Yakub Hossain, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Amtali Police Station, confirmed that the recovered cannabis has been seized. Legal proceedings are underway against the arrested individual, including the filing of a formal case under the Narcotics Control Act. Such anti-drug operations will continue



One arrested in Pirojpur with 400 Yaba pills and 30g of 'Ice'

Pirojpur Correspondent

Police have arrested Md. Miraj Sheikh (45) in Pirojpur with 400 Yaba pills and 30 grams of 'Ice' (crystal methamphetamine) following a special operation. The narcotics were recovered during a raid on the bedroom of a house in West Dumuritola village, under Sharikatala Union of Sadar Upazila. Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohammad Manjur Ahmed Siddiqui disclosed these details at a press conference held at the conference room of the Pirojpur SP's office on Sunday (September 13) at 11:00 AM. The arrested individual, Miraj Sheikh, faces multiple charges under the Narcotics Control Act at various police stations across the country, including stations in Dhaka, Faridpur, Manikganj, and Cox's Bazar. The SP stated that a police team, led by Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md. Shariful Islam, conducted the operation in Sharikatala Union on Saturday, September 12. Police reported that the process of filing a case against him at Pirojpur Sadar Police Station under the relevant sections of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018, is currently underway.

Madrasah student killed in Meherpur road mishap

Meherpur Correspondent

A nine-year old madrasah student was killed after being run over by a truck in Mujibnagar upazila of the district this afternoon. The deceased was identified as Nabil Hossain, son of Md Kamruzzaman of Maniknagar village in Mujibnagar upazila. He was a third-grade student at Maniknagar DS Aminia Alim Madrasah. The accident occurred when he reached the Mujibnagar-Meherpur road, a motorcycle coming from behind reportedly hit his bicycle. The impact threw Nabil onto the road, where he was run over by a truck and died on the spot. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mujibnagar Police Station Uttam Kumar Das confirmed the incident and said police are trying to apprehend both the motorcycle and truck drivers.

Initiatives taken to establish playground for children: KCC Administrator

Khulna Correspondent

KCC Administrator Nazrul Islam Manju yesterday said initiatives have been taken to establish one playground and futsal facility for every two wards in line with the Prime Minister's election manifesto. "The initiative is part of a broader plan to protect children from mobile phone addiction and drug abuse, he made the remarks in a meeting to formulate an action plan for allocating budget for children by Khulna City Corporation (KCC) was held at the Shaheed Altaf Auditorium of Nagar Bhaban here this afternoon. World Vision Bangladesh organized the meeting under its Khulna Urban Area Programme with the aim of ensuring protection and rights of children. The KCC Administrator also said the "Notun Kuri" programme has been launched for children and activities under the initiative would become visible soon. Children would also be involved in monitoring the programmes, he added. The KCC administrator urged children to keep their homes and educational institutions clean and attractive.



Speakers in the meeting said although there is no separate budgetary head for children, various opportunities for children are included in different sectors of the city corporation's budget. The meeting was organized to make children aware of such provisions and opportunities. Khulna Urban Area Programme Manager Suravi Biswas presided over the meeting. KCC Chief Executive Officer Rajib Ahmed, Chief Engineer Mashiuzzaman Khan, Chief Health Officer Dr Sharif Shammiul Islam and Budget-cum-Accounts Officer Md Moniruzzaman addressed the meeting as special guests. World Vision Bangladesh Child Protection and Advocacy Coordinator Beauty Queen, KCC Youth Forum President Md Fahmid Hasan, Vice-President Afroza Akter Swarnali and authorized officials from all 31 wards of KCC were also present.

BNP Leader Aspiring for Nomination Holds Discussion in Mirsarai.

Mirsarai, Chattogram, Correspondent

To build the drug and terrorism-free union envisioned by Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, former President of Mirsarai Upazila BNP, Advocate Aliul Kabir Iqbal, has expressed his aspiration for the BNP nomination for Chairman from Katashora Union Parishad in the upcoming local government election. He said this on Sunday at 11 AM during a meeting with journalists at his residence in Katashora Union. At the meeting he said, "I joined BNP in 1991, before the general election, through the then MP Obaidul Haque Khandaker. Later, with people's votes I was elected Chairman of Katashora Union Parishad. With the support of Begum Khaleida Zia, I carried out numerous development works in Katashora Union, including: construction and renovation of 6 roads, construction of 5 cyclone shelters with Saudi and Japanese grants, partial renovation and building construction of 5 government primary schools, earthwork and full construction of 19 roads, construction of 8 culverts, excavation of 5 canals and streams, and construction of 2 madrasa buildings." He added, "Considering my political experience and the torture and oppression I faced during the past fascist government, I hope the party will nominate me for Chairman from Katashora Union Parishad in the upcoming local government election. If I get the nomination, with the cooperation of Mirsarai MP Nurul Amin, I will build Katashora Union into a model union."



Courtesy Meeting of Bagherhat Upazila Press Club with the President of Officers' Forum

Masum Hawlader, Bagherhat

A courtesy meeting was held with Dr. Faridul Islam Bablu, President of Bagherhat Officers' Forum, former Protocol Officer of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia, and former Secretary of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on behalf of Bagherhat Upazila Press Club. The courtesy meeting was held on Sunday, 13 September in the afternoon at the Bagherhat Skill IT Auditorium. Present were Bagherhat Upazila Press Club President Masum Hawlader, General Secretary Tanvir Soheli, along with other leaders and members of the Press Club.

Also present were Vice-Presidents Azad Rashidi and M. A. Wadud, Joint General Secretary Mahamud Hasan, Treasurer Mahabubur Rahman Badal, Office Secretary Abul Kalam Asad, Sports and Cultural Secretary Jahangir Sheikh, journalist Ruhul Amin Babu, Executive Members Sheikh Asadur Rahman, Enamul Islam Khan, Mehedi Hasan Roni, and other members of Bagherhat Upazila Press Club. During the meeting, discussions were held on various current issues of Bagherhat, local journalism, the responsible role of the media, and matters related to the district's development and public interest.

At the time, Dr. Faridul Islam Bablu urged the journalists of



Bagherhat to play a role in the welfare of society and the country through objective, fact-based, and responsible journalism. The leaders of Bagherhat Upazila Press Club said that if the mutual cordial relationship between local journalists and the administration, government officials, and dignitaries of society becomes stronger, it will increase the opportunity to work in the public interest. The organizational activities of the Press Club, professional development of journalists, and future plans were also discussed during the courtesy meeting. Both sides expressed their commitment to continue mutual cooperation and cordial relations in the future.