



President seeks stronger UK cooperation in education HR development, trade, investment

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Monday called for stronger UK cooperation in education, human resource development and technology, and increased trade and investment between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom. He made the call when British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam briefed reporters after the meeting. The President described the UK as a "tested and trusted development partner" of Bangladesh and said Bangladeshi expatriates living in Britain have been making significant contributions to strengthening ties between the two countries and as well as their development. He said Bangladesh, as a Commonwealth member, is working closely with the UK on the development

of Commonwealth countries and various issues of mutual interest. During the meeting, Sarah Cooke handed over a congratulatory letter from King Charles III to Mirza Fakhrul on his election as President. The President expressed his sincere gratitude to King Charles III for the greetings and congratulatory message and urged the high commissioner to convey his best wishes to the British monarch. He expressed hope that Bangladesh-UK

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Party discipline essential to overcoming crises: Social Welfare Minister

Staff correspondent

Social Welfare Minister Dr AZM Zahid Hossain has stressed the importance of maintaining organisational discipline within the BNP to help the party overcome national crises and protect the country and its people. Any disorder could benefit "covert and fugitive forces," he said while addressing a views exchange meeting at the Lalmonirhat District BNP office Sunday midnight. Dr Zahid said the BNP's primary responsibility is to provide proper leadership to protect the country and its people during times of crisis. "A position has no value without the party, and no organisation can move forward without discipline," he said, urging all leaders and activists to remain united and disciplined in the party's interest. Criticising the actions of the previous Awami League government, the minister said difficult times lie ahead and called on BNP leaders and activists at all levels to remain united. The meeting was presided over by Lalmonirhat District BNP President and Disaster

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PM seeks support to address country's power, energy challenges

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday sought support from business leaders and the media in implementing the government's plans to address the country's power and energy challenges, saying the government should be given an opportunity to execute its plans without creating instability during its tenure. He also hoped that gas supply to industries will return to its previous level from Tuesday evening. Speaking at a three-hour exchange of views with business leaders and media personalities at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat, the Prime Minister warned that any instability in the country could hurt business, trade and the economy, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary

Hasan Shiplu. "The people will decide at the appropriate time whom they want to entrust with running the government. But whichever government is in office at a given time should be allowed to complete its planned work," he said. Describing the current crisis in the power and energy sector as a problem inherited by the government, Tarique Rahman said it will not be possible to resolve it fully within six months or a year. "But we have identified the problems, prepared plans and are now at the stage of implementing those plans," he said. The Prime Minister said the government is working according to specific timelines to restore normalcy in power and energy supplies. "If we can implement these plans, not only business and trade but the overall economy will benefit,"

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Tk 1,276cr FSSP-II awaits ECNEC approval to strengthen financial sector

Staff correspondent

A Tk 1,276.30-crore technical assistance project aimed at strengthening Bangladesh's financial-sector safeguards, modernising technology-driven banking and supporting banking-sector reforms is now awaiting approval by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC). The ECNEC meeting will be held on September 16 at Bangladesh Secretariat with its Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair. The Financial Sector Support Project-II (FSSP-II) will be implemented by Bangladesh Bank under the Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry

of Finance over five years from July 2026 to June 2031. Of the total project cost, Tk 1,261.54 crore will come as foreign financing from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), while Tk 14.76 crore will be financed from Bangladesh Bank's own resources. Talking to BSS, a senior official of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) mentioned that the project has been designed to strengthen the safety net of the financial sector, enhance technology-based banking and support ongoing banking-sector reform initiatives. Its major objectives include upgrading ICT infrastructure and supervisory capacity, improving institutional capacity, strengthening

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Around 2 crore children gets measles vaccines in five months

Staff correspondent

The government has administered measles vaccines to 1,97,71,720 children across the country in five months under ongoing measles-rubella vaccination programme. This figure exceeded the initial target of vaccination by about 10 percent. When the country witnessed a measles outbreak at the end of March this year, the government swiftly launched an emergency vaccination programme on April 5 covering 30 upazilas in 18 districts at the first phase. The second phase of vaccination began on April 12 in four major city corporations (Dhaka South, Dhaka North, Barishal, and Mymensingh), and at the final third phase, the ongoing nationwide measles-rubella vaccination drive commenced on April 20, said officials at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). However, due to the persisting measles outbreak, the government is set to launch another massive vaccination campaign starting on September 26 to prevent the disease. Initially, the officials said, the programme aimed to vaccinate about 1.8 crore children nationwide. But the vaccination coverage surpassed the target due to various government initiatives. According to data of DGHS, the government's target was to vaccinate 1,80,15,064 children against measles and rubella. But, as of September 13, a total of 1,97,71,720 children received the vaccine. Data obtained from the integrated control centre for the measles-rubella vaccine shows that 11,10,698 children received the measles-rubella vaccine in Barishal division, while 48,41,924 in Chattogram division, 49,19,913 in Dhaka division, 16,95,779 in Khulna division, 15,30,916 in Mymensingh division, 22,13,197 in Rajshahi division, 20,73,488 in Rangpur division and 13,85,805 in Sylhet division. Among the city corporation areas, 44,119 children were administered with the vaccine in Barishal city, while 3,36,870 in Chattogram city, 48,643

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Moyeen Khan stresses coordinated efforts to combat dengue

Staff correspondent

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan on Monday said concrete action alongside an action plan is essential to prevent further deaths from dengue. "According to the data, the number of dengue cases from January to now is somewhat lower than the corresponding period of last year. But we must remember that the peak period for dengue is generally August, September and October," he said. "So, although the number of deaths is currently somewhat lower, there is no scope for us to become complacent. September is ahead of us, followed by October, and even part of November. To prevent the death toll from rising significantly during this period, action alongside an action plan is essential," Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said. He made the

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Two Women Die of Dengue in Rangpur

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Two women have died of dengue in Rangpur within a span of 24 hours. Minara Begum passed away while undergoing treatment in the ICU of Rangpur Medical College (RMC) Hospital, and Jannati Begum died while being treated in the ICU of Prime Medical College Hospital. Brigadier General Ashiqur Rahman, Director of RMC Hospital, confirmed the death of Minara Begum. Hospital sources reported that Minara Begum, a resident of Pirganj Upazila, arrived in Rangpur from Dhaka on September 8 and was admitted to RMC Hospital. She was later moved to the ICU after her condition deteriorated. She passed away there on Sunday morning. Meanwhile, Jannati Begum, a resident of Mithapukur Upazila, was initially admitted to RMC Hospital after contracting dengue. She was subsequently transferred to the ICU of the



private Prime Medical College Hospital as her condition worsened. She died there on Sunday afternoon. Additionally, 20 new dengue patients have been admitted to RMC Hospital in the last 24 hours. Hospital sources indicate that a total of 434 dengue patients have received treatment at RMC Hospital so far. Doctors state that a dengue patient's condition can deteriorate rapidly. Immediate hospitalization is required if symptoms such as severe weakness accompanying the fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, bleeding, breathing difficulties, abnormal drowsiness, or reduced

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Stronger coordination needed to drive innovation, development: Saki

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Planning Zonayed Abdul Rahim Saki on Monday called for stronger coordination among the government, business and industry, and academia to create new knowledge, develop skilled human resources and build a smart and innovative Bangladesh. "Effective coordination and partnership among the government, business and

industry, and academia are essential for sustainable and dynamic development," he said. The state minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Bangladesh Innovation Fair 2026' at the Auditorium of Novo Theatre in Agargaon. He said stronger inter-ministerial coordination is also needed in development planning and project implementation to prevent overlapping and duplication

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Representatives from British High Commission and The Asia Foundation visit SKILL-IT of Latif Master Foundation in Bagherhat

Masum Hawlader, Bagherhat

A delegation from the British High Commission and The Asia Foundation visited SKILL-IT - Skill Institute of Technology, an institution of Latif Master Foundation in Bagherhat on Monday, 14 September. The delegation included, Ms. Louise Bainon, Governance Advisor, British High Commission; Sarah L. Taylor, Team Leader, The Asia Foundation; Ms. Shahnaz Karim, Governance Advisor, British High Commission; Ms. Rosie Coombes, Political Counsellor, British High Commission; and Rafiqul Islam, Executive Director, Rupantor. During the visit, the delegation members inspected SKILL-IT's ongoing training pro-

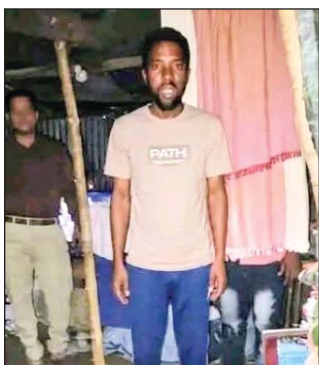
grams, training infrastructure, and various skill development initiatives. Later, they participated in a discussion meeting with representatives of various local civil society and development organizations. In the discussion meeting, special emphasis was placed on caregiver training and Japanese language training, along with various vocational trainings, to create a skilled workforce for overseas employment, reduce unemployment, and expand job opportunities for youth. Emphasis was also given to making skill development and training programs more contemporary, considering the demands of the international labor market. At the time, importance was also placed on capacity building at the local level based on Public Private Partnership, utilizing existing local resources and

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Police Constable 'Closed' After Video Alleging Drug Use Goes Viral in Dimla

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Allegations of drug use have surfaced against a police constable stationed at Dimla Police Station in Nilphamari. Following the viral spread of a video regarding the incident on social media, the constable was withdrawn from Dimla Police Station and reassigned to the District Police Lines. Confidential sources indicate that this action was taken last Friday under the orders of the District Superintendent of Police. The constable in question is Ramzan Ali (Constable No. 420). It is reported that drug-taking sessions had been held daily for a long time at a house near the Islamiya Degree College intersection in Dimla Sadar Union. Locals allege that these activities were taking place with the consent of the homeowner, Motaahar Hossain Sohel. On the evening of September 10, local residents noticed suspicious individuals frequenting the house. When a group of locals surrounded the premises, some of the people inside attempted to flee. During this time, locals identified Constable



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A faster, cheaper path to rural justice

According to a Supreme Court study published in July, more than 46.3 lakh cases were pending with courts across the country as of March 2026. Against this backdrop, it is commendable that village courts have emerged as a source of relief for the rural population seeking to resolve various disputes.

The overall resolution rate at village courts is 83.77 percent, and each case is disposed of within 18 days from filing, on average. A criminal complaint must be filed within 30 days of the incident, while a civil dispute must be lodged within 60 days of the incident or within a year in cases of land dispossession. The court is then constituted with a five-member panel, comprising the UP chairman and two representatives nominated by each party. Women’s representation is also mandated on panels handling disputes involving women’s issues or interests. It is clear that village courts are formal and regulated, unlike traditional village arbitration, and cases are also disposed of faster and at a much lower cost than in judicial courts. With support from the EU and UNDP, the Local Government Division (LGD) is expanding.

member panel, comprising the UP chairman and two representatives nominated by each party. Women’s representation is also mandated on panels handling disputes involving women’s issues or interests. It is clear that village courts are formal and regulated, unlike traditional village arbitration, and cases are also disposed of faster and at a much lower cost than in judicial courts. With support from the EU and UNDP, the Local Government Division (LGD) is expanding the system to 4,456 UPs—3,048 newly activated—across 61 districts. The village courts also have safeguards in place to address bias, political influence, and non-payment of compensation for a resolved case. With the term for donor support nearing its end, the LGD is seeking to shift operational, capacity-building, and digital-maintenance costs for running village courts to the government’s revenue budget. We support this plan and believe that this project should be expanded further. These village courts ease citizens’ frustration by shortening the time they have to spend pursuing a legal case while also lowering the amount of money they have to spend on a lawyer. Not only can they help deter rural arbitration, village courts also prevent minor disputes from turning violent due to remaining unresolved for too long. We hope the LGD will be duly supported in sustaining this essential system.

Sitakunda, Where Mountains, Sea and Spirituality Meet

Md. Neyamul Hossain

Where lush green hills meet the blue waters of the sea, and natural beauty blends with centuries-old religious traditions, lies Sitakunda—one of Bangladesh’s most fascinating destinations.

Located north of Chattogram, Sitakunda offers a remarkable combination of mountains, the Bay of Bengal, waterfalls, temples and sacred pilgrimage sites. The area is not only a popular destination for nature lovers and adventure seekers but also one of the country’s most important Hindu pilgrimage centres.

Every year, thousands of people from different parts of Bangladesh travel to Sitakunda to perform religious rituals, offer prayers and visit sacred sites. At the same time, its hills, waterfalls, beaches and coastal landscapes are attracting an increasing number of tourists looking for an escape into nature.

In many ways, Sitakunda is a living meeting place of religion, nature and history.

A Sacred Journey to Sitakunda

Sitakunda is deeply connected with Hindu mythology, legends and religious traditions. At the summit of Chandranath Hill stands the revered Chandranath Temple, one of the region’s most significant pilgrimage sites.

On special religious occasions, particularly during Shivaratri, the area takes on a distinctly spiritual atmosphere. From early morning, pilgrims begin their journey up the hill, carrying offerings and chanting prayers as they make their way towards the temple.

Some come to fulfil vows, others to offer prayers, while many simply wish to experience the sacred atmosphere and visit the ancient pilgrimage site.

The enduring religious significance of Chandranath has helped establish Sitakunda as one of Bangladesh’s major Hindu pilgrimage destinations.

Chandranath Hill and the Attractions Around It Chandranath Hill is undoubtedly one of Sitakunda’s main attractions. But it is only one part of a much larger travel experience.

Among the notable destinations in and around Sitakunda are Chandranath Hill, Guliakhali Sea Beach, Sitakunda Botanical Garden and Eco-Park, Banshbaria Ferry Ghat, Kumira Ferry Ghat, Akilpur Sea Beach, Sahasradhara Waterfall and Jharjhari Waterfall.

The journey up Chandranath Hill itself is an experience. As visitors follow the winding trail upward, the scenery gradually changes. Below, the settlements become smaller; in the distance, the vast expanse of the sea comes into view, while green hills surround the trail.

The climb can be physically demanding, particularly for those who are not accustomed to hiking. Yet the scenery along the way often makes the effort worthwhile.

There are stretches of dense greenery, rocky paths and small roadside shops where visitors can stop for refreshments. Near the summit, clouds and mist sometimes roll in and cover the surrounding landscape.

On clear days, however, the view from the hill can be spectacular, offering glimpses of the sea and the vast landscape below. Sunrise and sunset can make the experience even more memorable.

The Green Heart of Sitakunda: Eco-Park

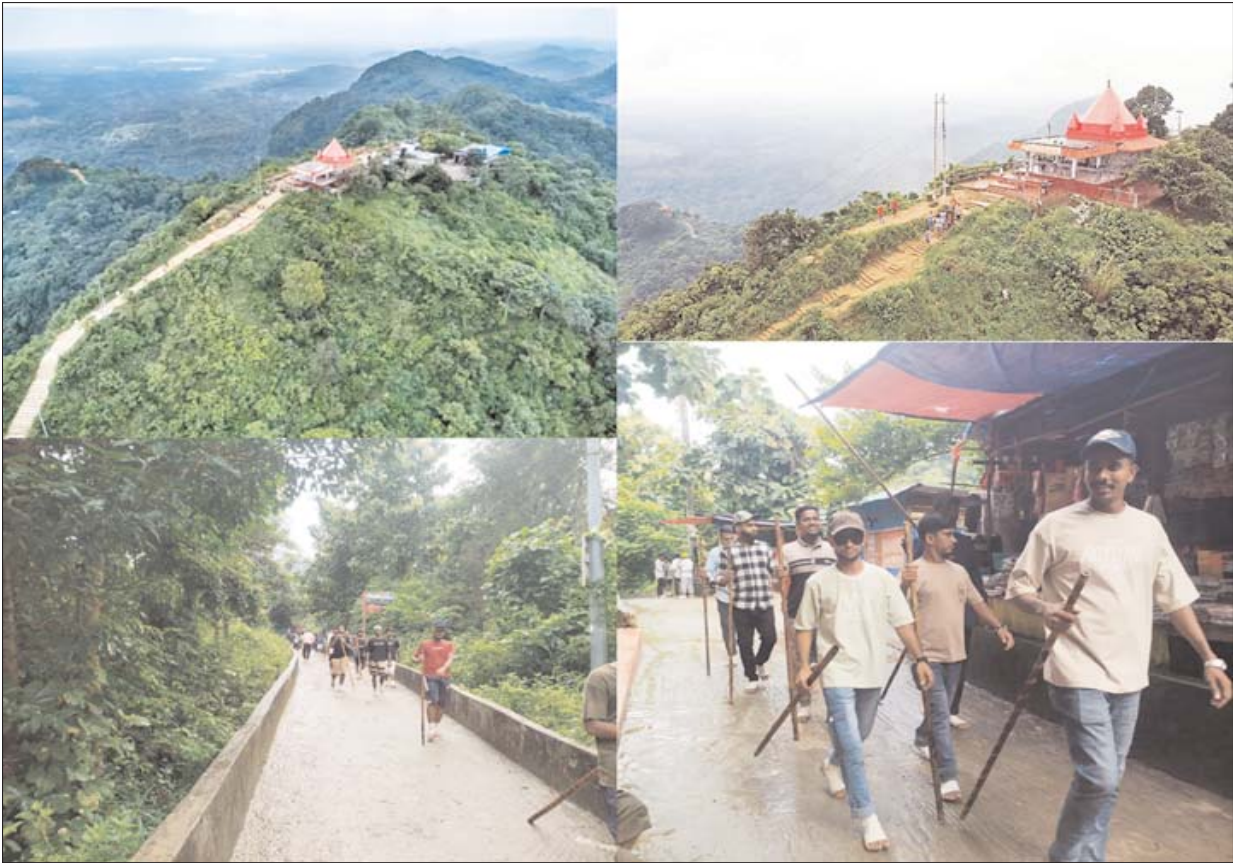
For those who want to experience the region’s natural diversity, the Sitakunda Botanical Garden and Eco-Park is another major attraction.

Set along the hills, the expansive green area offers visitors an opportunity to explore a variety of trees and plants while enjoying the peaceful atmosphere of the surrounding landscape.

Its winding paths and hilly terrain make it an ideal place to spend a few hours away from the noise and congestion of urban life.

The character of the Eco-Park changes with the seasons. Winter and spring bring one kind of landscape, while the monsoon transforms the hills into a much greener and more dramatic setting. With the changing seasons, the colours of the hills, vegetation and surrounding environment change as well.

Another Side of Sitakunda: The Sea The Bay of Bengal is another defining feature of Sitakunda. One of the destination’s greatest advantages is the opportunity to experience mountains, waterfalls and the sea within a relatively short journey. The coastal landscape offers wide skies,



fresh sea air and a glimpse into the everyday lives of fishing communities.

The appearance of the coast changes constantly with the tides. At one moment, sunlight glitters across the water; later in the afternoon, the sea takes on a softer, deeper blue under the fading light.

For travellers, these changing landscapes offer a different experience of Sitakunda—one that is quieter and more closely connected with the rhythm of nature.

The Kumira–Sandwip Waterway and Coastal Life

Life in Sitakunda’s coastal communities is closely tied to the sea.

Fishing, boats, coastal trade and other livelihoods depend heavily on the waters of the Bay of Bengal. The Kumira area and its surrounding coastal settlements are also connected to the waterway linking the mainland with Sandwip.

For tourists, the coast may appear as a picturesque destination. For local people, however, the same sea is a source of livelihood, opportunity and, at times, hardship.

This contrast adds another dimension to Sitakunda. It is not simply a place to visit for scenic beauty; it is also a place where travellers can observe the lives, livelihoods and struggles of coastal communities.

Traces of History

Sitakunda’s importance extends beyond religion and natural beauty. The area also has a long historical and cultural significance.

For centuries, the wider Chattogram region has been connected with trade, communication and religious travel. The pilgrimage tradition surrounding Chandranath has continued for generations and remains an important part of the region’s social and cultural history.

Over time, the movement and settlement of people from different communities have contributed to the cultural diversity of Sitakunda.

Yesterday, traces of this long history can still be found in its temples, pilgrimage sites, local traditions, folklore and cultural practices.

When Is the Best Time to Visit Sitakunda?

Sitakunda can be visited throughout the year, but the best time depends on what kind of experience a traveller is looking for. Winter is generally comfortable for hiking and exploring the various attractions, as the weather is comparatively pleasant. The monsoon, on the other hand, brings a different kind of beauty. The hills become lush and the waterfalls are often at their most impressive. However, hiking trails can become slippery and potentially dangerous during heavy rain, so extra caution is necessary.

Travellers interested in experiencing Sitakunda’s religious traditions may choose to visit during major festivals or special

religious occasions. These periods offer a unique opportunity to experience the spiritual atmosphere of the pilgrimage centre, although the area can become extremely crowded.

How to Get to Sitakunda

Sitakunda is often regarded as one of the gateways to Chattogram and is easily accessible from Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh.

Visitors travelling from Dhaka can take buses heading towards Chattogram and get off at Sitakunda. Local trains also provide an option for reaching the area.

From Sitakunda Railway Station and the town area, visitors can use CNG auto-rickshaws, battery-powered three-wheelers and other local transport to reach Chandranath Hill, Guliakhali Sea Beach, the Eco-Park, Banshbaria and other nearby attractions.

A well-planned trip can combine several experiences in a single day. Visitors may hike Chandranath Hill in the morning and spend the afternoon at Guliakhali or Banshbaria Sea Beach.

Those planning a longer stay can spend the night at one of the local hotels and explore the remaining attractions the following day.

Travel Tips

A trip to Sitakunda is more enjoyable when visitors are properly prepared.

Comfortable shoes, sufficient drinking water and necessary medicines should be carried when hiking. During the monsoon, extra care is essential because mountain trails can become slippery.

Visitors should avoid exploring difficult or remote hill trails alone and should follow local safety advice.

And when visiting a pilgrimage site, it is important to behave not merely as a tourist but as a respectful guest. Religious beliefs, local customs and the cultural traditions of the community should always be treated with sensitivity.

A Journey That Offers More Than a View

Sitakunda is more than a destination on the tourist map.

It is a place where the green of the hills meets the blue of the Bay of Bengal; where waterfalls emerge from forested slopes; where pilgrims climb sacred hills carrying centuries-old beliefs; and where coastal communities continue to build their lives around the sea.

For some, Sitakunda is a pilgrimage.

For others, it is an adventure.

For nature lovers, it is a landscape of hills, waterfalls and sea. And for those willing to look beyond the scenery, it is also a place where history, culture, faith and everyday life come together.

That is what makes Sitakunda special—a destination where the mountains, the sea and spirituality meet.

President seeks stronger UK

relations will become stronger and more fruitful through greater cooperation in education, technology, human resource development, trade and investment, and capacity-building of democratic institutions.

Mirza Fakhrul sought increased UK support for expanding higher education opportunities for Bangladeshi students in Britain, increasing Commonwealth scholarships, developing human resources and strengthening the capacity of education- and technology-related institutions in Bangladesh. He said Bangladesh has returned to the democratic path through a free, impartial and peaceful election. The President stressed the importance of strengthening the capacity of democratic institutions and elected representatives to consolidate the democratic process.

Referring to the UK’s long-standing experience of practising Westminster-style democracy, he emphasised regular contacts, reciprocal visits and exchanges of experience between parliamentarians of the two countries. The British high commissioner informed the President that as many as 99.99 percent of Bangladesh’s products, including ready-made garments, will enjoy duty-free market access in the UK for three more years after Bangladesh graduates from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category. The President described the facility as an important opportunity to further expand trade relations between the two countries. Sarah Cooke also briefed the President on an initiative to exchange digital climate data between Bangladesh and the UK.

Mirza Fakhrul welcomed the initiative, saying the exchange of weather and climate-related data will help improve the accuracy of weather forecasts and contribute to increasing agricultural production. The secretary to the President’s Office, President’s press secretary, the British deputy high commissioner and development director, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant offices were present.

Party discipline essential

Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu, Barrister Hasan Rajib Pradhan, MP from Lalmonirhat-1, and Rokon Uddin Babul from Lalmonirhat-2, among others, addressed the meeting.

PM seeks support to address

he said. “We hope, Insha-Allah, from tomorrow evening the gas supply will return to something like the level it was at one

to one and a half months ago,” Tarique added. State Minister for Power and Energy Aninda Islam Amit made a presentation titled “Challenges and Future Roadmap of Bangladesh’s Power and Energy Sector” at the meeting.

Explaining the current gas crisis, the Prime Minister said gas supplies were disrupted after an accident at one of the country’s two floating LNG terminals, affecting industries and other sectors.

He said the problem caused by the accident has already been resolved. Tarique Rahman said the government is also taking steps to install a third floating LNG terminal to address the supply shortfall. He said preparations for the installation of another terminal on a government-to-government basis have largely been completed over the past month and work on it will begin soon.

The government expects to connect the third terminal to the gas supply system by December 2027, the Prime Minister said. He said the problems in the power sector were also longstanding.

After taking office, the government reviewed the problems, held discussions with the relevant stakeholders and prepared plans to address them, Tarique Rahman said, adding that implementation of those plans is now underway. “Planning for anything and implementing it takes time. This problem in energy and power has been inherited. It is not possible to solve it within six months or a year simply by wishing to do so,” he said. The government also presented business leaders with tentative timelines for completing various planned initiatives. The Prime Minister said the timelines could shift slightly during implementation, but the government has a clear plan and timeframe before it. Seeking cooperation from the business community, he said any damage to business and industry will have an overall impact on the country’s economy. “So, solving the power and energy problem is not only a matter of interest for the business community. It is linked to the overall economic progress of the country,” Tarique Rahman said. He said Bangladesh has set a target of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2034, and achieving the goal will require adequate and uninterrupted supplies of power and energy. The Prime Minister said the government has adopted its long-term plans keeping that target in mind. “No reason to be disappointed” Tarique Rahman said the business community is already aware of the extent and complexity of the current problems. The government has not concealed the problems but has openly presented them and explained how it planned to

resolve them, he said. “We wanted to let you know that we are working on this. So, there is no reason to be disappointed,” the Prime Minister said. He urged the business community to cooperate in implementing the plans if they consider them reasonable, saying successful implementation will benefit not only businesses but the country as a whole. Tarique Rahman also warned that instability in the country could hurt business, trade and the economy. Explaining why media representatives and personalities have been invited to the discussion, he said it is important to clearly communicate the government’s objectives and plans to the media. “Otherwise, fragmented information could create confusion,” he said. “If the media have a clear understanding of the government’s plans, they will also be able to present them correctly to the people,” the Prime Minister said. He also said a strong and effective team is needed to successfully implement major initiatives.

Tarique Rahman said all relevant members of the government are working together so that implementation of the plans could bring positive changes to the lives of people from different walks of life. Addressing the business and media representatives, he said, “Please cooperate with us so that we can do something better for you.”

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar, Prime Minister’s Adviser on Finance and Planning Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Prime Minister’s Adviser on Education, Expatriates’ Welfare and Labour and Employment Mahdi Amin, Invest Bangladesh Chairman Ashik Chowdhury, Prime Minister’s Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, Bangladesh Bank Governor Mostaqur Rahman, Power Secretary Mirana Mahrook and Energy Secretary Md Ziaul Haque were present. FBCCI Administrator Fazlul Haque, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan, International Chamber of Commerce President Mahbubur Rahman, BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries President Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, Bangladesh Jute Mills Association acting President Abul Kamal, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Amirul Haque and Bangladesh Agro-Processors Association President Mahbub Anam, among other business leaders, were present. Editor of the daily Manabzamin Matuir Rahman Chowdhury, BNP Media Cell Convener Dr Moudud Hossain Alomgir Pavel, Editor of the English Daily Waadaa Shafiqul Alam, and journalists Ashraf Kaiser, Mostafa Firoz, Abdun Noor Tushar, Akbar Hossain, Shahed Alam, Rezaul Karim Rony, Azizur Rahman Ripon and Tarikul Islam Sourav, among

others, attended the meeting. Jahangirnagar University teacher Dr Nahreen I Khan was also present.

Tk 1,276cr FSSP-II awaits

procurement related to ICT infrastructure and providing consultancy services, he added. He said that the project will also strengthen the financial capacity of the Deposit Insurance Trust Fund (DITF), reduce payment periods and support effective implementation of bank resolution and restructuring. It will also seek to improve governance and financial stability of state-owned banks, he added. According to project document, Bangladesh’s financial sector is undergoing rapid transformation amid banking-system modernisation, growing global competition and rising domestic demand. However, high non-performing loans, governance weaknesses, outdated ICT systems and limited technological capacity continue to pose challenges to the sector. It said weaknesses in supervisory ICT infrastructure and the lack of integrated information management systems are also hindering efforts to address emerging risks, including cyberattacks and cross-border financial risks. These challenges have affected depositor confidence as well as financial and economic stability. The FSSP-II has been taken as a continuation of the earlier Financial Sector Support Project implemented by Bangladesh Bank with World Bank assistance, with the new project intended to help restore long-term stability in the financial sector. The project comprises three major components - enhancing supervisory capacity and systems; strengthening financial-sector safeguards and supporting banking-sector resolution and restructuring; and providing implementation support. The second component specifically covers financial-sector safeguards, bank resolution and restructuring and state-owned bank reforms. A significant portion of the project allocation will go to technological upgrading. The proposed expenditure includes Tk 711.72 crore for ICT equipment, Tk 355.36 crore for computer software and Tk 7.64 crore for databases, besides other ICT and office equipment. The Planning Commission has recommended the project for ECNEC approval, saying it would help strengthen financial-sector safeguards, technology-based banking, banking reforms, bank resolution and restructuring and ultimately improve financial stability in the banking sector. The project proposal was received by the Planning Commission in October 2025, while the Special Project Evaluation Committee (SPEC) meeting was held on November 23, 2025. The restructured TAPP was subsequently received in May 2026 for further processing.



Govt plans measures to improve business climate, diversify exports

Staff correspondent

The government plans to take a series of measures to improve the cost and ease of doing business, attract foreign investment, diversify exports and promote balanced industrial development across the country, according to a budget document. Giving priority to deregulation, the government plans to streamline investment-related services, fully digitalise them and integrate them with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority's One-Stop Service (BIDA-OSS) platform. It also plans to strengthen coordination among investment promotion agencies through an interactive

website and map investment-related services sector by sector. The government will further develop BanglaBiz as a single digital platform for business approval services to provide investors with faster, predictable, coordinated and transparent government services. To attract foreign direct investment, it plans to promote 19 promising sectors identified in an investment heat map. The government has set an export target of \$63.4 billion for the 2026-27 fiscal year, aiming for 15 percent growth in both goods and services exports, Commerce Minister Khondakar Abdul Muktadir announced recently. There are already signs of stronger investment

interest. The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) said they secured investment proposals worth \$717.71 million from 36 companies in FY2025-26, the highest annual commitment in its history. The proposed projects are expected to create 75,744 jobs once fully operational. BEPZA-run zones also generated \$8.41 billion in exports in FY26, accounting for 17.51 percent of the country's total merchandise exports. EPZA is also planning to establish new export processing zones in Patuakhali and Jashore. The Patuakhali EPZ is expected to create employment for nearly one lakh people, while

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TB Hospital to be transformed into National TB Control Institute: Bobby Hajjaj

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj yesterday said initiatives would be taken soon to transform the 250-bed TB Hospital into the National TB Control Institute and Hospital. The transformation will expand facilities for the diagnosis, treatment and control of tuberculosis, as well as research and training, while strengthening the hospital's overall healthcare capacity, he said. The state minister, who is also the Chairman of the TB

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Black Sugarcane brings new hope for farmers in Gazipur

Staff correspondent

As rising production costs and declining profits push many farmers away from traditional sugarcane cultivation, a new cane variety is gaining attention in Bangladesh, offering fresh hope for growers and the country's struggling sugar industry. Locally known as 'Black Sugarcane' or 'Black Ruby', the Philippines Black Sugarcane has been officially released by the

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No scope for any action outside legal framework or for "crossfire": Law Minister



Staff correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman on Monday said there is no scope for taking any action outside the legal framework. "There is no scope for any action outside the legal framework or for crossfire. The existing laws are sufficient to combat terrorism," he said. The minister made the remarks while addressing a views exchange meeting organised by Khulna district administration at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office to discuss improving the overall law and order situation, ensuring good governance and strengthening administrative activities in the

district. He said ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order are the government's top priorities. "A zero-tolerance policy must be adopted in maintaining law and order, and the administration must remain vigilant so that people seeking justice receive services quickly and without harassment," he said. The minister also stressed the need for coordination between the administration

and relevant authorities to improve public services and strengthen governance. Local representatives and administrative officials briefed the minister on various development activities, expansion of civic services and the current law and order situation in Khulna. Speaking at the meeting, Asaduzzaman said the government would ensure that law enforcement agencies operate within the existing legal framework. Earlier in the day, the law minister held a separate views exchange meeting with judicial officers of Khulna at the conference room of the Khulna District Judge's Court. He urged judges to expedite the disposal of cases to reduce the backlog in courts.

Patwary for Dhaka South Asif for North: NCP names mayoral candidates

Staff correspondent

The National Citizen Party (NCP) yesterday formally named its Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary as its mayoral candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain for Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). NCP Convener and Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam announced the candidatures after a coordination meeting with prospective councillor candidates from different wards under the two city corporations at the party's Banglamotor office in Dhaka this evening. At the meeting, Nahid gave organisational directives on preparations for the city corporation elections and the party's broader political activities in the capital.

He asked party leaders to identify prospective councillor candidates in different wards, map local civic problems and build campaigns around issues affecting residents. Nahid also instructed party leaders and activists to remain in regular contact with the families of those killed and injured during the July Uprising and extend support to them. He further asked ward-level leaders to remain vigilant against "subversive activities" by Awami League leaders and activists.

Earlier at the briefing, Nasiruddin Patwary said the NCP had decided to contest local government elections across the country independently, although it would continue political coordination with the parties in its 11-party alliance. He said the alliance partners would field their own candidates in local elections but would act together if anyone attempted to capture polling centres or manipulate voting. NCP is also preparing candidates for councillor posts in both Dhaka city corporations as part of its wider local-election preparations. The party has already

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BPPA prioritises full e-GP rollout, procurement capacity, AI integration: CEO

Staff correspondent

Ensuring 100 percent implementation of e-GP, strengthening procurement capacity, and integrating AI into public procurement processes are among the major immediate priorities of the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA). "Although Bangladesh has achieved progress in public procurement process, several important challenges still remain," said Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abu Sayed Md. Kamruzzaman. He also highlighted the key areas requiring attention to further strengthen the country's public procurement system. "The BPPA is not giving blanket permission for conducting offline tenders. Recently, the BPPA has issued a circular mentioning the conditions under which the Procuring Entities (PEs) can get permission for offline tenders," he said. Talking to BSS recently, Kamruzzaman said BPPA is working to bring the operation and maintenance of the e-GP software fully under its own management.

He also identified achieving full implementation of e-GP across all public procurement, strengthening procurement capacity in ministries and public agencies, and enhancing the capacity of Project Directors in procurement, project management and public financial management as major priorities. The BPPA CEO stressed the need for greater competition in public procurement while ensuring quality, value for money, sustainability and innovation throughout the procurement lifecycle. "Addressing these challenges will further improve public service delivery and strengthen citizens' confidence in the procurement system," he said. Highlighting recent reforms, Kamruzzaman said the establishment of the Debarment Review Board in January this year was one of BPPA's most significant initiatives.

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Bangladesh wants dignified, neighbourly ties with India: Speaker

Staff correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram yesterday said Bangladesh expects a neighbourly relationship with India based on dignity, adding that Bangladesh wants friendly relations with all countries, including India. "We need to maintain good relations with India.

But it does not appear that India wants good relations," he said, noting that India has given shelter to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and allowed her to conduct politics from there, which is not desirable. The Speaker made these remarks while talking to journalists after an exchange of views with the deputy commissioner,

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Six Members of Motorcycle Theft Ring Arrested in Mirsarai, Three Stolen Motorcycles Recovered

Jwel Nag, Mirsarai, Chattogram, Correspondent

Police have arrested six active members of an alleged motorcycle theft gang in a special operation in Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram. Three stolen motorcycles and six mobile phones were recovered from their possession.

The arrests were made early Sunday (September 13) from the house of Nur Hossain at Rajab Ali Sowdagar Bari in the Banglabazar area of Dhum Union under Jorarganj Police Station.

According to police, a team conducted the operation based on a tip-off and initially recovered one stolen motorcycle and six mobile phones from the suspects.

Later, based on information obtained during preliminary interrogation of the arrested individuals, police conducted another raid the same day at a motorcycle garage named "Korerhat Bike Lab" in the Chhattaraya

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3-day Asian Tourism Fair 2026 to begin in Dhaka Thursday



Staff correspondent

The 3-day 13th Asian Tourism Fair (ATF) 2026, showcasing travel and tourism offerings from home and abroad, will begin in Dhaka on Thursday at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB).

Details of the fair were unveiled at a press conference held at a city hotel in Gulshan on Monday, addressed by ATF Chairman Mohiuddin Helal. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) Chairman Md Shamimuzzaman was present as chief guest. Endorsed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and supported by BPC and the Bangladesh Tourism Board, this year's fair will feature over 200 organisations from 10 countries, including Bangladesh, across nearly 300 booths in three halls. Hotels, resorts, tour operators, travel agents, airlines, public and private tourism bodies, and foreign missions will showcase their products and services along with attractive

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Democracy regains strong foothold in Bangladesh

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh appears to be getting a strong footing once again in democracy after a political changeover in last February through a participatory election as Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured an overwhelming majority in vote and assumed office. The democracy that reemerged on the election day of February 12, 2026, now is reshaping its course with good governance and rule of law under the BNP led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. So, the people of Bangladesh are now beginning to feel and appreciate the value of the democracy they had been deprived of for years.

Yet Bangladesh's present democratic course has not been an easy one. The people endured years of repression and a long, painful and bloody political history during Sheikh Hasina's autocratic rule that came to an end on August 5, 2024, amid a mas

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Human chain and protest march demanding the construction of the Union Parishad building in Bhanga, Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

Residents of the Chandara Union Parishad in Bhanga Upazila of Faridpur have held a human chain and protest march demanding the construction of a new building at the former location in Chandara. On Monday (14 September) afternoon, this programme was organised at Chandara Bazar, with participation from several thousand men and women. Speakers at the human chain stated that the old building of the Chandara Union Parishad was located in the Chandara Bazar area. Due to river erosion, the Union Parishad building was later relocated to the Maligram Bazar area. Recently, an initiative has been taken to construct a new building for the Chandara Union Parishad. Therefore, the new building must be constructed at the former and traditional location of Chandara Bazar.

The speakers further stated that since Chandara Bazar is the heart of the union, constructing the parishad building here would make it easier for the general public of the union to access and receive

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কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

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

Govt plans measures to improve

the Jashore EPZ is expected to generate around 1.5 lakh jobs.The establishment of Rangpur EPZ in Gaibandha and Sirajganj EPZ in Sirajganj is also in the pipeline.The government plans to expand digital services under the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), where 60 of its 125 services have already been brought online. Standard Operating Procedures have been prepared for 88 services.The Cabinet in July approved in principle three major policy measures, including the draft Invest Bangladesh Act, 2026, the National Renewable Energy Development Strategy (2026–2030) and the Import Policy Order, 2026–2029, aimed at improving the investment climate, expanding renewable energy and updating the country's import framework.It also plans to promote environmentally sustainable industrialisation through the Green and Resilient Economic Zone guidelines, renewable energy facilities, solar power systems and Central Effluent Treatment Plants.Economic zones are planned in Kurigram, Nilphamari, Chandpur and Kushtia to reduce Dhaka-Chattogram-centric industrialisation and support balanced regional development.Ahead of Bangladesh's graduation from the Least Developed Country category, the government plans to pursue Free Trade Agreements, Preferential Trade Agreements and Economic Partnership Agreements with potential trading partners to maintain the country's competitiveness in global trade.The government also plans to reduce dependence on ready-made garments, which currently account for nearly 82 percent of export earnings, by promoting handicrafts, home décor items, juice products, natural cosmetics, toys and baby products in international markets.

TB Hospital to be transformed

Hospital Management Committee, made the remarks while addressing a meeting at the hospital here. Necessary steps will be taken to fill the vacant posts quickly after discussions with the Ministry of Health, he said, assuring that all necessary support would continue to ensure quality and uninterrupted healthcare services for patients."A new 500-bed building will also be constructed to expand the hospital's services and capacity," he said. He further directed the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to remove illegal encroachments from the footpath in front of the hospital so that patients and general public can move around without obstruction.During his visit, the state minister inspected different wards of the hospital and reviewed the treatment services and overall management. He talked to patients and their attendants and instructed the relevant officials to take necessary steps to resolve their problems.He also exchanged views with doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers. The state minister urged them to perform their duties with greater responsibility and sincerity to further improve the quality of healthcare services.He also called on the hospital authorities to give the highest priority to ensuring that every patient seeking treatment at the government hospital receives humane and responsible care and does not face any form of harassment or inconvenience. Deputy Director of the hospital Dr Ayesha Akter, along with officials from the Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Health Services and Department of Social Services, and members of the hospital management committee, were present at the meeting.

Black Sugarcane brings

Bangladesh Sugarcrop Research Institute (BSRI) as BSRI Akh 49.

Field-level research by the Research and Development Division of Bashundhara Agro Chemical Industries Limited (BACIL) in Kaliakair, Gazipur, indicates that scientific cultivation methods can significantly increase its yield while keeping production costs relatively low.The success has generated fresh interest among farmers, agricultural researchers and private-sector investors, particularly in the commercial market for chewing and juice-producing sugarcane.Sugarcane has long been cultivated in Gazipur, particularly for molasses and direct consumption. According to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sugarcane were cultivated on 1,603 hectares of land in the district this year.Kapasia has the largest area under the cultivation on 1,220 hectares, followed by Sreepur 189 hectares, Gazipur Sadar 100 hectares, Kaliganj 60 hectares and Kaliakair 34 hectares of land.Among existing varieties, Ishwardi-16 occupies the largest area at 542 hectares. Popular chewing varieties include BSRI Akh 41 (Amrit), cultivated on 384 hectares, BSRI Akh 42 (Rangbilash) on 329 hectares and BSRI Akh 47 on 150 hectares.

BSRI Akh 49 (Black Sugarcane) is now adding a distinctive new dimension to this landscape. Its dark purple-to-black appearance, soft stalk, high juice content and ease of chewing have attracted considerable interest from both farmers and consumers.BACIL began experimental cultivation of the variety in January 2025 on a 20-decimal at Sakashwar Madhyapara research farm in Kaliakair. The project forms part of the company's broader agricultural research and crop-diversification programme.Faisal Ahmed, who is responsible for the field research, said the project achieved notable results by introducing a modified planting technique.Under conventional methods, sugarcane seedlings are generally planted two to three feet apart. BACIL, however, reduced the plant-to-plant distance to 1–1.5 feet, while maintaining three feet between rows. This allows approximately 3,500–4,000 cuttings or seedlings per bigha, nearly double of the conventional density. Despite the increased plant population, researchers observed no significant adverse effect on stalk height or diameter. Instead, yields reportedly doubled under proper management. The cane reaches 10–11 feet within eight months and grows to around 13–15 feet after 12 months. Regular removal of old lower leaves every 10–14 days, leaving six to eight healthy leaves, helps maintain plant health and supports rapid growth.Loamy and clay-loam soils are considered suitable, with January-February and September-October identified as favourable planting periods. Another advantage is that vegetables and other short-duration crops can be cultivated between the cane rows without significantly affecting production. The variety also requires relatively little pesticide use.

Dr Nilufar Islam, Chief Scientific Officer and Officer-in-Charge of the BSRI Gazipur Regional Office, said the variety popularly known as Black Sugarcane is officially BSRI Akh 49, developed and approved by BSRI.She explained that the variety is primarily suitable for chewing and juice production, rather than commercial sugar or molasses manufacturing, or direct consumption, however, BSRI Akh 49 has significant advantages. Its outer skin and nodes are relatively soft, making the cane easy to chew. Its maximum average yield can reach 171 tonnes per hectare.Researchers also report the presence of antioxidants, flavonoids and minerals including calcium, potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium, zinc and iron in the sugarcane. The economic prospects are perhaps the most attractive aspect of the variety. Field estimates suggest that cultivation costs—including seedlings, land preparation and maintenance—range between Taka 60,000 and Taka 70,000 per bigha.A farmer can reportedly harvest 15–18 tonnes of cane per bigha, with an estimated market value of Taka 170,000–180,000. According to the field calculation, this can generate a net profit of roughly Taka 100,000–150,000 in the first year, depending on production and market prices.After harvesting the variety, 10–15 new shoots can emerge from each harvested clump. Consequently, farmers may obtain second- and third-year crops without bearing the same initial expenses for land preparation and planting materials.According to project-level estimates, net returns could rise to approximately Taka 200,000–320,000 per bigha in the second and third years, subject to yield, management and market prices.M.Z. Hossain Arzu, Head of the company's Research and Development

Division, said Bashundhara Group is planning commercial cultivation on around 400 bighas after completing further trials.The proposed business model includes fresh cane marketing as well as processing the crop into juice, premium molasses and paper-industry raw materials. Bottled cane juice and processed products could potentially be exported to international markets.

Kaliakair Assistant Agricultural Officer Suraiya Sultana said she personally visited BACIL's research field and tasted the cane."It is extremely sweet, soft and juicy. It is undoubtedly an excellent chewing variety," she said, adding that its ability to produce crops for three consecutive years with comparatively low costs and labour could improve farmers livelihoods.She said the DAE was providing farmers with technical guidance, including advice on cultivation practices and pest and disease management. Despite the promising results, wider commercial expansion will require institutional support. With appropriate government-private sector cooperation, farmer training, quality planting materials and reliable marketing and processing infrastructure, BSRI Akh 49 could become more than an alternative sugarcane variety, she said.

Bangladesh wants dignified

superintendent of police and other government officials at Bhola Circuit House.e further said the autocratic Hasina government was ousted through an uprising, following which an interim government ran the country for nearly two years. In February this year, he said, the people of the country handed the responsibility of forming the government to BNP through a fair election and the present government is only seven months old. He said every sector of the country suffered a collapse due to the Awami League government's misrule over the past 17 years, during which the regime set records in killings, murders, enforced disappearances, money laundering and corruption, pushing the country to the brink of destruction. The Speaker noted that it would take time to bring development from this situation, adding that although only seven months have passed since the new government took office, which is a short time, development work has already begun. Recalling Bangladesh's future development, he said if the ruling party and the opposition can reach consensus, Bangladesh will be freed from 17 years of long deprivation and the country will succeed in its journey of development. Referring to the July uprising, he said both the ruling party and the opposition are committed to implementing the July Charter, and the desired outcome will be visible once the work of constitutional reform is completed. The Speaker also said the people of the country have now regained freedom of speech. During the Awami League regime, it was not possible to speak the truth, he said, adding that many had to give up their lives in crossfire for speaking the truth, while many people were subjected to enforced disappearance.

Bhola Deputy Commissioner Dr Shamim Rahman, Superintendent of Police Shahidullah Kawsar, District BNP Convener and District Council Administrator Golam Nabi Alamgir, and District BNP Member Secretary Raisul Alam, among others, were present on the occasion. After a three-day visit to Bhola, the Speaker, left for Dhaka via Barisal yesterday. x

Six Members of Motorcycle

area of Korerhat Union. Two more stolen motorcycles were recovered from the garage.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Md. Jamshed Hossain alias Shuvo, 23; Md. Shariful Islam alias Jony, 26; Saiful Islam alias Chand Mia, 20; Asif Mahmud alias Abhi, 24; Ismail Hossain, 18; and Md. Mashrafi, 20. Joraganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md. Abdul Halim said the six active members of the motorcycle theft gang were arrested early Sunday based on confidential information following the instructions of Chattogram Superintendent of Police Md. Masud Alam.

He said three stolen motorcycles were recovered during the operation. He also noted that arrested suspect Mashrafi has three previous theft cases against him. Chattogram Superintendent of Police Md. Masud Alam said the arrests were made as part of the district police's ongoing campaign to recover stolen motorcycles. He said a team of Joraganj Police Station conducted the operation on Sunday and arrested six alleged members of the theft gang, recovering three motorcycles from them. Legal action is being taken against the arrested individuals, the SP said, adding that police operations will continue to arrest other members of the gang and recover more stolen vehicles.

Two-day Nazrul dance

He said love and separation among the people of Bengal are expressed through rhythm and dance. "Rhythm exists in every phase of life. Dance influences our lives and expands the world of imagination. Through this dance festival, we want to enjoy that," he said.

In his keynote speech, Ekushey Padak-winning dancer and dance researcher Amanul Haque said, "We portray Nazrul's themes of humanity and rebellion through dance. We want to embrace his thoughts and consciousness in our hearts and express them through dance."Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Culture Md Harun-or-Rashid addressed the event as a special guest.

Various dance groups and dancers from across the country are taking part in the festival.

3-day Asian Tourism Fair

offers for visitors.Key attractions include the "Destination Bangladesh Showcase," "International Tourism Showcase," and "Bangladesh Tourism Investment Showcase," alongside B2B sessions, seminars, destination presentations, panel discussions, product promotions and networking events.Cultural performances from Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines will be held every evening."ATF 2026 will play a significant role in fostering business linkages among tourism stakeholders at home and abroad, promoting tourism products, and creating new investment opportunities in Bangladesh's tourism sector," said Helal.Helal said the fair has given importance to region-based tourism, including haor tourism, Sundarbans-centric tourism, river tourism, adventure tourism, community tourism and eco-tourism, while also providing a platform for foreign organisations to promote their own tourism offerings.This year's fair has been planned keeping in mind the participation and demand of children, students, and tourism sector entrepreneurs and visitors, with efforts made to ensure the involvement of women entrepreneurs and community tourism stakeholders. Samimuzzaman said such international fairs are vital for the growth of Bangladesh's tourism industry, adding that the coordinated participation of public and private sectors through ATF helps highlight the country's tourism potential and investment opportunities both at home and abroad.He noted that the Asian Tourism Fair has emerged as an important platform for Bangladesh's tourism industry.

He further said the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has endorsed the fair, with BPC extending overall cooperation and participation.Representatives from Thailand, the Philippines, Maldives and Malaysia, along with various partner and sponsor organisations, were present at the press conference, where they highlighted their preparations and discount offers ahead of the upcoming winter tourist season.Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M. Rashiduzzaman Millat is scheduled to inaugurate the fair as chief guest while the Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs minister is expected to attend the closing ceremony the as chief guest on September 19. Entry fee for visitors is set at Tk 30, with entry coupons offering a chance to participate in a raffle draw. Winners will receive air tickets along with various attractive travel prizes and gift vouchers, both domestic and international.

Patwary for Dhaka South

announced candidates for around 100 upazila and municipal-ity posts, while more than 100 additional nominations are expected to be declared within days, Patwary added.

BPPA prioritises full e-GP

The Debarment Review Board addresses a long-standing demand from the business community, development partners and procurement professionals by providing tenderers with an independent mechanism to challenge debarment decisions taken by procuring entities."Previously, tenderers had no independent mechanism to challenge debarment decisions made by procuring entities," he said, adding that the new Debarment Board provides an institutional grievance-redress-mechanism and strengthens fairness through due process and accountability.

Regarding BPPA's future priorities, Kamruzzaman said the authority is planning to develop and implement e-GP Version 2.0 and modernise the existing e-GP Data Centre by replacing obsolete hardware.

Other strategic priorities include constructing BPPA's permanent headquarters on its own land, and implementing the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP).

The BPPA also plans to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) into public procurement processes to enhance efficiency, transparency and evidence-based decision-making.

Kamruzzaman said these initiatives would help transform Bangladesh's public procurement system into a more modern, citizen-centric and technology-driven system.

"The reforms are expected to improve transparency and accountability in public procurement while strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring better value for public expenditure," added the BPPA CEO.Kamruzzaman also said these initiatives will position Bangladesh's public procurement system among the most modern, citizen-centric and technology-driven procurement systems in the region.

Listing some of the major reforms in the PPR, 2025, he said the major reforms include: Abolition of the 10 percent price cap for national works procurement; Mandatory use of e-GP for all public procurement; Mandatory disclosure of beneficial ownership information of successful contractors; Formal introduction of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) by integrating environmental, social and economic considerations into procurement decisions; Mandatory preparation of procurement strategies; Recognition of physical services as a separate procurement category.

The major reforms also include expanded scope for framework agreements and negotiations; Inclusion of domestic firms as partners in information technology-related procurement; Introduction of reverse auction as a new online procurement method; Reservation of at least 25 percent of operational budgets for women-owned enterprises, small and new entrepreneurs; Establishment of dedicated Procurement Units in every ministry and division; and Introduction of advance procurement, early market engagement and strategic procurement planning."These reforms bring Bangladesh's procurement framework closer to international best practices," added the BPPA CEO.Indicating that the government is considering further amendments to procurement laws, he said the government has constituted a high-level committee headed by the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to review the Public Procurement Act and the Rules.

Democracy regains

sive student-led popular uprising, ending her nearly 16-year misrule, marking a turning point in Bangladesh's political history.

Bangladesh witnessed a steady erosion of democratic institutions, political freedoms and public trust during Sheikh Hasina's misrule. Elections lost their credibility, opposition politics came under intense pressure, the media faced growing restrictions, and state institutions were increasingly accused of serving political interests rather than the public. International human-rights organizations and democracy monitors documented a serious deterioration in political competition, civil liberties, freedom of expression, and accountability during the fascist regime of Sheikh Hasina. One of the most significant controversies was the abolition of the constitutional caretaker-government system in 2011, resulting in boycotting the 2014 parliamentary election by BNP alliance while 153 of the 300 directly elected parliamentary seats were uncontested. The 2018 election generated further allegations of irregularities and it was dubbed as midnight election while the January 2024 election was dubbed as dummy election as Awami League set dummy candidates as independent ones to legalize the polls. During the Hasina era, opposition parties-particularly the BNP-frequently faced arrests, criminal cases, restrictions on demonstrations, and political violence. According to the BNP, nearly 6 million cases were filed against approximately 150,000 of its leaders and activists. The party has also alleged that many of its members were subjected to what it described as politically motivated or fabricated cases. There are also claims that opposition figures faced severe legal consequences, including lengthy prison sentences and, in some cases, death sentences, through verdicts that are widely described as politically influenced or predetermined.Other than dissent political leaders, journalists, editors, activists, and ordinary citizens faced legal and political pressure for criticizing the government. The Digital Security Act (DSA) 2018 appeared to be a draconian law that used to silent the opposition people.

A study by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), covering the period from October 2018 to September 2023, found that at least 4,520 people were charged in 1,436 cases filed under the law as at least 451 journalists were sued under the DSA and at least 97 journalists were also arrested.The disappearance of photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol in March 2020, followed by his detention, became one of the most prominent cases associated with the Digital Security Act. During the COVID-19 pandemic, cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore and writer Mushtaq Ahmed were detained over Facebook posts and satirical cartoons concerning the government's handling of the pandemic; Mushtaq later died in custody after being denied bail on multiple occasions as Jagannath University student Khadijatul Kubra spent more than a year in detention in two Digital Security Act cases linked to online programmes she had hosted. The brutal double murder of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi on February 11, 2012, remains one of the most high-profile and sensational unsolved crimes in Bangladesh. The couple was stabbed to death inside their rented apartment in West Rajabazar, Dhaka, in front of their five-year-old son. Press freedom also came under sustained pressure during Sheikh Hasina's tenure. Several media outlets, including Amar Desh, Dainik Dinkal, Diganta TV, Islamic TV and Channel 1, were shut down at different times. The right to peacefully protest was also denied. Enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and abuse by security forces were common during Hasina period. A government-appointed Commission of Inquiry verified 1,569 complaints of enforced disappearance between 2009 and 2024; of those cases, 1,282 people were subsequently found or released, while 251 remained missing and 36 bodies were recovered. The secret detention facility known as "Aynagarh" became a powerful symbol of the fear surrounding enforced disappearances and political repression in Bangladesh during Hasina era. The culmination of that long crisis came in July and August 2024, when a student-led movement became much more than a protest over a government-job quota. It became an expression of accumulated public anger. Students came to the streets first, but the movement soon spread across society. As the government responded with force, the demand for reform became a demand for fundamental political change.

Human chain and protest march

government services. Hence, they demand that the new Union Parishad building be constructed at the former location of Chandara, not elsewhere.

The human chain, organised by the local residents and with the support of expatriate Liton Bapari, featured speeches from local madrasa superintendent Shahid Chowdhury, Hadiuzzaman Khan Raju, Rupai Matubbar, Mehedi Hasan Lalchan, Delwar Hossain, Ruma Akhtar, Nirmal Chandra Das, Suman Mollah, Sayem Matubbar, Monir Matubbar, and Anwar Matubbar, among other local dignitaries.

After the human chain, the residents held a protest march in Chandara Bazar and chanted various slogans in support of their demands.

Two Women Die

urine output appear. Patients and their families should not assume recovery simply because the fever has subsided; instead, testing and treatment must continue according to medical advice. Dr. Tauhidul Islam, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at RMC, said, "A dengue patient's condition can worsen quickly. Therefore, if fever or dengue symptoms appear, one should seek medical advice immediately without negligence. If the patient's condition deteriorates, they must be admitted to the hospital without delay.

Representatives from

potential, and creating opportunities for sustainable development and employment through resource mobilization with the coordinated initiatives of various stakeholders.It was expressed that effective partnerships among local institutions, civil society, the private sector, and development partners can create new possibilities for human resource development in Bagherhat.

The meeting also discussed potential areas of future cooperation between The Asia Foundation and Latif Master Foundation in skill development, youth employment, good governance, capacity building, and local-level development activities.

The delegation members appreciated the multifaceted development activities of Latif Master Foundation. In particular, they praised the foundation's initiatives to enhance the capacity of the local community through education, skill development, employment, social services, and humanitarian activities.

Dr. Md. Faridul Islam, former Secretary and Founder of Latif Master Foundation, coordinated the delegation's visit and discussion program. He briefed the delegation about Latif Master Foundation, SKILL-IT, and its various ongoing and future activities.

Those involved expressed optimism that the visit and discussion meeting will play _an important role in making local development in Bagherhat more dynamic through skill development, job creation, optimum use of local resources, and Public-Private Partnership.

Around 2 crore children gets

in Cumilla city, 5,57,688 in Dhaka north city, 4,18,972 in Dhaka south city, 2,06,927 in Gazipur city, 83,697 in Narayanganj city, 96,792 in Khulna city, 62,305 in Mymensingh city, 63,059 in Rajshah city, 82,253 in Rangpur city and 72,349 in Sylhet city.DGHS Additional Director General Professor Dr Zahid Raihan told BSS that vaccinating children is an ongoing process.

However, he said, the announcement to administer measles vaccines to children on a massive scale across the country starting September 26 is an intensified effort by the government.

The primary objective of this programme is to ensure that no child is left unvaccinated, he added.

Moyeen Khan stresses

remarks as the chief guest at a workshop titled “Workshop on Strategic Action Planning for Dengue Prevention”, organised by the Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services Project (IUPHPSP) of the Local Government Division at a hotel in the capital in the noon.The minister urged officials of his ministry to maintain constant communication with the Ministry of Health and said the two ministries are working together in a coordinated manner to combat dengue.“You have noticed that just two days ago, our honourable Prime Minister Tarique Rahman himself expressed concern about dengue and gave necessary directions to prevent its spread across the country,” he said.Referring to the principle that prevention is better than cure, Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said preventing dengue is much easier than treating the disease after it develops.He said the Prime Minister has already issued various directives for prevention and treatment of dengue.Addressing experts and officials working on the project, he urged them to dedicate themselves selflessly and continuously to the welfare of the people.The minister thanked the World Bank for providing assistance for the project, which is scheduled to continue until early 2028.However, he stressed that the benefits of the project must continue even after the project ends.Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan also urged Bangladeshi experts working on dengue to collect necessary information and knowledge from researchers in developed countries.“We are proud that our country's experts are working here. But I would also request you to collect necessary information and knowledge from researchers in the developed world who are conducting research on this issue,” he said.Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said dengue has gradually increased since the 1964-65 outbreak, when around 30,000 people were affected in Dhaka. He said the number of dengue infections recorded last year and this year has reached around 50,000.

Stronger coordination needed

of projects.“Coordination between the Planning Ministry and every ministry and division needs to be strengthened,” he said, adding that this would ensure the maximum and effective use of public resources and help reduce the time and cost of project implementation.If research and innovation could be linked to the practical needs of industries, he said, opportunities for developing new technologies, creating jobs and producing entrepreneurs would increase.The state minister also said the government wants to strengthen coordination between government organisations and non-governmental organisations in every area of development.He said GO-NGO partnerships would be used to ensure the best use of shared platforms and infrastructure and accelerate inclusive development. Saki said Bangladesh needed to harness the innovative potential of its young people to build a knowledge-based and technology-driven economy.He said innovation fairs could create opportunities for young innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, students and industry representatives to connect and exchange experience.Shahir Chowdhury, CEO of Shikho; Syed Almas Kabir, chairman of BIIN; Dr Nazneen Kawsar Chowdhury, executive chairman of the National Skills Development Authority; Akhter Uddin Mahmud, deputy managing director of Bank Asia; Durdana Chowdhury, director of Unilever Bangladesh; and Dr Sazzad Hossain, professor of the ECE Department at North South University.

Police Constable 'Closed'

Ramzan Ali and recorded a video of him. The video subsequently circulated on social media, sparking widespread criticism in the area. Once the allegations came to the attention of the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Dimla Police Station and the district police administration, the constable was initially withdrawn from the station and reassigned to the Police Lines.

Regarding the matter, Ashraful Islam, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Dimla Police Station.



Russians continue leaving country amid fears of new mobilization, shrinking freedoms



International Desk

Russians are continuing to leave the country or prepare to move abroad amid fears of a new military mobilization, tighter internet restrictions, economic problems and declining personal freedoms.

This summer, a 28-year-old digital content marketer packed his belongings and left Russia, leaving his family and friends behind and uncertain when he could return.

“It is very sad to leave Russia,” he said in the southern city of Krasnodar before heading toward the Georgian border. He cited Russia’s political situation and growing restrictions on internet access as reasons for leaving, saying he otherwise would not have stayed abroad for more than a few months.

He is among Russians who have recently left or are considering leaving as Ukraine continues drone attacks inside Russia and rumors persist of a new military mobilization after more than four years of war.

The attacks this summer triggered an unprecedented fuel shortage and badly affected Russia’s fast-growing e-commerce sector. Authorities have also used security concerns linked to the attacks to justify tighter internet restrictions.

The latest departures are far smaller than the mass exodus of 2022, when hundreds of thousands left after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. However, Kovcheg, a group that helps Russians moving abroad, said it received nearly eight times more inquiries last month than in May.

Anastasia Burakova, the group’s founder, said the rise did not mean large numbers were currently gathering at the borders. Instead, she said, more people were preparing to leave and exploring their options.

Fears of mobilization grow

Unlike 2022, there are currently no long lines at border crossings or major shortages of flights to visa-free destinations such as Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkey.

Still, AP found numerous social media posts from across Russia in which people said they had decided to leave because of the war, economic uncertainty and shrinking freedoms.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other officials have claimed Russia is preparing another mobilization after Sunday’s State Duma election. The Kremlin has repeatedly rejected those claims. Yan Slovitsky, an emergency assistance coordinator for Kovcheg, described a “panicked wave” of emigration since mid-July linked to fears of mobilization, fuel shortages and internet restrictions. A Moscow-based diplomat also told AP there had been a noticeable increase in public anxiety this summer, along with reports of more Russians than usual appearing in neighboring Georgia and Armenia. The diplomat suggested some may be worried about another mobilization after the Duma election.

Alen Simonyan, secretary of Armenia’s Security Council, told independent Russian television channel Dozhd last month that Armenia would not interfere with Russians moving there to avoid military service and would help them if necessary.

The Russian Foreign Ministry criticized his comments as “provocative.”

Russian lawmaker Viktor Sobolev, meanwhile, told RTVI that the country did not need people who left because of rumors, saying, “Let them leave.”

Some leave to avoid military service

The 28-year-old digital marketer, who describes himself as a

pacifist, said this was his second attempt to leave Russia. He first left in 2022 to avoid the mobilization of 300,000 troops announced by President Vladimir Putin, which shocked the country.

He said he is not technically eligible for military service during peacetime because of a hip condition, but decided it was safer to leave because he did not know what authorities might do.

Russian officials and rights groups gave conflicting views in 2022 over whether men in such circumstances could legally be mobilized. Some said they could be drafted, while others argued that martial law would have to be declared. Russia has not formally declared war on Ukraine, although the Kremlin imposed martial law in four Ukrainian regions it claimed to annex in 2022 but does not fully control.

The marketer returned to his hometown of Ulyanovsk in 2025 and worked remotely for foreign clients. But he said Russia’s restrictions on thousands of websites, platforms and online services made his work increasingly difficult. He often had to change VPN servers to bypass the restrictions.

The possibility of another mobilization added to his concerns. “You never know what will happen tomorrow,” he said from an apartment in Tbilisi, Georgia, where he has settled.

A 23-year-old woman from Moscow who left Russia last month also cited mobilization fears and concerns that her husband could be sent to the military.

She said her father narrowly avoided being drafted in 2022 by leaving the country. This year, her husband learned that he would no longer receive a military deferment after completing his master’s degree. “A person can figure anything out, but we were really afraid that (my husband) could end up in the army, because at this point it is a one-way ticket,” she said.

Ivan Nazarov, a recent university graduate who moved to Yerevan, Armenia, expressed similar concerns.

He said he had seen reports that Russian conscripts serving mandatory military duty, who are not supposed to be sent to Ukraine, were being pressured to sign contracts that could send them to the battlefield. “For me, it is a question of survival,” Nazarov said at a Kovcheg gathering in Yerevan for new immigrants.

Shrinking freedoms also drive departures

Some Russians are leaving because of growing restrictions on political and personal freedoms. Queer activist Daniil Neonov left Russia this summer after several detentions and a 10-day jail sentence for allegedly displaying extremist symbols. The case involved a photograph he posted online showing him wearing a T-shirt with a rainbow-colored design.

Russian authorities have designated what they call the “international LGBT movement” as extremist. People can face misdemeanor charges for possessing or displaying items featuring rainbow colors. Neonov told AP in Yerevan that he feared authorities could bring a criminal case against him.

He said he also knows several people who left Russia after being detained while gathering outside the Supreme Court to support the opposition Yabloko party. The court had removed Yabloko from the parliamentary election ballot. It was the only party on the ballot that openly opposed the war.

“The police came to them and filed reports. I know several people who, after they were held in detention, also left. I mean, I’m not the only one,” Neonov said.

A 35-year-old Russian man told AP he was preparing to leave because he did not want to live in a country without free speech, amid a weakening economy and growing school propaganda that promotes war, normalizes violence and encourages isolation from the rest of the world.

The man, who spoke anonymously for security reasons, said he had considered leaving Russia for more than a decade but had continued to hope that “everything would work out.”

Now, he said, Russians “live in a huge digital jail,” where “you can’t say anything, you can’t do anything. You have absolutely no rights.”



Houthis claim Saudi warplanes carried out 58 strikes across Yemen

International Desk

Yemen’s Houthi group said Sunday that Saudi warplanes carried out 58 airstrikes in six provinces over the past 24 hours as clashes between the Houthis and Yemeni government forces intensified on several fronts.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a post on X that the reported strikes targeted areas across Yemen, including Taiz in the southwest, Lahj in the south, Al-Jawf and Saada in the north, Hajjah in the northwest and Al-Bayda in the central region.

Sarea claimed that F-15 fighter jets conducted the attacks after departing from the King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait, a southwestern Saudi city close to the Yemeni border. He described the strikes as Saudi “aggression.”

Saudi Arabia has not yet responded to the allegations, while the reported casualties remain unknown.

The reported airstrikes came as the Houthis

continued a broad offensive that began Sept. 3 and has significantly altered front lines along Yemen’s Red Sea coast.

The group has taken several areas previously controlled by government forces in Hodeidah and neighboring Taiz provinces.

The Houthis captured the strategically important port of Mocha on Thursday before advancing toward the Bab al-Mandab area on Friday and taking Mayun Island, which lies at the center of the strategic strait.

The developments have strengthened the Houthis’ control over the crucial maritime passage connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden. Houthi forces then moved farther south toward Lahj province, bringing the fighting closer to Aden, where Yemen’s internationally recognized government is based.

Yemen’s conflict began in late 2014 when the Houthis seized Sanaa and large parts of the country’s north. Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened the following year in support of the internationally recognized government.

Amazon suspends 21 Air partnership after deadly Miami runway crash

International Desk

Amazon said Sunday it has suspended its partnership with 21 Air after a cargo plane operated by the carrier and carrying Amazon packages crashed beyond a Miami runway last week, killing five people.

The Boeing 767 landed at high speed on Sept. 6 and continued about 1,300 feet (396 metres) beyond the runway before striking a van carrying workers from an aircraft-cleaning company. All five people killed were inside the van, while five others were injured.

“After the tragic incident last weekend, we’ve spent time supporting the investigation and reviewing some of the surrounding circumstances, and we’ve decided to pause our operations with 21 Air, the operator of Flight 7598,” Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said in a statement.

“We’ll continue working to support the investigation and everyone affected,” she added.

North Carolina-based 21 Air has transported packages for Amazon since 2024. The company did not immediately respond Sunday to a request for comment on Amazon’s decision.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board are expected to examine the aircraft’s ownership history, weather conditions at the airport, maintenance records and 21 Air’s operations.

NTSB flight data released Sept. 9 showed that one pilot warned the other that they were approaching too fast for landing and remained concerned about speed after touchdown. Cockpit audio also captured several automated warnings about the aircraft’s descent rate and nearby terrain. The full transcript of the cockpit conversation will be released later in the investigation.

The 32-year-old Boeing 767 was originally built as a passenger aircraft and operated for several foreign airlines for more than two decades before being converted into a cargo plane in 2015, according to flight-tracking website Flightradar24.



Indonesia searches for 129 missing after ferry capsizes in Java Sea

International Desk

Indonesian authorities stepped up a search Monday for 129 people still missing after a ferry overturned in rough weather in the Java Sea, killing at least six people.

The Virgo Transport 8 was carrying more than 240 people when its captain sent a distress call, reporting that the ferry was tilting in rough seas with waves reaching up to 3 meters (10 feet). The vessel was traveling from Surabaya in East Java province to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan province on Borneo Island.

Authorities lost contact with the ferry around 2 a.m. Sunday. About two hours later, they were informed that the vessel had overturned in the Masalembu waters of the Java Sea, about 148 kilometers (92 miles) from Banjarmasin.

Footage released by Indonesia’s National Search and Rescue Agency showed the overturned ferry floating in rough waters as a helicopter searched the area.

Mohammad Syafii, head of the National Search and Rescue Agency, said 17 ships and aircraft, carrying about 655 personnel from the military, police and other agencies, were involved in the search Monday.

Specialized underwater teams and navy-operated underwater thermal drones were also being deployed to help locate and rescue victims.

“We remain hopeful of finding more survivors,” Syafii said during a video briefing.

Search teams, assisted by tugboats and other vessels in the area, rescued 108 people and recovered six bodies on Sunday.

According to the passenger manifest, the ferry was carrying 243 people, including 213 passengers and 30 crew members. However, passenger numbers in Indonesia often differ from

official manifests. The 119-meter (390-foot) ferry, built in Japan in 1987, was also carrying 89 vehicles.

Authorities have not yet determined what caused the ferry to overturn.

Survivors describe moments of panic

Survivor Ahmad Saudi said the ferry appeared overcrowded, with many passengers sleeping in hallways and common areas because all cabins were occupied.

Saudi, a bus driver who was traveling with a vehicle he was transporting, said the ferry suddenly began to tilt as rough seas hit it, causing panic among passengers.

Passengers first tried to hold on before moving toward the higher side of the vessel as it tilted further. Saudi suggested that trucks loaded on one side may have affected the ferry’s balance.

“The women staying in the economy-class cabins likely didn’t survive because the ferry listed so quickly,” Saudi said. “There were no alarms or announcements warning passengers about what was happening, many people in the cabins may not have had enough time to get out.”

Another survivor, Faisal, who uses one name, said he and 14 other passengers held onto a part of the overturned ferry that remained above the water.

“After the ship listed, people panicked and rushed to the upper deck, but eventually the ferry rolled over completely,” he said. “Fourteen of us were left stranded there.”

The group repeatedly recited the Islamic call to prayer, or adhan, while waiting for rescue and struggling with exhaustion and rough seas. Faisal said a wave eventually pushed him toward a lifeboat, helping him survive.

Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, where ferries are widely used for transportation. Ferry accidents are rela-



European leaders meet as Arctic thaw raises shipping, security concerns

International Desk

European leaders were meeting Monday to discuss rising competition in the Arctic, where melting ice is opening new shipping routes, countries are competing for natural resources and Russia’s growing military presence is raising security concerns.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen were among the leaders attending the European Arctic Summit in Rovaniemi, a Finnish city known for its Santa Claus Village.

The two-day summit began Sunday, shortly after Norway seized a Russian vessel earlier this month in the remote Arctic Svalbard archipelago at Ukraine’s request. Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the move.

Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo said the Arctic was “very important” for Europe’s security and prosperity, stressing the need for a “clear picture” and “common understanding” among European countries.

“We have natural resources. We have new sea routes because of climate change. But also we have threats. That’s why we need concrete actions,” Orpo told reporters. “There is so much we can do together.”

The Centres for European Policy Network, a think tank, described the summit as taking place against an “extremely dynamic backdrop.”

It pointed to accelerating climate change, China’s expanding trade through the Arctic and tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, which have increased the importance of the Northeast Passage for global shipping.

The summit is also being seen as a “dress rehearsal” for a major update to the European Union’s Arctic policy, expected this autumn. Security is expected to play a central role in the new strategy for the first time.

Climate change has reduced Arctic sea ice, raising hopes that a Northwest Passage could become more accessible for international trade. It has also intensified competition with Russia, China and other countries over the region’s mineral resources.

The EU is also dealing with U.S. President Donald Trump’s repeated calls for Greenland, a self-governing territory of EU member Denmark, to become part of the United States. Greenland’s government has opposed the idea.

Last week, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced 200 million euros (\$232 million) in EU support over the next two years for Greenland. The funding will help address climate change and improve internet connectivity, hydropower facilities, fisheries and education.

Separately Monday, Finnish President Alexander Stubb announced that Finland would join France’s “forward deterrence” program, which seeks to use France’s nuclear capabilities as part of European defense efforts.



North Korea says live-fire drill showed ‘huge destructive power’

International Desk

North Korea said Monday that it had conducted a joint live-fire exercise involving missiles, artillery and drones, claiming the drill demonstrated the weapons’ “huge destructive power.”

The exercise involved the simultaneous firing of various weapons systems, apparently aimed at enhancing North Korea’s ability to overwhelm the air defenses of South Korea and the United States.

Experts said North Korea appears to be continuing its weapons testing despite US President Donald Trump’s recent decision to scale back a major military exercise with South Korea in an apparent bid to revive diplomacy with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The North’s official Korean Central News Agency said the drill, held Saturday, was designed to train an integrated weapons control system.

South Korea’s military earlier said it detected several short-range ballistic missile launches from the Wonsan area on North Korea’s eastern coast on Saturday morning.

North Korean Marshal Pak Jong Chon, who observed the exercise, said the drill would “improve the level of specialization to bring down the enemy’s armed forces organizationally and structurally once an order is issued.”

The weapons systems deployed during the exercise demonstrated “the huge destructive power of concentrated fire,” Pak said, according to KCNA.

North Korea’s claims about its weapons tests cannot be independently verified.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said several missiles launched Saturday traveled about 250 kilometers (155 miles) toward waters off North Korea’s east coast. The range indicates that the weapons are capable of striking targets in South Korea, including US military installations.

The exercise marked North Korea’s first publicly reported ballistic missile launches in about three weeks. It came a day after the United States, South Korea and Japan concluded a trilateral military exercise that Pyongyang considers a provocation.

In August, Trump instructed the Pentagon to “substantially reduce” a major joint military exercise with South Korea, citing what he described as a good relationship with Kim.

North Korea rejected the gesture, saying the reduction in the exercise’s duration did not alter what it called its “provocative, aggressive nature.” The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise ultimately ended six days earlier than initially planned.



James, Rupam enthrall Sydney audience with electrifying performances

Entertainment Desk

The Hillsong Convention Centre in Sydney, Australia, turned into a vibrant gathering of rock music lovers from the two Bengals on Saturday evening as Bangladesh's rock icon James and Kolkata-based Fossils frontman Rupam Islam shared the stage before an audience of more than 2,000.

The concert, which began around 6:30 pm amid a long queue of spectators outside the venue, kept expatriate Bangladeshis and other Bengali music lovers engaged from evening until late at night.

Rupam Islam took the stage shortly before 7 pm and performed around 15 songs, including 'Ekla Ghor', 'Phirey Cholo', 'Hashnuhana' and 'Acid'. His energetic

earlier, fell largely silent and listened intently to the emotional song, with visible emotion on many faces. James continued performing one popular song after another until around 10:30 pm, captivating the audience with his music and stage presence. His performance ended amid sustained applause and the collective singing of the spectators.

The concert also featured a festive atmosphere beyond the performances, with food stalls serving Bangladeshi cuisine drawing crowds outside the venue. The auditorium's sound system and lighting further enhanced the performances.

James, Rupam enthrall Sydney audience with electrifying performances

At one point during the concert, representatives of

Bengali Cine Club invited partners and sponsors onto the stage to express their gratitude for their support. James also welcomed them from the stage.

The audience response reflected the impact of the evening.

"Sydney has not seen such a well-organised event for a long time. Rupam's performance and Guru James's songs made the night truly memorable for expatriate Bengalis," said Sydney resident Al Amin.



performance of more than an hour had the audience singing along, clapping and cheering throughout. After a brief interval, James appeared on stage around 9 pm, drawing loud cheers and applause from the packed auditorium. True to his style, the Nagarbaul frontman wasted little time on words and went straight into his songs.

James, Rupam enthrall Sydney audience with electrifying performances

He performed a string of popular numbers, including 'Taray Taray', 'Meerabai', 'Dushtu Chheler Dol', 'Shundoritoma' and the Hindi song 'Bheegi Bheegi'. More than 2,000 voices joined James in singing, creating a rare moment of collective participation between the performer and the audience.

The festive atmosphere inside the venue suddenly turned emotional when James began singing 'Maa', written and composed by Prince Mahmud. The audience, who had been singing and cheering moments

Nashita Marhuba said she particularly enjoyed the collective participation of the audience. "When James was singing 'Taray Taray' and 'Bheegi Bheegi', it felt as if the entire hall had become one. It is truly rare to experience something like this while living abroad," she said.

The enthusiasm surrounding the concert was also fuelled by the audience's long wait to see the two rock stars share a stage again. James and Rupam had previously performed together at a concert in India in 2024.

Interest in Saturday's concert grew further after videos of the two musicians meeting in Sydney circulated on social media.

Their performances in Sydney finally brought to a close the long wait of expatriate music lovers, as two major rock voices from the two Bengals came together on one stage for a night of music, nostalgia and collective celebration.

Lady Gaga welcomes 1st child with fiancé Michael Polansky

Entertainment Desk

Pop star Lady Gaga has welcomed her first child with fiancé Michael Polansky.

The 40-year-old Grammy winner and Polansky are now parents to their first baby together.

Motherhood has long been something Gaga has spoken openly about. In a 2019 YouTube video, she discussed her plans for the following decade and said she hoped to



have children alongside pursuing more acting roles. "I want to do more movies, I want to have babies," she said at the time.

She reiterated her desire to start a family in a 2020 interview with InStyle, saying she was excited about having children and looked forward to becoming a mother. Gaga also joked about the maternal nickname "Mother Monster", which her fans have used for years.

Television's children's talent competition 'Notun Kuri'. She made her debut in film songs in 1981 with the title track of 'Jonmo Theke Jolchhi'. She has continued to perform and release music over the years.

As Samina spends part of the year in the United States, she plans to operate the academy in both Bangladesh and the US.

Classes will be offered both online and in person. "The activities of Samina's Academy of Music will mainly be conducted online. However, there will also be arrangements for those who want to learn in person. That will be available in both Bangladesh and the United States," she said.

The singer is currently in Bangladesh and will travel to the United States on

September 22.

She plans to return after two months, after which she will complete the remaining preparations and officially announce the academy.

"Many people have been telling me for a long time to teach music. Swapon (Samina Chowdhury's husband) also repeatedly suggested that I establish an academy. So, I decided to start teaching music," she said.

The logo for SAM has already been designed, and Samina hopes to begin its activities later this year.

Samina Chowdhury set to launch music academy



Entertainment Desk

After five decades in music, Samina Chowdhury is now preparing to take on a new role as a music mentor.

The singer, who completed 50 years in her music career this year, is set to establish a music academy named Samina's Academy of Music (SAM).

The initiative aims to provide proper guidance to aspiring musicians of the new generation.

Samina began her musical journey in 1976 when she won first place in the patriotic song category of Bangladesh

'The Pitt' seeks another win as 'Widow's Bay' enters Emmy race with strong buzz

Entertainment Desk

The 78th Emmy Awards are set to take place Monday night, with HBO Max's "The Pitt" hoping to strengthen its place among television's top shows and Apple TV's "Widow's Bay" arriving with strong momentum.

The ceremony will be held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. Mariska Hargitay, the longtime star of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and a three-time Emmy winner, will host the event on NBC. The network has prepared a peacock-blue carpet to mark its 100th anniversary.

The ceremony will also mark the 30th anniversary of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and the 50th anniversary of "Charlie's Angels," with members of both casts expected to appear as presenters.

How to watch the Emmys The Emmy Awards rotate among the major US broadcast networks. This year, the ceremony will air live on NBC and stream on Peacock at 8 p.m. Eastern time, or 5 p.m. Pacific.

"Live from El: Countdown to the Emmys" will cover stars arriving at the ceremony from 5 p.m. Eastern, or 2 p.m. Pacific, on YouTube and Peacock. The Associated Press will also provide a delayed feed of celebrity arrivals on YouTube.

"The Pitt," "Widow's Bay" and "Hacks" lead the race "The Pitt," a real-time drama set in a hospital emergency room, was a newcomer at last year's Emmys but quickly became one of television's top shows. It won best drama, best actor for Noah Wyle and best supporting actress for Katherine LaNasa.

The show is expected to defend all three awards this year and could win three more. Wyle is competing for three awards, while the cast received four nominations for supporting actress and three for supporting actor.

"Hacks," which received the most nominations among comedy series for its fifth and final season on HBO Max, is also a strong contender. Its star, Jean Smart, is wide-

ly expected to win best actress in a comedy for the fifth consecutive time.

However, Apple TV's horror comedy "Widow's Bay" could disrupt the expected "Hacks" farewell. The series has already won eight awards at earlier ceremonies covering most of the more than 100 Emmy categories.

It could win as many as six more awards Monday. A strong showing could give it 14 Emmys for the season, surpassing the record of 13 set by "The Studio" last year. "Widow's Bay" star Matthew Rhys is considered a lead-



ing contender for best actor in a comedy, while breakout star Kate O'Flynn is among the favorites for best supporting actress.

Seehorn, Ford and Zendaya also in contention Rhea Seehorn could earn her first Emmy for best actress in a drama for her role as the central character in Apple TV's "Pluribus."

Her competitors include Zendaya, who won the award for the first two seasons of "Euphoria" in 2020 and 2022. She is nominated again for the show's third and final season.

The ceremony could also bring Harrison Ford his first Emmy and his first major competitive Hollywood award. The 84-year-old actor is among the favorites for best supporting actor in a comedy for his role in "Shrinking," where he plays a therapist dealing with Parkinson's disease.

Nusraat Faria exits Raihan Khan's 'Tribunal'

Entertainment Desk

Actress Nusraat Faria has decided to step away from the upcoming courtroom drama "Tribunal", directed by Raihan Khan. The film is inspired by a real case under Bangladesh's Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. Faria had joined the project last year and was set to play a

barrister. However, she has now confirmed that she will no longer be part of the film. "Raihan Khan is someone very close to me. We have spoken about it. I



project," she added.

Faria also said that filming for her scenes had not yet begun. Most of the film had already been shot, but her

scenes were still pending as they primarily involved courtroom sequences. "I have heard that they have shot a large portion of the film, but my parts were still left. Since my scenes are courtroom-based, I had not started shooting them. Now it is no longer possible for me to continue with the film," she said. Earlier, Raihan Khan had said that around 65 per cent of "Tribunal" had been completed. The filmmaker had initially planned to finish the remaining shooting and post-production and release the film during Eid-ul-Fitr. However, production was delayed, with reports citing actress Tania Brishty's.

83rd Venice Int'l Film Festival: 'Woman Unknown' wins Golden Lion, John Malkovich takes Best Actor



Entertainment Desk

May el-Toukhy's 'Woman Unknown' has won the Golden Lion for best film at the 83rd Venice International Film Festival, with the Danish drama also earning Mathilde Arcel the Volpi Cup for best actress.

The film, which follows a young housemaid whose intimate relationship with a German soldier during World War II threatens her future, was the only competition title solely directed by a woman.

Earlier in the ceremony, 'Woman Unknown' star Mathilde Arcel received the Volpi Cup for best actress. The film marks her first leading role and her first appearance at a film festival.

John Malkovich received the Volpi Cup for best actor for his portrayal of an eccentric CIA agent in Martin McDonagh's 'Wild Horse Nine'.

'NAZA,' a harrowing documentary about military strategies employed in the war in Gaza from Israeli filmmakers Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, was awarded a special jury prize.

Full list of Venice award winners below:

Competition

Golden Lion for Best Film: 'Woman Unknown' – May El-Toukhy

Grand Jury Prize: 'Possible Love' – Lee Chang-dong

Silver Lion for Best Director: Ilya Khrzhanovsky – 'DAU'

Special Jury Prize: 'NAZA' – Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor

Best Screenplay: 'A Good Little Soldier' – Stéphane Brizé, Coralie Amédéo and Olivier Gorcé

Volpi Cup for Best Actress: Mathilde Arcel – 'Woman

Unknown'

Volpi Cup for Best Actor: John Malkovich – 'Wild Horse Nine'

Marcello Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor: Malou Khebezi – 'A Place to Heal'

Luigi De Laurentiis Award for Debut Film: 'House of the Wind' – Auguste Bernard Kouemo Yanghu

Venice Spotlight

Armani Beauty Audience Award: 'I Matter' – Alina erban

Horizons

Best Film: 'Diane in the Loop' – Ann Sirot and Raphaël Balboni

Best Director: Jacqueline Lentzou – 'A Day in the Life of Jo: Chapter Phaedra'

Special Jury Prize: 'House of the Wind' – Auguste Bernard Kouemo Yanghu

Best Actress: Laleh Marzban – 'Falling House'

Best Actor: Riccardo Scamarcio – 'The Children of the Monkey'

Best Screenplay: 'The Children of the Monkey' – Tommaso Landucci and Damiano Femfert

Best Short Film: 'A Few Moments of Happiness' – Shaden Safieddine Tazi

Venice Classics

Best Restored Film: 'Long Night of 1943' – Florestano Vancini

Venice Immersive

Grand Prize: 'The Pigeon Ring' – Shixin Tao and Yuqi Zhang

Special Jury Prize: 'Out of the Ashes' – Rory Mitchell and Nonny de la Peña

Achievement Prize: 'Empire at Sea' – Peter Flaherty.



US fight off spirited France to win 12th World Cup



Sports Desk
The United States won the women's basketball World Cup for a record-extending 12th time, defeating a spirited France 97-79 thanks to an excellent second-half in the final in Berlin on Sunday.
The US are perennial red-hot favourites at this tournament and had not lost a World Cup match since 2006, but they were below their best for much of the competition.
They trailed by two points at half-time to an energetic France side but turned it on when it mattered, outscoring the Europeans 30-12 in the third quarter.
American veteran Breanna Stewart once again led from the front, scoring a game-high 22 points along with 10 rebounds and four assists as she became the first player to be named World Cup MVP a second time.
"I'm really happy the way we let the rest of the world know our goal is always gold," she told reporters, while describing the country's World Cup record as "an insane stat".
Coach Kara Lawson called Stewart "the greatest winner that we've had probably".
Jackie Young hit four crucial threes and finished with 18 points to extend the US record to 36 wins in a row at the tournament.
Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark scored just one point in the semi-final but chipped in with some crucial buckets down the stretch, scoring 12 points including two threes as the Americans silenced the pro-France crowd.
"We kind of got in a little bit of a hole there," Clark told

reporters of the second-quarter.
"And then we came back in and kind of dug ourselves out of it."
"That run we went on into halftime and then came out in the second half and really just dominated from there."
Playing in their first ever World Cup final, France were seeking revenge for their one-point loss in the gold medal match at the 2024 Paris Olympics but lost their composure as the Americans turned on the afterburners in the second half, committing 16 turnovers.
France's Gabby Williams, the player of the match in their semi-final win over Germany, scored an impressive 16 points in the opening half but added just four more after that.
- Americans vulnerable -
The US, huge favourites who are used to dominating World Cups and the Olympics, came into Sunday's game looking vulnerable, having come close to defeats against unheralded Italy and again against Spain in the semi-finals.
No team had come within 20 points of France as they cruised into a maiden World Cup final and started strongly, ending the opening quarter with a three-point lead and running out to a 14-point gap midway through the second.
Forced to up the ante, the US fought back with Young hitting two quick-fire threes and Clark grabbing one of her own seconds before half-time, cutting France's lead to two points.
The US were far more composed after that, with Clark finding her range from the field.
The favourites took the steam out of the match in the fourth as they kept the French at bay.
Earlier on Sunday, Spain soothed the disappointment of their narrow semi-final loss to the US by claiming bronze with an 81-58 win over Germany.
The Spanish went close to a major boilover on Saturday, pushing the heavily favoured Americans all the way in their semi-final, levelling the scores at 58-58 three-quarters of the way through the match, before the US pulled away.
On Sunday, Spain were in control throughout against the spirited but limited hosts, who had never reached the final four of the tournament as a unified country.
Top-scorer Iyana Martin was one assist away from a double-double, with 20 points while grabbing a game-best nine dimes.

Torres fires PSG to first win of Ligue 1 season



Sports Desk
Ferran Torres was on target as champions Paris Saint-Germain finally got their Ligue 1 campaign up and running with a 1-0 win at Brest on Sunday.
Prior to their trip to Brittany, Luis Enrique's double Champions League-winning side had managed just two points from their opening three matches in an uncharacteristically sluggish start to the league season.
They began their quest to win a third consecutive Champions League title by thrashing Slovan Bratislava 6-1 on Wednesday and four days later they are now off the mark domestically thanks to new signing Torres.
The close-season arrival from Barcelona, who scored the winning goal for Spain in the World Cup final this summer, netted a hat-trick midweek and followed it up with a sumptuous early strike at Brest's Stade Francis-Le Ble.
Torres now has six goals in five outings in all competitions for PSG.
"What matters to me is always helping the team, regardless of how much playing time the coach decides to give me, and doing my part. Whether that's through goals, assists, or my work on the pitch," the 26-year-old said.
The result sent the Parisians up to eighth in the league table, with an identical record to their hosts, who had been unbeaten heading into the encounter.
Ahead of kick-off, Brest paid tribute to their former coach Eric Roy, who died in June aged 58 after suffering from pancreatic cancer.
PSG got the crucial breakthrough in the fifth minute when Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele flicked a backheel into the path of the onrushing Torres.
The Spaniard strode onto the ball just outside the 'D' and caressed it into the bottom corner beyond the dive of goalkeeper Egil Selvik.
Khvicha Kvaratskhelia then went close to doubling PSG's lead in an entertaining first half.

beat.
The hosts then turned into their own net two minutes later but the goal was disallowed for a push by Warren Zaire-Emery, which forced the error.
Safonov was the hero for PSG late on as he got down quickly to fingertip a Pathe Mboup effort past his far post as Luis Enrique's side held on for the victory.
- Mbappe redemption -
Earlier, Ethan Mbappe redeemed himself after his Champions League red card in midweek by scoring a late goal in a 2-0 win over Troyes which sent Lille top of Ligue 1.
Mbappe, the younger brother of France and Real Madrid star Kylian, was sent off in Wednesday's 3-2 home loss to Real Betis in Europe for elbowing an opponent.
The 19-year-old put that incident behind him, though, as he came off the bench against Troyes to seal victory in stoppage time, after the hosts had taken a first-half lead through Portuguese full-back Tiago Santos.
Mbappe celebrated his first goal since December in subdued fashion by apologising to supporters for his red card, but the strike lifted Lille above Monaco and Rennes on goal difference at the top of the table.
"He came to his senses after his red card and showed maturity beyond his years; he took responsibility for his actions," Lille boss Davide Ancelotti said.
"This week has been very important for him personally, helping him to grow as a player and as a person. As for his qualities, he certainly has them -- he showed that again yesterday."
Lille have taken 10 points from a possible 12 under new coach Davide Ancelotti, the son of Brazil boss Carlo Ancelotti.
Last season's surprise title challengers, Lens, have found the going tougher this season in Ligue 1.
A 3-2 Champions League win on Thursday at Slavia Prague and victory over PSG in the French Champions' Trophy last month stand in juxtaposition to a difficult early domestic campaign.

BCB launches nationwide hunt to unearth new fast-bowling talents

Sports Desk
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will launch a nationwide fast-bowling talent search program tomorrow to unleash country's next generation of pacers.
The BCB and Robi Axiata PLC will jointly host the talent hunt titled 'Robi Bowler Hunt'.
The program will be officially inaugurated at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur on Tuesday, said the BCB yesterday.
BCB President Tamim Iqbal and Robi Axiata PLC Chief Executive Officer Ziad Shatara are expected to attend the launching ceremony, along with officials from both organizations.
The latest initiative follows the success of the 2007 nationwide pacer scouting program jointly arranged by the BCB and Grameenphone. One of the biggest discoveries from that campaign was Rubel Hossain of Bagerhat, who emerged from tape-tennis ball cricket and went on to represent Bangladesh on the global stage.
Once considered as the weakest link of the team, Bangladesh's pace bowling department has made significant progress in recent years.
The latest example was their exploit in Australian condition as they helped the side to achieve a landmark Test victory in Darwin.
Pacer Hasan Mahmud was adjudged man of the match for his match haul of nine wicket including a ground-breaking 6-55 in the first innings. Bangladesh lost the second Test in Mackay to squander a golden of winning the series but Shoriful Islam tore through Australian batters with a historical seven-wicket haul.
The national team's current pace options, including Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Nahid Rana, Tanzim Hasan Sakib and others have been demonstrating their ability in the international stages quite regularly.

India cricketers refuse Asia Cup trophy from top Pakistan official

Sports Desk
India's women refused to collect the Asia Cup trophy from Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi after the team won a record-extending eighth continental title.
India hammered Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the T20 final in Dubai on Sunday but Harmanpreet Kaur's side skipped the trophy presentation, repeating the stance of the men's team last year.
On both occasions the trophy was supposed to have been handed over by Naqvi in his role as head of the Asian Cricket Council.
Naqvi is also Pakistan's interior minister and head of the country's cricket board.
There are long-running tensions between nuclear-armed neighbours India and Pakistan.
A year after beating Pakistan in the final, the men's side have still not collected their trophy.
"That stand has been taken by BCCI (Indian cricket board), and we stand by it," Indian women's coach Amol Muzumdar told reporters.
"We are the champions, that's good enough."
Sunday's presentation was delayed by nearly 50 minutes, after which Naqvi distributed medals to the runners-up before the ceremony ended abruptly.
BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and vice-president Rajeev Shukla were at the ground as India presented medals to their players themselves.



Haaland revels in Man City's contentious win over Man Utd

Sports Desk
Erling Haaland said it was a "great feeling" to seal Manchester City's controversial 1-0 win at Manchester United on Sunday after the Norway striker's goal survived a contentious VAR review.
With City down to 10 men after Phil Foden's dismissal for kicking Bruno Fernandes, Haaland netted on the hour mark with a close-range finish from Josko Gvardiol's cross.
The goal was initially disallowed for offside but VAR eventually overturned that decision, even though City midfielder Enzo Fernandez was in an offside position and attempted to reach the ball before Haaland.
Fernandez did not touch the ball so the goal was given, allowing Haaland to celebrate his ninth league strike in Manchester derbies.
"I thought maybe someone flicked it. When I found out no one flicked it, I took it personally that they thought I was offside because I'm never usually offside," Haaland said.
"It's always nice to win football games, but especially with 10 men for 60 minutes at Old Trafford, it's such a nice feeling, especially with the fans at the end."
"To look at all the faces of the supporters at the end is just a great feeling."
City were indebted to Gianluigi Donnarumma for a superb save in the final seconds when he

clawed away Bryan Mbeumo's blast from 12 yards.
"What a save from Gianluigi at the end as well. He's like a wolf in the goal, he looks like a wolf anyway," Haaland said.
"He's a madman and to have a guy like that in the goal behind you just makes you feel so much more safe."
Victory extended Enzo Maresca's perfect start to the daunting task of succeeding Pep Guardiola as City manager.
The Italian ran down the touchline to celebrate in front of the travelling City fans at full-time.
"I think to win a game with 10 players is already special but it's even more special when it's a derby, Manchester derby, for the fans, for the club, for the players and also for the coaching staff," said Maresca.
"This kind of game, they give boost in all the aspects. Again, winning games with 10 players is already nice and then when it's a derby for the players it's even better."
Maresca has been backed by a record æ460 million splurge on new signings.
The midfield pairing of Enzo Fernandez and Elliot Anderson shone, while Iliman Ndiaye made a massive impact as a second-half substitute."That's why they are here, that's why the club made an important effort," added Maresca.

Senegal goalkeeper Mendy retires from international football

Sports Desk
Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, 34, announced his international retirement on his social media accounts on Sunday, after eight years and 59 caps with the Lions of Teranga.
"Jerejef (Thank you) Senegal," Mendy posted in Wolof, the principle language of the country, above a video montage retracing his greatest moments in the Senegal shirt.
Born in France, Mendy, who has played top level club football for Marseille, Reims, Rennes and Chelsea and is currently in Saudi Arabia with Al-Ahli, was handed his international debut by Aliou Cisse in 2018.
He was in the Senegal side that won the Africa Nations Cup on penalties against Egypt in 2021 and also played at last year's event which Senegal won 1-0 on the pitch before it was later awarded to hosts Morocco instead by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).
The Court of Arbitration for Sport will hear Senegal's appeal on October 8.
Together with captain Kalidou Koulibaly, Idrissa Gana Gueye and superstar Sadio Mane, Mendy embodied Senegal's golden generation. He played at the 2022 World Cup and was still a key part of the side at the 2026 edition in the United States, where they were knocked out in the round of 16 by Belgium (3-2). The Senegalese national team, now coached by Patrick Vieira, also paid tribute to him on their social media accounts.
"There are careers that are measured in caps, trophies and statistics," they posted. "And then there are those that are measured by the place they hold in the memory of a people.
Edouard Mendy, your story with the Lions now belongs to that category."



This year I deserve Ballon d'Or: Barca's Yamal

Sports Desk
Lamine Yamal believes he and Kylian Mbappe are the two best players in the world and said he deserves to win the 2026 Ballon d'Or after a trophy-laden year with Barcelona and Spain.
"For me, Mbappe and me, we're the two best players in the world," the 19-year-old Barcelona winger said in an interview on Movistar Plus, excerpts of which were published on Sunday. "I honestly think that, as the best in the world, maybe there are two of us, and this year I would deserve it because of what I've won," he added.
Yamal helped Barcelona retain La Liga before becoming a world champion with Spain this summer, strengthening his claim for the game's most prestigious individual award. He had struck a more measured tone at a press conference last Tuesday, saying he believed he had a chance after an "incredible" season but would not beg for votes.
Mbappe, meanwhile, has also made his case for the award in recent days. The France captain finished as top scorer in La Liga, the Champions League and the World Cup, although Real Madrid failed to win a major trophy.
Yamal's Barcelona and Spain teammate Ousmane Dembele, last year's winner, believes the award should remain with a Paris Saint-Germain player after the French club retained the Champions League. Bayern Munich striker and England international Harry Kane is also among the favourites to win the award, which will be issued in London on October 26.



New coach won't use AI in bid to make South Korea fans happy

Sports Desk
South Korea's new interim coach Robert Moreno said Monday that he wanted to make fans in the country "happy" after a disastrous World Cup and series of damaging controversies.
Former Spain coach Moreno, who was forced to deny earlier this year that he used ChatGPT to prepare for games, will be in charge for friendly matches in the coming months.
The Korea Football Association (KFA) said he could stay on for the Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia in January-February, "subject to an evaluation".
Moreno named captain Son Heung-min in his squad for four upcoming home friendlies and said he wanted to put a smile back on South Korean fans' faces.
"We're going to try to do our work honestly and with the aim of making all Korean football fans happy," said the 48-year-old, who is the first Spaniard to coach South Korea.
"Good matches, and trying to help the players."
Moreno will lead the team against Ecuador and Uruguay in September and Venezuela and Uzbekistan in October.
South Korea had been without a coach since Hong Myung-bo quit following their shock group-stage exit from the World Cup in North America in June.
Hong's departure did little to quell public outrage over the disappointing campaign and added fuel to pre-existing questions about how he was hired.
Police raided KFA headquarters last month as part of an investigation into Hong's 2024 appointment.
The KFA also apologised for allegations that it provided sexual entertainment for foreign referees.
Moreno named striker Son, now in Major League Soccer with Los Angeles FC, in his first squad along with Atletico Madrid's Lee Kang-in and Bayern Munich's Kim Min-jae.
Hong's decision to leave Son on the bench in the first half for the decisive match against South Africa at the World Cup baffled and angered many supporters.
"We're all aware of Son's versatility," said Moreno.
"For me he can play in three positions."
Moreno also addressed allegations that he used artificial intelligence during his time in charge of Russian club Sochi.
Moreno left the top-flight side in September 2025 after a poor run of results and reports said he had heavily relied on ChatGPT in his role, even using it to decide between potential signings.
Moreno called it "a piece of news that is completely false and went viral".
"Obviously I use technology," he said.
"Anyone who spends 10 minutes looking into it can see that everything has been taken out of context and put together to cause harm."



Kindergarten Development Organization Brahmanbaria, Award Distribution Ceremony for 2025 Scholarship Recipients.

Taslima Khandaker Nushrat (Sarail Correspondent)

On Monday, September 14, 2026, at 3 PM, an award distribution ceremony for kindergarten students was organized at the 10 No. Shahbazpur Union Parishad. The event was presided over by Nurun Nahar Begum, Assistant Head Teacher of Shahbazpur Multilateral High School. The Chief Guest at the event was Mr. Advocate Nuruzzaman Laskar Topu, General Secretary of Sarail Upazila BNP. The patron was Mr. Nure Alam Siddiqui, Chief Executive of NIGAS and Founder Director of Holy Child Kindergarten. Special Guests present were: Ashrafal Karim Ripon, Senior Vice President of Sarail Upazila BNP; Mashiur Rahman, President of Sarail Upazila Krishak Dal and President of Sarail Upazila Kindergarten Association; Abu Sufian Siddiqui, Convener of Sarail Upazila Jubo Dal; Engineer Ariful Islam Mukul, General Secretary of Sarail Upazila Kindergarten Association; Ruby Begum, Female Member of Shahbazpur Union Parishad; and Suman Reza, Member of Shahbazpur Union Parishad. The speakers said that merit-based scholarships for improving educational standards will play a special role in enhancing students' quality of education and will make a significant contribution to the development of students' talents. The contribution of kindergartens to improving modern education for children is immense. Kindergarten is the repository for child students to gain knowledge and education. Through the relentless efforts of everyone, the Kindergarten Association has yesterday reached a good position, and with the efforts of the President and General Secretary of the Kindergarten Association, along with the Chief Guest and Special Guests present, everyone expressed the view that it will play a special role in improving students' quality of education in the future and in further developing the Kindergarten Association. Awards were distributed to students from eight kindergartens at the award ceremony:

1. Holy Child Kindergarten
2. Titas Model Kindergarten
3. Rising Sun Academy
4. Ikra Kindergarten
5. Dhitpur Ikra Kindergarten
6. Muzaffar Ali Kindergarten
7. Buddha Holy Child Kindergarten
8. Deora Knowledge Park Kindergarten

The award distribution ceremony concluded with prayers and a special munajat.



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Police Arrested 3 people including drug dealer from residential hotel Apan Bhuban in Kuakata

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondence

The police arrested 3 people including a drug dealer in Kuakata of Patuakhali. The arrested are Md. Halim Matubbar (49), Shafiqul Islam Sarkar (39), Md. Saiful Islam Howladar (29). On Sunday night at around 10:30 pm, a group of police officers of Mahipur police station raided room 302 of Hotel Apan Bhuban in Kuakata based on a tip-off. At that time, those 3 people were arrested along with 48 pitch Yaba. SI Mohipur police station. Zahirul Islam said that the arrested accused Halim Matubbar's house is in Barguna. He is a drug dealer. There are 3 drug cases against him. Apart from this, Md. Saiful's house is also in Barguna and Shafiqul's house is in Pachpara village of Trishal police station in Mymensingh district. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mohipur Police Station, Shamim Howladar said that a case has been filed against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act. They will be handed over to the court in Kalapara on Tuesday. Mahipur Thana Police is continuing a special operation to arrest all criminals including drug dealers.



Veteran Journalist Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman Passes Away Shadow of Grief Cast Over Amtali Press Club

Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman (aged approximately 65)—Treasurer of the Amtali Press Club, a veteran journalist, and Executive Director of the non-governmental development organization 'Khalifa Foundation'—has passed away. He died suddenly yesterday, Sunday, around 7:30 PM while undergoing treatment at the Public Health Centre in Dhaka. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un. (Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed, to Him we shall return). The veteran journalist had been suffering from kidney-related ailments for a long time. News of his death cast a shadow of grief over the journalist community of Amtali, as well as various social and cultural organizations and people from all walks of life. On Monday morning, around 9:30 AM, his body was brought to the premises of the Amtali Press Club, his workplace for many years. There, fellow journalists, people from various professions, and long-time well-wishers came to see him for the last time and pay their respects. An emotionally charged atmosphere prevailed at the Press Club premises during this time. Later, at 10:00 AM, his first Janaza (funeral prayer) was held at the Amtali Central Eidgah ground. A large number of people from various walks of life, including journalists and political and social leaders, participated in the funeral prayer. Subsequently, his body was taken to his home the 'Khalifa Bari' in Gajkhali village (Ward No. 2 of Guliyakhali Union). A second funeral prayer was held there on the premises of the Khalifa Bari Jame Mosque. Following the prayer, he was laid to rest in the family graveyard. Expressing his condolences, Amtali Press Club President Md. Rezaul Karim said,



"We have lost a trusted, long-time colleague and comrade of the Amtali Press Club. His passing is an irreparable loss for us. He was a deeply sincere and responsible person. Alongside journalism, his contributions to the welfare of society and the people will be remembered." According to family sources, Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman was born into a respectable Muslim family. He was the younger of the two sons of the late Gazi Nizam Uddin. Professionally, he served as a teacher at Anam Amjadia Alim Madrasa. Alongside his journalism career, he was long associated with various social and public welfare activities. While serving as the Executive Director of the non-governmental development organization 'Khalifa Foundation,' he was involved in numerous initiatives aimed at the welfare of the local community. Locals also note his contributions to the development of religious institutions and various social activities in his area. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son, along with numerous relatives, colleagues, and well-wishers. His passing has cast a pall of deep grief over the Amtali Press Club, the local journalist community, social and cultural circles, and his own locality. Colleagues and residents have prayed for the salvation of his soul and extended their deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

Indian smuggled goods worth Tk 14.32 lakh seized in Kushtia

Kushtia Correspondent

The paramilitary force Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has seized Indian drugs and other smuggled goods worth Taka 14.32 lakh in three separate drives along the Kushtia frontier. However, no one was arrested in connection with the incidents. Lieutenant Colonel Rashed Kamal Rony, commander of Kushtia Battalion (47 BGB), confirmed the information in a press release here this afternoon. A BGB patrol team conducted a drive in the West Dharmadah field area under West Dharmadah Border Outpost (BOP) at around 11:30 pm yesterday and recovered 10 bottles of Indian liquor and 2,880 pieces of Cyproheptadine tablets from an abandoned condition. In another drive, a BGB patrol team recovered 50 bottles of Indian liquor, 740 pieces of Cyproheptadine tablets and 650 pieces of dexamethasone tablets from the Nichpara unopened road area under Ramkrishnapur BOP at around 11:10 pm last night. Later, at around 12:50 am yesterday, another BGB team conducted a drive in the Gorura graveyard area under Pragpur BOP and recovered 1,120 packets of Indian bidi (leaf cigarettes). The seized drugs and smuggled goods were handed over to the concerned authorities for further legal action in accordance with the existing rules, the BGB added.

CNG driver killed, four injured in Mymensingh road crash

Mymensingh Correspondent

A CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver was killed and four passengers were injured when a truck rammed the vehicle in Trishal upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased was identified as Md Jasim, 38, son of Md Mozif Uddin of Sutiyaekhali village under Mymensingh Sadar upazila. The accident occurred around 12:30 pm on the Kali Bazar-Gafargao road at Tirkhi village in Kanibari union of the upazila. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Trishal Police Station Md Mansur Ahmed confirmed the incident. He said the CNG-run auto-rickshaw was carrying passengers from Gafargao to Mymensingh city. When it reached the accident site, a speeding drum truck coming from the opposite direction collided head-on with the passenger vehicle. Jasim died on the spot, while four passengers, including unidentified men and women, sustained serious injuries. Fire Service personnel rescued the injured and sent them to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Legal action in connection with the accident is underway, the OC said.

Crime review coordination meeting of RMP held

Rajshahi Correspondent

A crime review coordination meeting with various agencies was held with the call for strengthening ongoing activities to control various crimes including drugs, juvenile delinquency, theft, snatching and traffic congestion. Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) organized the meeting at its Headquarters conference room yesterday with RMP Commissioner Mohammad Faizul Kabir in the chair. In the meeting, the overall law and order situation of Rajshahi metropolis for the month of August, committed crimes, filing of cases and progress of investigation, activities undertaken to control crime, and the progress of important cases were reviewed. Representatives of various government and private organizations expressed their opinions and suggestions on the law and order situation of the metropolis in the meeting. The representative of the Federation of NGOs Bangladesh informed about the initiative to create leaflets and banners to increase public awareness in traffic management. The Police Commissioner gave necessary directives to the concerned officers to conduct regular drives to keep the law and order situation of the metropolis normal and safe, to further strengthen anti-drug activities. He also called for providing medical and forensic reports on time with the aim of quick disposal of the cases, and to take strict legal action against criminals. He called upon all police stations and units of RMP to perform their duties with sincerity, honesty, professionalism and mutual coordination to ensure public safety. At the same time, he emphasized utmost importance on ensuring that the general public gets prompt, expected and quality police service. Present at the meeting were Additional Police Commissioner Faruk Hossain and Deputy Police Commissioners Khorshed Alam, Golam Rabbani Sheikh, Mainul Islam, Din Mohammad, Abul Kalam Sahid, Gazipur Rahman and other senior officials of RMP. In addition, representatives of RAB, BGB, PBI, CID, River Police, Tourist Police, Department of Forensic Medicine, CID, Rajshahi City Corporation, Department of Narcotics Control, NGO Federation, Diner Alo Hijra Sangha and Hope Bridge Foundation were present at the meeting.

Human Chain Rally and Program Held Under the Initiative of Bangladesh Press Club Brahmanbaria District Branch

M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent)

A human chain and rally were held on 14/09/2026 at Brahmanbaria Municipal Free Stage under the initiative of Bangladesh Press Club Brahmanbaria District Branch, presided over by the founding President of the District Committee, Enamul Haque Arif. In the human chain, we are observing yesterday's program demanding: verification of all documents related to the approval, design, clearance and construction of Ekhlak Home Building; inspection of whether under-construction multi-storied buildings in Brahmanbaria Municipality have approval; removal of Sharif ul Islam, Deputy Secretary of Brahmanbaria Municipality; investigation and legal action against Murad Hossain Bhuiyan for operating as a developer without a license; and effective measures against construction work without municipal approval. The developer license and the legality of the related activities of developer Murad Hossain Bhuiyan must be verified, and the approval, design and other necessary documents of the multi-storied buildings under him must be examined. We believe that to build a planned and safe city, it must be ensured that no individual, institution or influential group causes any violation of laws and rules in the case of building construction. Otherwise, in the interest of public welfare, the safety of city residents and the professional duties of journal-

Protest Against Alleged Propaganda Targeting Tamabil Business Leaders, Legal Action Warned

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

The Tamabil Stone Importers Group has strongly condemned and protested against what it described as "false and fabricated" information circulated on social media and online newspapers regarding alleged financial transactions involving business leaders of Tamabil Land Port in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet. The protest was held at a press conference made at the organization's office on Monday (September 14), where the group's Convener, Md. Rafiqul Islam Shahparan, read out a written statement. In the written statement, he said that for the past several days, various baseless allegations and rumors regarding financial transactions involving business leaders of Tamabil Land Port have been circulated on social media and different online news portals. He claimed that the allegations are completely false and fabricated. He also asserted that no leader or member of the Tamabil Stone Importers Group is involved in any such unethical financial transactions. The organization's leaders alleged that an vested interest group is deliberately spreading such propaganda with the aim of damaging the reputation of Tamabil Land Port and disrupting its business activities. They said that thousands of traders, workers, stone-crusher owners, transport owners and transport work-

ers depend on the import of stones and other goods through Tamabil Land Port for their livelihoods. The government also earns a substantial amount of revenue every year through imports via the port, they added.



At the press conference, the speakers urged everyone concerned not to spread any false, misleading or defamatory information surrounding this important commercial establishment. They also warned that strict legal action would be taken, if necessary, against those involved in spreading such propaganda with the intention of tarnishing the reputation of the business community. The speakers also urged journalists to verify the authenticity of any allegations circulated on social media and publish news responsibly after properly checking the facts and information. Executive committee members of the Tamabil Stone Importers Group, general traders and senior leaders of various workers' organizations were present at the press conference.



Trawler Boatman Missing from Moving Ferry in Pirojpur

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

A trawler boatman named Babul Majhi(35) went missing after falling from a moving ferry into the Kacha River in the Charkhali ferry terminal area of Bhandaria upazila in Pirojpur on Sunday (September 13) evening.The accident occurred at around 6:00 pm. Babul Majhi is the son of Md. Harun Molla, of Mallickerbar Union in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat district. He worked as the boatman of a fishing trawler operating in the Bay of Bengal.According to local residents and eyewitnesses, the ferry was approaching Charkhali ferry terminal after departing from Togora Ghat on the Kacha River. When the ferry was approximately 50 to 100 feet away from Charkhali Ghat, Babul fell into the river.Eyewitnesses said he had been sitting on the railing at the front of the ferry. He accidentally fell into the river and was swept away within moments by the strong current of the Kacha River. After receiving the news, a team from Bhandaria Police Station and Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and launched a search and rescue operation with the assistance of local volunteers. Abdus Sobhan an officer at Bhandaria Fire Station said, "As soon as we received the news, a Fire Service team reached the scene and began the rescue operation." Dewan Jaglul Hasan Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bhandaria Police Station said, "After receiving the news, police personnel quickly went to the scene and inspected the situation. As of the latest information, no trace of the missing Babul Majhi has been found. The search operation to rescue him is continuing. Necessary legal procedures are also underway."

ists, we will be compelled to adopt stricter and larger programs in consultation with journalists from the 9 upazilas of Bangladesh Press Club Brahmanbaria District Branch.



Speakers at the human chain program included: Founding President of Brahmanbaria District Committee, journalist Enamul Haque Arif; General Secretary of the District Committee, journalist Abu Taher; General Secretary of Brahmanbaria District Sadar Upazila, journalist Arif; President of Sarail Upazila Committee, journalist M Badal Khandaker; General Secretary, journalist Rounak Khan; President and General Secretary of Akhaura Upazila Committee; President and General Secretary of Nasimagar Upazila; and all journalists from the district and upazila committees.