

We don’t need another DSA playbook

We are concerned that the government’s proposed amendment to the Cyber Security Act, 2026 may create a legal framework that takes us back to the era of the dreaded Digital Security Act (DSA). The draft amendment, published by the ICT Division on Sunday night, reintroduces digital defamation as a crime and proposes up to five years in prison and Tk 20 lakh in fines upon conviction—penalties that are harsher than those under the DSA, as found by an analysis by this daily. It also proposes the same penalties for “humiliation” and “bullying” online, as well as sexual harassment, blackmail, sextortion, child sexual abuse, revenge porn, and the publication of obscene content. The proposed changes also criminalise spreading “rumours” or “fake news”, for which

up to 10 years’ imprisonment and a fine of up to Tk 40 lakh have been suggested.

As experts have pointed out, the proposed definitions of these offences are broad enough to leave considerable scope for subjective interpretation. Transparency International Bangladesh has warned that the draft could allow targeted abuse as well as unchecked surveillance of online expression, while Tech Global Institute has criticised the lack of meaningful.

of journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens over online expression. The Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025, issued by the interim government, removed nine controversial provisions of the CSA. The proposed amendment now risks undoing some of that progress. If approved, it would expand the authority to seek content blocking beyond law enforcement agencies, broaden the grounds for blocking, and remove the requirement to publicly disclose blocked content. Mobile courts would be empowered to adjudicate several cyber offences, including defamation, humiliation and bullying. These provisions may result in state-sanctioned restrictions on individual liberty.

Hence, we suggest that the proposed changes be withdrawn and that the government open a consultation process with the relevant stakeholders—including civil society leaders, media representatives, and rights experts—before advancing any amendment. The new law must have appropriate safeguards to protect freedom of expression and press freedom. Definitions of cyber offences must be clear and precise, and guidelines based on international best practices must be formulated to prevent deliberate misinterpretation and misuse. There is no doubt that Bangladesh needs an effective law to curb cybercrime, but it must be able to distinguish between genuinely harmful conduct and criticism, satire, and political speech. We do not want to see a repeat of what happened in April.

Bangladesh’s next democratic step should be greater inclusion

Md. Neyamul Hossain

lic institutions. We remain committed to supporting that effort, alongside Bangladesh’s other development partners, guided by the priorities and experiences of Bangladeshis themselves.

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Following the parliamentary election, Bangladesh is entering another phase of its democratic journey through local government elections. These elections will bring democracy closer to home, where citizens interact most directly with public institutions and decisions shape everyday services and give effect to community priorities. This is an important moment to consider how women, who make up just over half of the population, can have greater opportunities to participate in democracy and help shape the country’s future. Bangladesh has a long history of women’s leadership, and its 50 reserved parliamentary seats can make an important contribution to women’s role in national decision-making. Alongside women elected to general seats, they bring women’s overall representation in parliament to around 16 percent. Yet only seven women were elected to general seats in February, about 2.3 percent. There is a significant opportunity to build on the reserved-seat system and widen equal opportunities for women to contest and win seats across the political landscape. An inter-party parliamentary caucus could bring parliamentarians together to promote women’s rights, gender equality, and equal and meaningful participation in political life. Local representatives help shape decisions about water, roads, access to services such as health, education, and other community priorities, including addressing gender-based violence. Greater women’s representation and leadership can make a tangible difference locally, with women bringing in a wider range of lived experience and priorities into decision-making and helping public institutions respond more closely to the communities they serve. There is already a foundation to build on. Each union parishad has nine general wards and three reserved seats for women, elected by their communities. These reserved seats have opened an important route into public.

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There is already a foundation to build on. Each union parishad has nine general wards and three reserved seats for women, elected by their communities. These reserved seats have opened an important route into public offices. Giving effect to these provisions means supporting women in reserved seats to exercise meaningful influence in the interests of the communities they represent, whilst paving the path for transition into national politics and parliamentary elections.

Working with political parties, electoral institutions, women’s organisations, and communities, we see opportunities to support aspiring women leaders, broaden opportunities for party nomination, widen access to political networks and campaign resources, and make participation safer, including online, protected from hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. The aim is for more women to be able to put themselves forward, compete fairly and serve effectively once elected. Bangladesh’s commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms

of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), including equal participation in political and public life, provide common ground for this work. Supporting women’s representation and leadership is part of a wider effort to ensure public institutions are inclusive and respond to the communities they serve. Greater transparency and accountability can strengthen trust in those institutions, during and between elections.

On this International Day of Democracy, we celebrate what Bangladesh has achieved and the possibilities ahead. We look forward to continuing to join hands with the Government of Bangladesh, the parliament, the Election Commission, development partners and civil society organisations across the country to help realise a shared aspiration—a democracy in which all the people of Bangladesh, in all their diversity, can see their lives reflected, their concerns heard and their voices shape the future.

Heinous crimes committed

member of the executive "Gang of Four," Obaidul Quader was convicted of crimes against humanity, including murder, attempted murder, torture and other inhumane acts, by directly ordering, inciting, conspiring, abetting and failing to prevent systematic state violence against peaceful student protesters during the July 2024 Mass Uprising.

On July 11, 2024, he directly instructed then Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Md Saddam Hossain over telephone to violently suppress the movement ("Why aren't you hitting them, why show them indulgence?"), and on July 15, he publicly incited armed cadres at the Dhanmondi party office ("Chhatra League will answer self-proclaimed Razakars"), triggering campus invasions that injured nearly 300 students at Dhaka University.Furthermore, Quader coordinated the distribution of funds to armed cadres through his personal secretary and BCL leadership, directed Information and Communications Technology (ICT) State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak to throttle internet speeds, ordered former Chittagong Mayor Ajm Nasir to forcibly occupy Chittagong University and the city, announced a nationwide curfew on July 19 with explicit "shoot-at-sight" instructions, and conspired with senior ministers and law enforcement officials to conduct helicopter sniper attacks and arson cover-ups, resulting in over 1,400 deaths and 25,000 injuries nationwide.AFM Bahauddin Nasim: As Central Joint General Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League and former Member of Parliament for Dhaka-8, AFM Bahauddin Nasim was convicted of crimes against humanity involving murder, attempted murder, torture, abetment, incitement, conspiracy, complicity and failure to prevent widespread violence.He participated in high-level party decision-making meetings on July 9, July 15 and August 3, 2024, where he supported directives to crush student protests, thereby provoking armed cadres to attack peaceful demonstrators.Nasim played a key operational role in executing the nationwide "shoot-at-sight" curfew policy announced on July 19, personally supervised violent suppression in his home district of Madaripur through former mayor Khalid Hossain Yaad leading to deaths on July 18-19, and delivered a highly provocative speech at Farmgate on August 4 branding protesters as "Jamaat-Shibir, war criminals, identified terrorists, and anti-independence forces," which directly incited party cadres and law enforcement to open fire across his Dhaka-8 constituency, including Bangla Motor, Paltan, Dhaka Medical College Hospital area, Gulistan and Chankharpool, killing at least 13 named individuals on August 4-5.Mohammad Ali Arafat: As Executive Committee Member of the Bangladesh Awami League, former State Minister for Information & Broadcasting, and former MP for Dhaka-17, Mohammad Ali Arafat was convicted of crimes against humanity encompassing murder, attempted

Seven sentenced to death as

tions can be identified, effective measures will be taken to arrest them and bring them back to Bangladesh.Replying a question on confiscation of properties, he said, "We believe that following today's judgment, there will be no further problem in confiscating the properties, taking them under government control, arranging their sale through the statutory body of the July Foundation, and distributing the proceeds among the families of those killed and injured in July."

The chief prosecutor further said the government would implement the judgment. "The government will find out what prop-

erties each of them owns, and half of the properties found in their names will be confiscated accordingly," he added.The Chief Prosecutor further said that there would be a 30-day period for appeal after today's judgment is published.

"Until the expiry of the 30-day period, there may be no scope for confiscating any property or taking any other measures. But after 30 days, there will be no legal impediment to implementing the judgment," he said.The three-member ICT-2, headed by Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, pronounced the judgment earlier in the day, sentencing Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, AL Joint General Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Executive Committee Member Mohammad Ali Arafat, Jubo League Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash, Jubo League General Secretary Md Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, Bangladesh Chhatra League President Md Saddam Hossain and its General Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Inan, to death.

The tribunal ordered confiscation of 50 percent of all movable and immovable properties of Obaidul Quader, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Mohammad Ali Arafat, Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash and Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil. The tribunal also ordered that appropriate compensation be provided to the persons killed and injured during July-August 2024, or their family members, from the proceeds of the sale of the confiscated properties through the July Foundation or any other statutory organisation.

PM provides financial

look after the families of the martyred soldiers." Later, the Prime Minister handed over cheques for financial assistance to the families of the two soldiers. The Army will also take initiatives to build a house for each bereaved family at the soldiers' permanent addresses. Arrangements will also be made to provide jobs to their wives and monthly allowances to their children. On September 09, two Bangladesh Army soldiers—Abu Bakar Siddique and Md Tasnim Riafat—were killed and an officer was seriously injured in an accident during a tank firing exercise at the Hathazari Field Firing Range in Chattogram.Abu Bakar Siddique's family members present at the meeting were his wife Suraiya Akter Juthi, daughter Fatema Siddika, father Abdul Wahab and mother Parvin Akter. Md Tasnim Riafat's family members included his wife Fahmida Afrin, daughter Rafsa Tasnim Ifra and father Md Asadul Haque.

BIMSTEC must look beyond

that BIMSTEC can become an even more dynamic bridge between South and Southeast Asia and a strong force for regional peace, progress, and sustainable development," Kobir said.On behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh, he extended warm felicitations to the governments and peoples of all BIMSTEC member states on the occasion."Let us not walk out of regional cooperation regardless of differences. We must have the tenacity. We must have the vision to digest difficult challenges, difficult tensions, and difficult dialogue to make regional cooperation a success with mutual trust, political will, and a shared sense of purpose," he said. He also appreciated the BIMSTEC secretary general and his team for their steadfast commitment and continued service to the shared regional endeavour.

Kobir said the establishment of the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka 12 years ago was a defining step in the institutional development of the regional grouping.

Over the past 12 years, he said, the Secretariat had evolved into the central coordinating hub of BIMSTEC, supporting

member states, facilitating sectoral cooperation, preserving institutional continuity and helping translate decisions of leaders and ministers into practical programmes."Bangladesh is proud to host this regional institution and remains committed to providing the support necessary for it to discharge its responsibilities effectively," he said.The state minister said the Bay of Bengal had connected the peoples of South and Southeast Asia for centuries, long before the emergence of modern regionalism."This Bay carried culture, knowledge, faith, and human interaction between South and Southeast Asia. BIMSTEC gives contemporary institutional form to those historic connections," he said. The seven BIMSTEC member states - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand - together represent a vast pool of people, resources, talent and economic potential, he said.

Police intensify community

problem-solving.Officials said the involvement of local people in the courtyard meetings and traffic-awareness campaigns is helping community policing evolve into an important component of the country's internal security strategy.The concept of community policing has deep roots both globally and in Bangladesh. The philosophy is often traced to Sir Robert Peel, who established the London Metropolitan Police in 1829. His policing principles emphasised cooperation between police and the public, with the underlying idea that "the police are the public and the public are the police."

The community policing model gained wider momentum internationally in the late 20th century, as law enforcement agencies increasingly sought to move from purely reactive, incident-based policing towards proactive crime prevention and problem-solving.In Bangladesh, pilot community policing projects began in the early 1990s, while the approach was formally adopted as a nationwide police agenda in 2008 with support from initiatives including the UNDP Police Reform Programme.

One of the earliest and most successful pilot projects was launched in Mymensingh in 1992, which later served as a model for similar initiatives elsewhere in the country.

Over the years, Bangladesh Police, with support from various international development partners, formalised community policing committees to help bridge the trust gap between citizens and law enforcement officers, contributing to the nationwide structure reflected in the latest progress report.

BIWTC Chairman Visits

service more effective and suitable to ensure safe travel for passengers between Bashbaria and Sandwip.

He further said that the tender process for constructing an embankment road from Kumira Ghat to Bashbaria Ferry Ghat has already been completed. Necessary steps will be taken to start and complete the work as soon as possible.

The BIWTC chairman also said special attention would be given to ensuring safe and uninterrupted ferry services for passengers during the monsoon season.

At the end of the visit, he directed the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to address the infrastructural problems of the ghat, improve passenger services, and facilitate the safe transportation of vehicles.

Twenty GramPolice Receive

to local communities, collect information, and respond more quickly to law-and-order issues, thereby making their services more effective.

Extradition of Hasina, Quader

issue of bringing back Sheikh Hasina and all other fugitives in India," he said, adding, "We have conveyed that the Indian government should consider this matter seriously in the interest of strengthening a working engagement with Bangladesh."Responding to a question on whether Bangladesh is also seeking the retrn of Obaidul Quader and other accused persons alongside Sheikh Hasina, Zayed Ur Rahman said, "If we are seeking Sheikh Hasina, why would we not seek Obaidul Quader and others as well?" He added, "Our call to the Indian government is that this is a very important condition for easing relations with Bangladesh." He continued, "Sheikh Hasina's brutality was not confined to July alone; her brutality continued for years, and various people were involved in these acts."About statements made by the fugitive accused on Facebook and various other platforms, the adviser said, "They are living a life of comfort abroad. They are making various statements or giving advice on social media, which is severely hurting the sentiments of the people of Bangladesh." He went on, saying "We hope the Indian government will understand this sentiment and sensitivity of the people of Bangladesh and hand them over."Calling justice for crimes committed under Awami rule the government's top priority, he said, "The party that suffered most under Awami mafia rule is now at the helm of the state. There will be no compromise on justice. Anyone accused may appear in court, as the judiciary is now functioning with complete independence."Responding to a question on local government elections, Dr Zayed said that while the Election Commission (EC) is independent under the constitution for holding national and presidential elections, decisions on local government elections are determined through discussions with the government."The government's decision on local government elections is extremely important. The EC and the government will jointly take the final decision on local government elections," he said.He also mentioned that the upcoming local government elections will be fully participatory, with no party symbols involved.Explaining information regarding sending 10,000 workers to Malaysia, the adviser said the matter of 10,000 workers going free of cost is accurate according to information provided by the ministry.

Bangladesh, Pakistan stress

today. At the meeting, Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal invited Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. The Pakistani National Assembly speaker, in turn, invited the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time. The meeting took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Members of the parliamentary delegations of both countries attended it.

Say 'No' to Drugs. Joint Anti-Drug of Chhagalnaiya Police Station, Mr. Mohammad Abu Taher, delivered the speech as the main speaker. ?During his address, OC Mohammad Abu Taher stated, "Police will maintain a zero-tolerance policy against drugs. To eradicate drugs from society, the police and the public must work together as one." ?Leaders from various political parties and business associations present at the meeting expressed a strong stance against the menace of drugs. They called for a comprehensive social movement to free society from drug abuse. Furthermore, they emphasized joint operations between the police and local residents to identify drug spots and take action against notorious drug dealers, reaffirming their firm commitment to stay united against drugs.



President Mirza Fakhrul arrives in Sylhet

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir arrived in Sylhet on Tuesday on a day-long visit. The aircraft carrying the president landed at Osmani International Airport at 11:29am. Members of Parliament from different constituencies in Sylhet, district administration officials and senior leaders of various political parties welcomed him at the airport. The President left Dhaka for Sylhet at around 10:30am and reached Sylhet Circuit House at about 11:50am. After receiving a guard of honour at the

◆ see page 7

Bangladesh, South Africa discuss parliamentary diplomacy, HC in Dhaka

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and South Africa have stressed the need to further strengthen bilateral relations through parliamentary diplomacy, including regular dialogue, exchange of experiences and increased visits by parliamentary delegations. The emphasis came at a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh Deputy Speaker and leader of the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation Barrister Kayser Kamal, MP,

◆ see page 7

Bangladesh plans full-fledged cyber security unit: Home Minister

Staff correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said today the government is planning to establish a full-fledged and institutional cyber security unit in Bangladesh Police to enhance its capacity to combat cyber-crime, "We are planning to establish a cyber security unit under the leadership of an additional IGP by utilising the expertise of police personnel with engineering, IT and computer science backgrounds," he said. The minister told this while president under the 21st meeting of the Governing Board of Bangladesh Police Staff College at its boardroom in Mirpur, Dhaka. Ahmed said digital crime investigations and forensic analysis are

currently being conducted on an ad hoc basis through the Police Headquarters, DMP Cyber Unit and Criminal Investigation Department (CID). "But we feel the need for a permanent and coordinated structure," he said. The minister said initiatives have been taken to provide advanced training to police personnel alongside establishing the cyber security unit to strengthen the Bangladesh Police's ability to tackle cybercrime. He said the police force currently has many members with engineering, IT and computer science backgrounds and their expertise would be utilised in building the proposed unit. Emphasising the importance of training to enhance police capabilities

and morale, the minister said facilities for international-standard training should be expanded alongside internal training to make master-trainer-level officers more effective. "If necessary, trainers will be brought from abroad, or modern facilities will be developed to enhance the professional skills of officers," he said, adding that this would help keep the police force fully prepared to combat all forms of crime, including crimes in cyberspace. At the meeting, the minutes of the 20th Governing Board meeting were presented and approved subject to necessary amendments, while progress in implementing decisions taken at the previous meeting was reviewed. The

◆ see page 7

Zubaida Rahman visits School for children with special needs



Staff correspondent

Ziaur Rahman Foundation Vice- President Dr Zubaida Rahman today visited 'Blue Sky', a Bangladesh Air Force-run school for children with special needs, and observed its educational, therapeutic and developmental activities. She visited the school this morning and was welcomed as the chief guest by President of Bangladesh Air Force Women's Welfare Association (BAFWWA) and Others Women and Children Club (OWCC) Saleha Khan. The students of Blue Sky School welcomed Zubaida Rahman with flowers. During the visit, Zubaida Rahman, also wife of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, went around dif-

ferent classrooms and observed various activities being conducted for the overall development of children with special needs. She also visited the school's hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychology and music therapy facilities, along with other developmental activities for children with special

needs. The school principal briefed Zubaida Rahman about its education and technical training programmes, therapy facilities, medical emergency arrangements and overall activities. A total of 28 specially trained teachers and therapists are working at the school with the aim of helping the children lead healthy and normal lives. Established by BAFWWA in 2021, the school maintains a ratio of one teacher and one sister or brother for every five students, providing individual care and support to the children. Besides, some assistant therapists have also been appointed under the technical education programme to provide training to children

◆ see page 7



Bagerhat District Law and Order and Development Exchange Meeting

SA Kalam Bagerhat

"The Honorable Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman MP, was present as the Chief Guest at the Bagerhat District Law and Order and Development Exchange Meeting. Also present were Mr. Principal Md. Abdul Alim MP, Bagerhat-4, Mr. Principal Maulana Mashiur Rahman MP, Bagerhat-1, the Reserved Women MP, the DIG of Khulna, Barrister Zakir Hossain, Administrator of the Bagerhat District Council, along with divisional officials, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami district leaders, other political leaders, and journalists from print and electronic media."

◆ see page 7



Training Begins in Bagerhat to Produce and Develop National-Level Boxers

Masum Hawladar, Bagerhat

Training has begun at the Bagerhat District Sports Association with the goal of producing national-level boxers and developing boxing. Under the initiative of the Bangladesh Boxing Federation, the training program was inaugurated on Tuesday afternoon, September 15, at the Bagerhat District Stadium. The training was inaugurated by Masum Hawladar, President of Bagerhat Upazila Press Club and the Chief Guest. Tanvir Soheli, General Secretary of Bagerhat Upazila Press Club, was present as the Special Guest. The training is being conducted by Bagerhat District Boxing Coach Mahbubur Rahman Badal. In the first phase, 35 students from five schools in Bagerhat will receive this training. The schools are: Bagerhat Collegiate School, Bagerhat Adarsha School, Bagerhat Amalpara Multipurpose High School, Government Boys School, and Somniloni Secondary School. The training sessions will be held regularly three days a week — Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Through this training, students will learn the basic techniques of boxing, build physical fitness, self-control, and self-defense skills. The goal is also to develop talented athletes for the national level. Among the participating students, Salman Sheikh (Grade 6), Ferdous Ahmed (Grade 7), Sadaf Mir (Grade 6), Tanzim (Grade 8), Md. Talha (Grade 9), Koushik (Grade 8), and Arif Sheikh (Grade 6) said they are interested in learning boxing for self-defense, improving physical fitness, and developing themselves for the welfare of society. Boxing Coach Mahbubur Rahman

◆ see page 7

Bangladesh has 15.84 lakh tonnes fertilizer surplus

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh has an additional 15.84 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizer in stock to ensure smooth supply of fertilizer during the Rabi and Boro seasons aiming to sustain its agricultural production. Simultaneously, considering farmers' needs and aiming to ensure timely supply of fertilizer, the government has initiated an initiative to allocate 100 percent of the required fertilizer against district-wise demand.

According to official data, the prepared supply is 51.71 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizer against the country's demand of 35.87 lakh tonnes, resulting in a surplus of about 15.84 lakh tonnes in stock. Also, full allocations have been given to the respective districts against the demand for Urea, TSP, DAP, and MOP fertilizers for the upcoming October, according to an official document obtained by BSS. The document detailed the allocation of fertilizers from various sources to meet the demand for October 2026. According to the data, the total demand for TSP fertilizer



across the country's 64 districts for October is 70,052 metric tonnes, and the entire amount has been allocated through Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC). The demand for DAP fertilizer is 1,50,910 metric tonnes. Of the amount, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation has allocated 1,000 metric tonnes and BADC has allocated 149,910 metric tonnes, meeting the full demand. The total demand for MOP fertilizer in October is 93,654 metric tonnes, and an equivalent amount has been allocated on a district-wise basis. The total district-wise demand for these three types of non-urea fertilizers in October stands at about 3,14,616 metric tonnes, and arrangements have been made

◆ see page 7



Death Claim Cheques Distributed and Dua Mahfil Held by Sonali Life Insurance in Jaflong

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

A death claim cheque distribution ceremony and Dua Mahfil were held at the Jaflong Branch of Sonali Life Insurance PLC, an insurance company operated in accordance with Islamic Shariah principles, in Jaflong of Gowainghat upazila, Sylhet. The programme was organised at the Jaflong Branch office on Tuesday (September 15) morning. S.K. Badiuzzaman Ripon, Deputy Managing Director of Sonali Life Insurance PLC, attended the event as the chief guest and delivered a speech. The programme was presided over by Salahuddin Ahmed, In-charge of Jaflong Metro Branch, and moderated by U.M. Md. Jahangir Alam. Special guests included Branch Manager Md. Rakib Uddin, Sudhangshu Shekhar Dutta, Manager of Agrani Bank Jaflong Branch, Humayun Ahmed, President of the Television Journalists' Union Greater Jainta, prominent businessman and social

◆ see page 7

BGB Foils Cattle Smuggling at Jorarganj thana, Mirsarai Upazila Border, Seizes Livestock Worth Tk.4.1 Lakh

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter.

Amid heightened vigilance against border crimes, the Ramgarh Battalion (43 BGB) intercepted a consignment of smuggled Indian cattle along the Jorarganj thana, Mirsarai Upazila border in Chattogram. A patrol team seized six Indian cows during an early morning drive in the Koylarmukh border area. Two smugglers fled back into Indian territory, abandoning the cattle after being chased by border guards. According to BGB sources, acting on a tip-off, a patrol team from the Koylarmukh BOP laid an ambush around 4:30 AM on Tuesday (September 15) in Rahmatpur, approximately



200 yards inside Bangladeshi territory near border pillar 2205/6-RB. At around 5:30 AM, BGB personnel spotted two smugglers crossing into Bangladesh from India with six cows. When the patrol team challenged and chased them, the

◆ see page 7

JS Speaker for forming France-Bangladesh parliamentary caucus

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikrom, today said France has remained a proven friend of Bangladesh since the War of Liberation and expressed hope that the formation of a France-Bangladesh Parliamentary Caucus would further strengthen bilateral relations. He made the remarks when a French parliamentary delegation paid a courtesy call on him at his office here today.

The Speaker said France is Bangladesh's second-largest trading destination in Europe, stressing the importance of further strengthening parliamentary ties between the two countries, said a press release of parliament secretariat here. He recalled France's support for Bangladesh during the War of Liberation in 1971 and praised the significant role played by French citizen André Malraux in support of

◆ see page 7



SP Seeks Journalists' Support to Eradicate Crime in Jungle Salimpur & Raozan

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Chittagong District Police has called for an active and responsible role from journalists to combat terrorism, drug abuse, and criminal activities across various areas of the district, including Jungle Salimpur and Raozan. Masud Alam, BPM, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Chittagong District, urged journalists to assist law enforcement by providing objective information to facilitate strict legal action against criminals. He made the call as the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony for the first round of the annual indoor sports competition organized by the TV Camera Journalists Association (TCJA) Chittagong on Monday night. Speaking on the occasion, SP Masud Alam said, "Both police and journalists play vital roles in ensuring state security and presenting the truth. Professional communication and collaboration between these two fields are essential for maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety. To eradicate criminals from sensitive areas like Jungle Salimpur and Raozan, we need journalists to stand

◆ see page 7

ESTD-2008

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি শুক্রবার বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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

সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

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ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

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

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Bangladesh plans full-fledged

meeting discussed in detail a number of issues, including the MRT proposal for use of PSC land; allocation of funds for overseas components of mandatory training courses; establishment of a full-fledged and independent “Research and Innovation Centre” under Bangladesh Police Staff College; government approval of PSC regulations; a proposal to make completion of mandatory training a priority condition for promotion and posting; and initiatives to organise training in Bangladesh and send trainees abroad as a member institution of INTERPA (International Association of Police Academies).The meeting also discussed PSC infrastructure development, introduction of Master’s in Forensic Science and Master’s in Financial Crime and Governance courses, celebration of the silver jubilee of Police Staff College and “Training for the SAARC Countries”.Senior Secretary of the Home Ministry and Vice Chairman of the Governing Board Manzur Morshed Chowdhury, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration Md Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, Inspector General of Police Md Ali Hossain Fakir, BPATC Rector Sayeed Mahbub Khan and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor A. B. M. Obaidul Islam, among others, attended the programme.Later, the home minister visited the Police Staff College campus.

President Mirza Fakhru

Circuit House, Mirza Fakhru is scheduled to visit the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) at 12:30pm. He will then visit the shrine of Hazrat Shahparan (RA) at around 1:25pm. The President will attend a civic reception organised by Sylhet City Corporation at the Nagar Bhaban. After the programme, he will return to the Circuit House before leaving Sylhet for Dhaka by air at around 8pm. The Sylhet Metropolitan Police has taken extensive security measures ahead of the presidential visit. Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sarwar Murshed Shamim said around 1,000 police personnel have been deployed, with another 200 members assigned to additional duties.

Bangladesh, South Africa discuss

and Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa Angela Thokozile Thoko Didiza, MP, and Deputy Speaker Dr Amelie Lotriet, MP, on Monday in Cape Town, South Africa.The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The conference is being held in Cape Town from September 13 to 19.During the cordial meeting, the leaders discussed existing relations between Bangladesh and South Africa, expansion of bilateral trade and investment, enhancement of diplomatic contacts, and various regional and international issues of common interest, said a press release of the Parliament Secretariat today.Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal underscored the need to increase contacts at both government and private-sector levels to tap the potential for trade and investment between the two countries.He also stressed the importance of facilitating visits by business delegations and increasing people-to-people contacts.The Bangladesh Deputy Speaker urged the South African side to actively consider establishing a resident High Commission in Dhaka.He said establishing a South African High Commission in Dhaka would facilitate and strengthen diplomatic communication, consular services, trade, investment and people-to-people relations between the two countries.Members of the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation are Humam Quader Chowdhury, MP; Shakila Farzana, MP; and Md Mahbubul Alam, MP. Parliament Secretariat Secretary Barrister Md Golam Sorwar Bhuiyan is serving as secretary to the delegation. The meeting took place on the eve of the opening ceremony of the 69th CPC.

Bangladesh has 15.84

to meet the full demand.To ensure uninterrupted fertilizer supply, the incumbent government has maintained a steady import flow rather than relying solely on district-wise allocations. On September 9, the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved three proposals to import a total of 1,10,000 metric tonnes of MOP, DAP, and Urea fertilizers to ensure fertilizer supply for farmers. These approvals included the import of 30,000 tonnes of MOP from Belarus, 40,000 tonnes of DAP from Morocco, and 40,000 tonnes of Urea from Saudi Arabia.Earlier in August, proposals to import a total of 3,65,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer from various countries had also been approved. Proposals were made to import Urea from Saudi Arabia and MOP from Russia.

Additionally, initiatives have been taken to form a national-level coordination and advisory committee and to establish fertilizer monitoring cells across all 64 districts to make fertilizer management more effective. As of September 9, there are 4,18,000 tonnes of Urea, 3,43,000 tonnes of TSP, 3,02,000 tonnes of DAP, and 1,78,900 tonnes of MOP in stock.Besides, 1,28,200 tonnes of TSP, 1,14,600 tonnes of DAP, and 1,89,400 tonnes of MOP were on transit. Formation of fertilizer monitoring cells in the 64 districts was also informed in Parliament.Under the current government, the fertilizer management system emphasises an integrated approach comprising demand assessment, district-wise allocation, advance importation, monitoring of stocks in transportation, and field-level oversight. The Comprehensive Policy on Fertiliser Dealer Appointment and Distribution 2026, gazetted on August 27, is also a part of this management framework.A recent document from the Ministry of Agriculture highlighted the specific consideration given to the distinct requirements of all 64 districts for the upcoming month of October. Stakeholders believe that ensuring full allocation against the demand for TSP, DAP, and MOP will not only mitigate the risk of supply shortages but also improve farmers' access to fertilizer.

Fertilizer is a key input for agricultural production. Consequently, the current initiative, which involves determining district-wise demand and making advance allocations prior to the production season, alongside ensuring timely imports and adequate stocks, is viewed as a significant example of the government's proactive planning and supply management capabilities in the agricultural sector.

Allocations based on demand, advance imports, and direct field-level monitoring have emerged as the most significant changes in fertilizer management since the incumbent government assumed office. Stakeholders considered the 100 percent district-wise fertilizer allocation for October as a practical implementation of the BNP government's agriculture-friendly policies.Md Abdur Rahim, Director General of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), told BSS that demand-based planning and advance preparation are the current government's most crucial initiatives in fertilizer management. He said it is not merely a matter of importing or stockpiling fertilizer but factors such as the specific quantity required in an area, the timing of the demand, and the logistics of delivery to farmers are being considered in an integrated manner. Simultaneously, Rahim said, fertilizer supply and distribution activities at the field level are being closely monitored.He said the government, prioritising the interests of farmers, will not allow any shortage of fertilizer to occur.

Officials from DAE are also regularly monitoring the fertilizer situation on the ground, he added. When asked, Agriculture Secretary Md Salim Khan said the government had taken proactive and coordinated plans from the very beginning to ensure fertilizer availability when farmers need it. District-wise allocations are being made based on an assessment of

actual field-level demand, he said.

Salim Khan said for October, 100 percent of the required allocations for TSP, DAP, and MOP fertilizers have been ensured and there is no reason for farmers to worry about fertilizer supply this season.

He said while some initial disruptions occurred due to distribution irregularities in certain areas, the problem was quickly resolved through government intervention and administrative measures.

The agriculture secretary explained that the government's primary objective in fertilizer management is to ensure that farmers receive the proper amount of fertilizer at the right time and at a fair price.

To this end, he said, every stage-import, stockpiling, district-wise allocation, transportation, and distribution- is being monitored in a coordinated manner. Instructions have been issued to take immediate action if any shortages or irregularities are reported, he said.Salim Khan said that ensuring fertilizer supply has been given top priority to maintain agricultural production. As part of the current government's agriculture-friendly policies, demand is assessed and allocations are finalised well before the production season begins, he said.He said these government initiatives would not only boost farmers' confidence but also sustain productivity through timely fertilizer use.Salim Khan said, "if the well-being of farmers is ensured, the agricultural sector will also remain healthy, and the nation's food security and economy will be strengthened."

He said the Ministry of Agriculture is sincerely working to protect the interests of farmers.

Zubaida Rahman visits

with special needs and help them become economically self-reliant. Later, Dr Zubaida Rahman visited BAFWWA Crafts and Boutique, the long-term training project and the training activities of BAFWWA Industrial Home under the BAFWWA Corner. She observed various handicraft products made by the trainees.At the end of her visit, Zubaida Rahman attended a cultural programme arranged with the participation of students of Blue Sky School and BAFWWA Golden Eagle Nursery.The children with special needs performed songs, dances, a fashion show and other items before the chief guest.Zubaida Rahman highly appreciated the humanitarian initiatives of BAFWWA in providing education and therapy facilities to children with special needs and helping women become self-reliant.Later, the students of Blue Sky School joined Zubaida Rahman in a photo session.On behalf of BAFWWA and OWCC, she was presented with a memento and a special gift—a portrait of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.BAFWWA and OWCC Saleha Khan delivered the welcome address at the programme. A video highlighting the activities of BAFWWA and Blue Sky School was also screened.Principal of Blue Sky School Group Captain Mohammad Nur Ullah (PSC) spoke at the programme. Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Administration), vice presidents of the BAFWWA central committee, representatives of BAFWWA's AK Khandker and Bashar branches, and senior officials of the Bangladesh Air Force were present.

Death Claim Cheques Distributed

worker Ramzan Molla, along with other local dignitaries. At the programme, Sonali Life Insurance PLC handed over death claim cheques to the family members of two deceased policyholders.

Later, a special Dua and Munajat were offered seeking the eternal peace and forgiveness of the deceased and blessings and strength for the bereaved family members.

Tragic death of 5-year-old

The deceased Utsh Sarkar was the only child of Uttam Sarkar from that village.

Relatives reported that after waking up in the morning, Utsh's mother was busy with household chores. During this time, the child walked out of the house unnoticed. At some point during his walk, it is believed that he fell into a pond of a neighbouring house and drowned. Meanwhile, after not finding their child at home, family members began searching everywhere. During the search, they noticed the child's sandal floating in a local pond, which raised their suspicions. Later, a search of that pond led to the recovery of the child's lifeless body from under the water.

The environment in the area has become heavy with the cries of the parents who have lost their only child. This tragic accident has cast a deep shadow of mourning over the entire Daspara village.

BGB Foils Cattle Smuggling at

smugglers abandoned the cattle and fled back across the Indian border to evade arrest.

?BGB members subsequently seized the six abandoned Indian cows from the spot. The estimated market value of the recovered cattle is Tk.4.10,000, according to BGB.

?Reiterating its "zero tolerance" policy against illegal entry, drug trafficking, and cross-border smuggling, a BGB official stated that border guards remain on high alert 24/7 to curb border crimes. BGB also urged local residents to cooperate by providing timely information to combat smuggling and criminal activities.

Training Begins in Bagerhat

Badal said, “There is interest in boxing among students in Bagerhat. With proper training and regular practice, quality athletes can be produced from here. Our goal is to engage students with boxing from the primary level and prepare them for national-level competitions in the future.”

Masum Hawladar, President of Bagerhat Upazila Press Club and Chief Guest, said, “There is no alternative to sports to keep the youth away from drugs and criminal activities.” He further added, “Learning boxing techniques increases self-confidence and removes fear from the mind. Boxing is also extremely beneficial for the body. Regular boxing practice improves heart function and blood circulation, helps control blood pressure, and reduces the risk of heart disease. At the same time, regular boxing relieves body fatigue and increases the strength and stamina to work for long hours. Therefore, students need to be involved in sports along with their studies.”

Special Guest Tanvir Soheli said, “Boxing is not just a sport. It is an effective means of self-defense, discipline, and building self-confidence. If students are given regular opportunities for sports, they will stay away from drugs and various negative activities. We hope that this boxing training program in Bagerhat will play a role in producing talented athletes at the national level in the future.”

Coach Mahbubur Rahman Badal also informed that after successfully completing the first phase of training, there are plans to gradually bring more students under this program.

JS Speaker for forming

Bangladesh's Liberation War, paying tribute to his memory.Hafiz Uddin also said the people of Bangladesh love democracy and have never accepted authoritarian rule, adding that they have continued to uphold their respect for democratic values.During the meeting, the French parliamentary delegation laid emphasis on forming a France-Bangladesh parliamentary committee and expanding parliamentary diplomacy through friendship groups.The delegation also stressed the need to increase French economic investment in Bangladesh, particularly in exploration and drilling for oil and gas in the country's coastal areas.The French parliamentary delegation, on behalf of the French Senate, invited the Speaker and the

Bangladesh parliamentary delegation to visit France. Members of the French parliamentary delegation, officials of the French Embassy in Dhaka and relevant officials of the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat were present at the meeting.

SP Seeks Journalists’ Support

beside us with accurate and responsible reporting.

?Praising the sports event, he added that sports are essential for relieving stress from busy professional lives and fostering camaraderie. He emphasized organizing such constructive recreational events on a larger scale in the future.

?Chaired by TCJA President Enamul Haq and moderated by General Secretary Ashrafur Alam Chowdhury, the event commenced with a welcome address by the convener of the sports competition, Sanjib Dey Babu.

?Shah Nawaz Riton, Bureau Chief of Channel One, spoke as the special guest. Among others who addressed the gathering were TCJA Organizational Secretary Saiful Islam, Office Secretary Saimun Al Murad, former President Safiq Ahmed Sajib, and former Vice-President Ali Akbar. ?Executive committee members and general members of TCJA were present at the event. Following the discussion, the guests handed over prizes to the winners of the first round of the indoor sports competition.

22-day nationwide hilsa fishing ban starts from Oct 8

Staff correspondent

A 22-day ban on catching hilsa across the country will begin from October 8 to ensure safe breeding of the national fish during its peak breeding season.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Taskforce Committee on Hilsa Resource Development held at the conference room of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock on Tuesday.

Fisheries and Livestock and Agriculture Minister Mohammad Aminur Rashid chaired the meeting, said a PID handout. Transportation, storage, marketing, buying, selling and exchange of hilsa will also remain prohibited nationwide during the ban period.A mother hilsa conservation campaign will be conducted during the period, while fishermen who refrain from fishing will receive food assistance under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme. Fisheries and Livestock Minister said there would be no compromise in protecting mother hilsa to ensure sustainable production of the fish. “Monitoring and drives must be strengthened in the major breeding grounds of hilsa including Barishal, Chandpur and Bhola.”

He stressed the need for coordinated efforts by district administrations, river police, Coast Guard and the Department of Fisheries to strictly enforce the fishing ban during the breeding season.

“If necessary, additional vessels and logistical support will be provided at the hotspots,” he said.The minister also called for increased monitoring at ice factories, fish landing stations and markets to prevent the marketing of illegally caught fish.He directed the authorities concerned to conduct strict drives to remove illegal fishing nets from breeding grounds including the Chandpur confluence.

“There must be no opportunity to catch or market fish during the prohibited period under any circumstances,” he said. He also expressed hope that continued coordinated efforts by all concerned agencies to protect mother hilsa would help increase hilsa production in the next season.State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sultan Salahuddin Tuku said the reasons behind the declining hilsa production must be identified through research.

Emphasising the need to curb illegal fishing nets, the state minister called for effective measures to stop their production and sale. He also urged fishermen's representatives to raise awareness among fishermen so that they do not purchase prohibited nets.The government is providing incentives to fishermen to keep them away from fishing during the ban, he said, adding that monitoring would be strengthened to ensure that the assistance reaches genuine fishermen. The state minister expressed concern that declining hilsa production had led to the need to import fish from abroad. “The reasons behind this situation need to be identified, and we must work together in a coordinated manner.” He said an integrated action plan would be formulated in the coming days to protect hilsa as a national resource and a geographical indication (GI) product and to increase its production.

Govt plans specialised Blue Economy university in Cox's Bazar

Staff correspondent

The government is planning to establish a specialised public university in Cox's Bazar dedicated to the blue economy, following a directive from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to the Education Ministry. Home Minister and Cox's Bazar-1 lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed said the prime minister gave the directive after receiving a semi-official letter from him. He shared the information on his verified Facebook page on Monday afternoon, along with the letter he had sent to the prime minister. The proposed institution, to be named University of Blue Economy Sciences and Technology, would focus on higher education, research, practical training and the cultivation of skilled human resources to effectively utilise the marine resources of the Bay of Bengal.In the letter sent to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on September 13, it is stated, “To fully leverage the marine resources with significant potential in Bangladesh's Bay of Bengal and coastal areas, there is a pressing need for specialized higher education, research, practical training, and skilled human resources-domains where a considerable gap still exists.”“In this context, the establishment of a specialized university called the 'University of Blue Economy Science and Technology' (UBEST) in Cox's Bazar could represent a highly

important initiative in the national interest,” the letter read.The letter further elaborated, “Creating a fully operational new university from the ground up demands considerable time, financial resources, and dedicated infrastructure. Given this reality, the initial academic and practical activities of the new university could be swiftly initiated by leveraging the existing infrastructure, laboratories, research facilities, scientific personnel, training environment, and coastal research framework of the 'Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute (BORI)' situated in Cox's Bazar.”The letter said this strategy would facilitate the swift establishment of a research-focused, practical and realistic university without the need to wait for the development of long-term infrastructure. If this initiative is executed, it will guarantee the optimal utilisation of the existing national research infrastructure related to the blue economy while concurrently creating an effective institution to nurture skilled human resources for the sector.When asked for his perspective on the issue, Prof Dr Md Shahadat Hossain, Dean of the Faculty of Marine Sciences and Fisheries at the University of Chattogram, told BSS that the Bay of Bengal is vital to Bangladesh's economy, biodiversity and livelihoods, making technology-driven institutional capacity essential for research and innovation.He said the proposed university in Cox's Bazar would promote research, innovation and skilled human resources for the blue economy, while supporting the government in marine resource management, coastal development, fisheries, marine spatial planning, pollution control and climate resilience.

School relocation dispute leaves Gaibandha char children’s education in limbo

Staff correspondent

Children in the remote char areas of Phulchari upazila have battled for generations more than poverty and distance to attend school. They have also had to contend with a shifting landscape as the Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers repeatedly swallow their homes, roads and educational institutions.Now, a dispute over the relocation of a primary school has added another obstacle, disrupting classes and leaving the education of scores of children uncertain.Angaridah Government Primary School, established in 1946 through the initiative of local residents, was intended to bring education closer to children living in the char areas of Gajaria Union. But the school has struggled to maintain a permanent home. Repeated river erosion has forced it to move several times over the decades. According to local residents, the school has been washed away or relocated at least 12 times since its establishment.Following the devastating floods and erosion of 1988, the school was re-established in Angaridah char.Yet, once again, the relentless advance of the Jamuna has forced it to abandon its latest location. A school on the move As the river continued to eat away at the school grounds, its structure was dismantled. Educational materials, furniture and corrugated iron sheets were also removed and transported to a remote part of nearby Ziadanga char, where the school was reassembled. The move, however, has sparked a dispute between two groups of local residents.Some villagers alleged that an influential group deliberately selected the isolated location to serve its own interests.They argued that the site is far from the main settlement and unsuitable for a school serving children from the wider community.Others have demanded that the school be moved to a more populated area, closer to the children who need it most. He disagreement has created tension in the community and disrupted the normal functioning of the school.

In an effort to keep education going, teachers have set up a makeshift shed at the new site and resumed classes. But the temporary arrangement has done little to resolve the problems facing students and teachers.

Learning under a tin roof Attendance has reportedly dropped sharply since the school moved to the remote section of Ziadanga char. Many students are reluctant to make the journey to the new location.

For those who do attend, the learning environment is far from ideal. The tin-roofed structure stands on a sandy riverbank, where temperatures rise sharply during the day.Rain further disrupts classes, making it difficult for students to concentrate and teachers to continue lessons, said students and their guardians.The shortage of space has compounded the problem. Three classes are being conducted simultaneously in the same room, creating an environment in which effective teaching.



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Saudi oil pipeline to remain largely shut for weeks after drone attack



International Desk

A key Saudi oil pipeline hit in a drone attack is expected to remain largely out of service for several weeks while repairs are carried out, two regional officials said Monday. The disruption comes as Yemen’s Houthi rebels seized more islands along major Red Sea shipping routes, putting further pressure on Saudi Arabia’s ability to export oil. Oil prices rose more than 2% amid concerns over global supplies and the impact of the developments on the world’s biggest oil exporter. Saudi Arabia has already shifted much of its oil exports away from the Persian Gulf because Iranian attacks have disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the gulf’s only outlet. The kingdom has relied heavily on its 1,200-kilometre East-West Pipeline to transport crude from Gulf ports to Yanbu on the Red Sea, where the oil can be loaded onto tankers for export. Saudi authorities shut the pipeline after Thursday’s attack, which Riyadh blamed on drones launched by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq. Repair work, including damage at a major pumping facility, could take three to five weeks, the officials told The Associated Press. The pipeline could operate at reduced capacity during the repairs, although it was unclear how much oil would be transported. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. The pipeline has transported an average of 2.6 million to 4 million barrels of oil per day since late August, according to an analysis released Monday by Norway-based Rystad Energy. If the pipeline is completely shut, that volume could be removed from the global market. Brent crude prices reached \$109 a barrel, which Rystad said showed that markets were increasingly factoring in a major supply loss. Saudi oil giant Aramco, which operates the pipeline, did not immediately respond to an AP request for comment. The government-run Center for International Communication said it was looking into AP’s questions about the repair timeline. Houthi island seizures raise shipping concerns. Meanwhile, Yemen’s Iranian-backed Houthi rebels expanded their presence near key Saudi shipping routes by capturing the strategic Greater and Lesser Hanish islands, government and Houthi officials said Monday. The islands are about 160 kilometres north of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a vital maritime passage linking the Red Sea with the open ocean and routes to Saudi Arabia’s major Asian markets. The Houthi advance also places the rebels about 32 kilometres from a US military base in Djibouti, on the opposite side of the strait. For more than a month, the Houthis have attacked Saudi oil facilities and shipping in the Red Sea, increasing pressure on global oil prices and strengthening Iran’s position in its war with the United States. The rebels appeared to face little resistance from Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces. Two government officials and a Houthi official said hundreds of government-allied troops had

withdrawn from the Hanish islands before the rebels moved in. Last week, the Houthis captured the port city of Mokha and Mayun island, which lies inside the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Yemeni government forces are now trying to regroup. The military said Sunday that it carried out airstrikes on Houthi positions in Mokha, the coastal town of Dhubab and other areas of Taiz province. A Houthi spokesperson said the rebels fired dozens of missiles and drones at the King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait in southern Saudi Arabia, targeting hangars, radar facilities and ammunition depots. Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree did not say when the attacks occurred. Saudi military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki said the attacks hit civilian areas in Khamis Mushait and nearby cities, injuring 13 civilians and damaging several homes and vehicles. He did not say whether the air base was struck. Saudi export options narrowing Saudi oil production has already fallen sharply during the Iran war. The International Energy Agency said output dropped to about 6 million barrels per day in August from nearly 10 million barrels per day in September last year. Rystad Energy said the East-West Pipeline had carried most of Saudi Arabia’s oil exports since the war began. When Houthi attacks on ships in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait began in late July, most tankers leaving Yanbu turned north through the Red Sea toward the Mediterranean. Their cargoes were then transported through the Suez Canal or an Egyptian pipeline. The longer route has significantly increased the time and cost of delivering Saudi oil to major customers in Asia. The Houthis have also expanded attacks on Saudi-linked shipping in the northern Red Sea. Rystad said a monthlong pipeline shutdown would cause a major disruption, making crude deliveries slower and more expensive. While the market could initially absorb the disruption, a longer closure would require a major reshuffling of global oil flows. Thousands flee renewed fighting in Yemen Fighting in Yemen is pushing the impoverished country toward another full-scale civil war after a truce that had largely kept the conflict quiet since 2022. As the Houthis advance along the Red Sea coast, they have also launched an offensive inland, particularly in Taiz province, a longtime center of fighting. The World Health Organization said more than 500 people were killed in Yemen over the past week, compared with nearly 200 the previous week. The Houthis have made rapid gains, capturing areas previously controlled by forces loyal to the internationally recognized government. The fighting has displaced nearly 94,000 people. “Many of them don’t have enough food or water as they had to flee with whatever they could carry. In some areas, whole villages have reportedly emptied,” said Khanzad Shah, acting head of Islamic Relief, a charity operating in the area. About 200 schools have been turned into shelters in southwestern Yemen to accommodate displaced families, said Basma Alloush, deputy director of communications at the International Rescue Committee. The renewed fighting threatens to restart a war that has devastated Yemen for more than a decade, killing over 150,000 people and pushing the country close to famine. The Houthis have controlled northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, and much of the country’s densely populated western heartland since 2014. The internationally recognized government, backed by various militias, controls southern and eastern areas, including the key port city of Aden.

Three killed in Saudi airstrikes in Yemen, Houthis say

International Desk

Saudi airstrikes killed three people, including two children, and wounded two others in Yemen’s Taiz province, a Houthi health ministry spokesperson said Tuesday. Anees al Asbahi said in a post on X that the strikes were carried out by Saudi warplanes. The claim could not be independently verified, and the Houthis did not say what was targeted. The reported strikes came as Houthi forces expanded their control over strategic areas in the Red Sea, including the Greater and Lesser Hanish islands, after capturing the port of Mokha and another strategic island last week. The developments are raising concerns over shipping through the Red Sea and could put further pressure on global oil supplies as disruptions continue in the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch said at least three Houthi attacks on commercial vessels between July 20 and Aug. 24 could amount to war crimes. The rights group urged the Houthis to immediately halt unlawful attacks on civilian ships. Oman’s Maritime Security Center said a Panama-flagged oil tanker, the El Gaia, was towed to port after being targeted. A fire broke out in its engine room, 23 crew members were evacuated and two remained missing. Separately, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visited Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, while Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan called for renewed diplomacy and the restoration of safe and uninterrupted passage through the Strait of Hormuz.



Muslim region in southern Philippines holds first parliamentary elections

International Desk

A predominantly Muslim region in the southern Philippines held its first elections for a regional parliament on Monday and Tuesday after years of delays, bringing it closer to self-rule following decades of insurgency and violence. Officials said voter turnout exceeded 80%, although five people were killed in election-related violence in the regional capital. Voting was also extended to a second day at some polling precincts following the discovery of a suspected cheating attempt. More than 20,000 soldiers and police officers were deployed to maintain security during the elections. Voters are electing 80 members of the regional parliament, who will elect a chief minister during their first session. The election results are expected to be announced by the end of Tuesday. Voting extended over suspected cheating Authorities extended voting for a second day in 36 of 86 precincts in Maluso town on Basilan island after discovering pre-filled ballots. New ballots were printed for around 16,000 affected voters and delivered late Monday, with polling kept open until 7pm Tuesday for those voters. Commission on Elections Chairman Erwin Garcia welcomed the high turnout and said those responsible for the suspected cheating would face charges for election sabotage. “The elections stand on generations of Bangsamoro struggle for homeland, identity, and self-determination, in the face of dispossession, marginalization, conflict and sacrifice,” Garcia said in an earlier statement. Mindanao recovering from decades of conflict The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was established under a 2014 peace agreement, replacing an earlier autonomous region with a larger, better-funded and more powerful territory. Since its creation, the region has been governed by an appointed transitional administration comprising former guerrilla leaders. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest Muslim rebel group, abandoned its demand for independence from the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines in exchange for greater autonomy. The group also promised to demobilize its around 40,000 fighters and help them return to civilian life. The region covers five provinces, three cities and 63 additional villages and has nearly 2.4 million registered voters. Around 150,000 combatants and civilians have died in the southern Philippines since the 1970s, while years of conflict have hindered development in the country’s poorest region. Mindanao was once regarded as a haven for al-Qaida and Islamic State militants amid bombings and kidnappings. A Philippine military offensive backed by the United States later weakened the militant groups. In May 2017, Islamic State-linked militants laid siege to Marawi, leading to five months of ground fighting and airstrikes. More than 1,100 people, mostly militants, were killed, while much of the city’s commercial and residential areas, including its mosque-dotted neighborhoods, was destroyed. “Whoever wins, hopefully we will see change,” said Sittie Ashuya L. H. Omar, a 22-year-old voter from Marawi. “Hopefully they can implement their promises.”



Serbian students enter election race, challenging Vucic

International Desk

University students who have led nearly two years of anti-government protests in Serbia formally entered the election race Monday, taking on populist President Aleksandar Vucic ahead of an early parliamentary vote. The student movement submitted its candidate list to state election authorities after a lively march through central Belgrade. Several thousand people joined the rally, applauding and chanting in support. The Oct. 25 election is seen as a major test for Vucic, whose Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) has remained in power for 14 years. The vote comes amid growing political tensions and widespread public dissatisfaction with the government. The protests began after a train station tragedy on Nov. 1, 2024, when 16 people were killed in the collapse of a concrete canopy in the northern city of Novi Sad. Students have demanded accountability, saying corruption contributed to poor renovation work at the station. The protests, held almost daily and at times drawing hundreds of thousands of people, have posed the biggest challenge to Vucic since his party came to power in 2012. Vucic has served as Serbia’s prime minister or president since 2014. Students have been demanding an early parliamentary election for more than a year. Vucic apparently waited until he believed his party was in a strong enough position to contest the vote. Students confident of victory Addressing Monday’s gathering, student leader Milica Popovic said the movement would prove that “the law exists in Serbia and that justice is not the privilege of the chosen few.” “You have told us not to give up and we haven’t,” she said. “It is now time for us to take over the institutions of this country.” Vucic has said he will resign as president on Sept. 27 to lead the SNS election campaign and could become prime minister if his party wins. He cannot seek another presidential term because Serbia’s constitution limits presidents to two terms. A separate early presidential election will be held. The student-backed candidate list includes university professors, teachers, experts and people from various professional backgrounds. The Belgrade crowd chanted “Victory” before marching toward the headquarters of Serbia’s national electoral commission. Demonstrators carried a huge banner reading “Students win” and a replica of the city’s famous Victor monument. Vucic on Monday dismissed his main opponents as a “nameless list” without a program or plans. He also accused them of running what he called an extensive campaign of lies against his government. Among the allegations, he referred to claims that authorities used a sonic weapon against peaceful protesters during a huge demonstration in Belgrade last March.



Thailand, Cambodia begin UN process to resolve maritime dispute

International Desk

Thailand and Cambodia began a United Nations conciliation process in Singapore on Tuesday to resolve a long-running dispute over maritime territory believed to contain significant reserves of natural gas and other hydrocarbons. The foreign ministers of the two Southeast Asian countries exchanged opening statements at the first meeting held under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides for compulsory conciliation in certain maritime disputes. Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuanketkeow and Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn led their respective delegations at the meeting with a five-member UNCLOS commission. The talks began Monday and are scheduled to continue through Wednesday. The dispute involves overlapping claims to an area believed to hold large and commercially exploitable deposits of natural gas and other hydrocarbons. Cambodia initiated the UNCLOS process in June after Thailand unilaterally ended a 25-year-old memorandum of understanding aimed at resolving the overlapping maritime claims. Thailand withdrew from the agreement following a sharp deterioration in relations with Cambodia and armed clashes between the two countries last year. The neighbors fought over disputed territory along their land border in July and December, leaving several dozen soldiers and civilians dead and displacing hundreds of thousands of people. Cambodia called for a peaceful settlement of the maritime dispute. The process, Prak Sokhonn said, should “serve the peoples of both nations and contribute to peace, cooperation and shared prosperity in the region.” He said Cambodia had decided to pursue the UNCLOS proceedings after considering other peaceful options, in line with its commitment to international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Sihasak said Thailand remained committed to international law and resolving disputes peacefully. He argued that the previous agreement had made little progress, with the two countries holding only two meetings over 25 years. Thailand wants to “give negotiations a fresh start,” Sihasak said, adding that Bangkok had offered Phnom Penh an opportunity for direct talks before Cambodia turned to the UNCLOS process. “Thailand stands ready to engage in this process constructively, with the aim of achieving, with the Commission’s assistance, a negotiated and equitable solution,” he said. A fragile ceasefire was agreed between the two countries in late December, but tensions have continued, with sporadic incidents and large-scale military deployments reported along the border.



Hundreds mourn 27 students killed in eastern Congo school fire

International Desk

Hundreds of people gathered at a mass funeral in eastern Congo on Monday to mourn 27 students who died in a fire that swept through two schools, as grieving families wept and officials laid wreaths and delivered speeches. The fire broke out last Thursday at a house in Bukavu before spreading to two neighboring schools, triggering a stampede as students tried to escape. At least 27 students were killed and dozens injured, according to local authorities. Moïse Lubala, a local neighborhood administrator, told The Associated Press that several students became trapped inside Furaha Secondary School and some suffocated. The cause of the fire remains unknown, while the densely populated area is filled with wooden houses. Medical workers were struggling to determine the exact number of injured because so many people were affected, Lubala said. Annunciat Kujiwabwinja Zagabe attended Monday’s funeral to say goodbye to her 13-year-old grandson, Tuonane Machara wa Kidogo.

“The last time I spoke to him, I urged him to study hard so that one day he could become like his teachers, and he was doing well at school,” she said through tears. She recalled that her grandson had reached eighth grade without failing a year. “He left home for school and simply died. It is horrific,” she said. Alice Ambika Musafiri, one of the teachers, also broke down as she remembered the tragedy. She said the voices of children crying for help continued to haunt her. “Ma’am, I’m being trampled!” she recalled the students shouting. Musafiri said she tried to rescue the children, but the crowd made it impossible to save everyone. “My children, I had no way to save you. I lacked the strength; that is why I saved who I could,” she told the AP as a friend supported her. Since February 2025, Bukavu has been under the control of M23 rebels. The Congolese government has struggled to regain control of the country’s east, where more than 100 armed groups are fighting for access to trillions of dollars in mineral resources vital to global technology industries.

Xi’s article on advancing basic research to be published Wednesday

International Desk

An article by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on strengthening basic research will be published on Wednesday. The article by Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, will be published in this year’s 18th issue of the Qushi Journal, a flagship magazine of the CPC Central Committee. Noting that basic research is the bedrock of the entire scientific system and a frontier area of global sci-tech competition, the article emphasizes further efforts to develop the country’s basic research to build China into a leading country in science and technology. Compared with global leaders in science and technology, China still lags behind in basic research, the article says, calling for stronger efforts and more concrete measures to strengthen basic research, enhance the country’s capacity for original innovation, and accelerate efforts toward greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology. The layout of basic research should be optimized, with the main directions and priority areas for basic research further clarified based on the country’s urgent and long-term needs, the article says. It also underscores the importance of promoting coordinated development of applied disciplines and basic disciplines, while encouraging integration among different disciplines and interdisciplinary research. The article calls for efforts to expand the basic research talent pool and provide greater support for young talent. It also stresses the importance of inspiring the imagination and curiosity of young people, so that more of them will regard pursuing basic research as a lifelong aspiration.



‘Bangladeshi feature films’Jaya Aar Sharmin’, ‘Mamun’ bring honours from Kolkata

Entertainment Desk

Bangladeshi feature film 'Jaya Aar Sharmin' and documentary 'Mamun: In Praise of Shadows' have won awards at the 5th World Film Festival Kolkata 2026, which concluded Sunday at Nandan in Kolkata, India. Directed by Piplu R Khan, 'Jaya Aar Sharmin' received the Bimal Roy Golden Award for Best Feature Film, while Makbul Chowdhury's 'Mamun: In Praise of Shadows' received a Jury Mention in the documentary section. Organised by the Eastern Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI), the six-day festival featured 38 films, including 19 feature films in competition from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Iran, Spain, Germany, Costa Rica, Portugal, Brazil, Venezuela and Uzbekistan. Bangladesh was represented in the feature-film competition by Jaya Aar Sharmin and Nurul Alam Atique's 'Manusher Bagan'. 'Mamun: In Praise of Shadows' was selected for the documentary section. The competition jury comprised Professor Ujjal Chakraborty, Dr Rita Dutta and Dr Pradeep Kenchanuru. The closing ceremony and awards presentation were held at Nandan-III on Sunday. Actor Jaya Ahsan, filmmaker Sudeshna Roy and Dr Sisir Sahana, professor at Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, attended the ceremony as guests of honour.

Other filmmakers, artists and industry professionals present included director Boban Govindan, producer M Rahman Lenin, actors Orchita Sporshia and Manoj Pramanik, cinematographer Joaher Musavvir Jyoti and music director Debojyoti Mishra. Producer Abu Shahed Emon expressed pride over 'Jaya Aar Sharmin's international recognition, saying its reception among critics and cinema audiences marked an encouraging moment for Bangladeshi cinema. Directed and co-written by Piplu R Khan, with Nusrat Islam Maati as co-writer, 'Jaya Aar Sharmin' is an 86-minute psychological drama set during the pandemic lockdown. The film explores the changing relationship and shifting power dynamics between an actress, played by Jaya Ahsan, and her domestic aide Sharmin, portrayed by theatre actor Mohsina Akhter. Tanjim Saiyara Totini appears in a guest role. The film was jointly produced by Abu Shahed Emon of Golpo Rajjo Films, Jaya Ahsan of C Te Cinema and Piplu R Khan of Applebox Films. Meanwhile, 'Mamun: In Praise of Shadows' centres on the life and work of renowned Ekushey Padak-winning Bangladeshi photographer Nasir Ali Mamun, who pioneered artistic portrait photography in the country during the 1970s. Festival Director Premendra Majumder said the programme was selected through a competitive curation process involving numerous international submissions.

Fiction director Maruf Hossain Sajib dies at 40

Entertainment Desk

Renowned fiction director and playwright Maruf Hossain Sajib died of cardiac complications early Tuesday. He was 40. He breathed his last at around 5 am, according to the Directors Guild Bangladesh. Sajib had been suffering from heart-relat-



ed complications and recently underwent treatment, after which he recovered, according to people close to him. The Directors Guild Bangladesh expressed deep shock and sorrow at his death in a condolence message issued Tuesday morning. "Directors Guild Bangladesh's respected member Maruf Hossain Sajib passed away yesterday at 5 am," the organisation said, praying for the salvation of his soul and extending condolences to his family. His namaz-e-janaza was held after Zuhr prayers at a mosque in Uttara on Tuesday. He was later buried at the Sector 12 graveyard, it said. The news of his death prompted an outpouring of grief from fellow directors and

actors. Actor Tawsif Mahub expressed shock at Sajib's sudden death, saying he had spoken to the director only recently about future work and plans. "It is difficult to believe that Maruf Hossain Sajib bhai is no longer with us," Tawsif wrote in a Facebook post, recalling their recent conversation and describing Sajib's death as a painful reminder of life's uncertainty. Actress Mehazabien Chowdhury recalled her interactions with Sajib during the years when she regularly worked in television dramas. "I didn't work with Maruf Hossain Sajib bhai very much, but I met him many times. When I used to regularly work in dramas, whenever I met him, we would talk about many things," she wrote. Actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba also mourned Sajib's death, writing, "Our beloved director Maruf Hossain Sajib is no more," and praying that Allah grants him Jannatul Ferdous. Director Jahid Preetom recalled Sajib's encouragement and support when they first met during a shoot in Uttara. Preetom described Sajib as a humble, sociable and realistic person who often encouraged fellow filmmakers and offered support whenever they needed it. Director Chayanika Chowdhury also expressed shock at his death, recalling Sajib's warm greetings whenever they met and his appreciation for her work. Sajib had worked in the television and online fiction industry for many years as a director and playwright. His notable works include 'Bilop', 'Babui Pakhir Basa', 'Rongin Kagoj', 'Adhar', 'Security Girl', 'Tomake Pawar Jonno', 'Hashi', 'Bikel Belar Chhad', 'Dushto Mishti Prem', 'Adorer Chand' and 'Jora Shaliker Ghor',



Opportunity to learn acting from Mosharraf Karim

Entertainment Desk

Many people think that he is a blessing for the country's acting world. He has proven himself in all mediums, from stage to TV, film or OTT. He continues to captivate the audience with fascination and amazement. He is Mosharraf Karim. This time, anybody can learn the art of acting from this actor. He will give important guidance from his long career experience. A day-long workshop will be held on September 25 at the Biswa Sahitya Kendra in the capital, organised by the Academy of Creative Professionals. The workshop is divided into two sessions. The first session will start at 4:00pm and will continue till 6:00pm. Playwright, director and drama teacher Dr Yusuf Hassan Arko will discuss in this session titled 'Theory of Acting'. The topics of his discussion are – mental and physical preparation for acting and performance, natural and stylised acting methods, character creation (Stanislavsky), tempo, rhythm and physical expression, and the role of musicality in acting.

Diljit makes history at Wembley as 1st Punjabi artiste

Entertainment Desk

On Saturday night, under the world-famous Wembley arch, five words rang out: "Punjabi Aa Gaye Wembley Oye!" Indian megastar Diljit Dosanjh famously starts all his concerts by announcing that "the Punjabis have arrived". But this time, it was a play on the usual catchphrase. Dosanjh is the first ever Punjabi singer to headline Wembley Stadium, the music venue has said. Addressing his fans, he reflected on the significance of the occasion.



Macaulay Culkin, ‘Schitt’s Creek’ stars honor Catherine O’Hara at Emmys

Entertainment Desk

Macaulay Culkin remembered Catherine O'Hara as more than the actor who played his mother in the "Home Alone" films. To him, she was simply "mama." Culkin joined O'Hara's "Schitt's Creek" co-stars Annie Murphy and Dan Levy on stage at Monday night's Emmy Awards for an emotional tribute to the acclaimed comic actor, who died Jan. 30 at age 71. "She wasn't just a wife to Bo (Welch) and mother to Matthew and Luke," Culkin said. "She was my mom. She was our mama, and by extension, she's all of our mama." Culkin urged viewers to call their mothers and recalled how O'Hara remained supportive of him decades after they worked together in two "Home Alone" films. O'Hara played Kate McCallister, the mother of Culkin's Kevin, in the 1990 original and its 1992 sequel. Both became popular holiday films and regular television favorites. "This is the best that we can do for her tonight. We're showing up for her," Culkin said. "She may have forgotten me twice, but we will always remember her." O'Hara died from a pulmonary embolism, with rectal cancer listed as an underlying cause. Her five-decade career included the Canadian sketch comedy series "SCTV," the "Home Alone" films, Christopher Guest's mockumentaries and her Emmy-winning role as Moira Rose on "Schitt's Creek." Singer-songwriter Noah Kahan performed during the in-memoriam segment, which honored O'Hara and other television industry figures who died over the past year. The tribute also remembered entertainment icon Dolly Parton, actor and filmmaker Rob Reiner, actor Isiah Whitlock Jr. and costume designer Bob Mackie, who died earlier Monday. Murphy, who played O'Hara's daughter Alexis Rose on "Schitt's Creek," remembered her co-star's distinctive laugh and the happiness she brought to audiences. "Catherine's laugh was a perpetual 'yes, and,'" Murphy said. "It challenged anyone who heard it to join in and be as delighted as she was, and she spread that delight

everywhere." Murphy said strangers across Canada shared their grief with her following O'Hara's death. She recalled receiving a note from a passenger on an Air Canada flight, getting a hug from a gas station attendant and meeting a woman who performed a combination of O'Hara's characters while Murphy was buying wine. "These are only a very few of the interactions I've been lucky enough to have that remind me how profoundly Catherine has impacted the world," Murphy said. "And



it's because she brought us joy." Levy, who co-created "Schitt's Creek" and played O'Hara's onscreen son David Rose, said one of the most important lessons he learned from her was to "always say yes," especially when it came to her creative ideas. He recalled how O'Hara helped develop Moira Rose into an unusual television character over the age of 60 who wore leather miniskirts and high heels and spoke in an unusual, sometimes difficult-to-understand accent. Levy also remembered her creative ideas, including Moira's large collection of wigs. "Say yes to the concept of a wig wall. Say yes to her asking to wear a wig as a hat. Say yes to her naming that wig," Levy said. "Say yes to giving her space to experiment and create. It will amaze you on a daily basis, and it will change your life." Levy also spoke about O'Hara's kindness and generosity away from the set. "Say yes to her dinner invites and her stories and her wisdom and her generosity," he said. "Those are the things you will hold on to the tightest. Always say yes to any opportunity to revel in the presence of greatness."

Badhon returns home, recounts Venice assault

Entertainment Desk

Actress Azmeri Haque Badhon returned to Bangladesh on Monday morning after recently being assaulted and harassed while attending the Venice International Film Festival in Italy. Badhon attended the Venice International Film Festival last week with the team of Rubaiyat Hossain's film The Difficult Bride. The film had its world premiere at Sala Darsena on Sep 6. She was assaulted and harassed after the premiere when she went out with family members. Badhon arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Monday, where she spoke to journalists about the incident and its aftermath. "Those who carried out the attack are actually putting themselves in trouble. They thought they would get away with it," Badhon said in response to a question. "It was not just verbal abuse from a distance, slogans or throwing water. They laid their hands on me. Their barbarity must stop; they are actually making their own place unsafe," she said. Badhon said the incident had also tarnished Bangladesh's image abroad. "My expatriate brothers behaved barbarically with me and attacked me in a very disgusting manner. Because of this, our country's name was tarnished on foreign soil," she said. "Foreigners may think that we are constantly fighting among ourselves as a nation and that whoever goes somewhere is attacked. That is simply unacceptable," she added. Badhon alleged that she was targeted because of her active role in the July-August 2024 student-led mass movement, and identified the attackers as supporters of the Awami League and the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League, whose activities are currently banned. Addressing supporters of the Awami League, she urged them not to blindly follow the party. "You can love and support a party, but please do not become blind followers. If you are held accountable yesterday, your family will suffer," she said. She also urged Awami League leaders to reconsider the political direction they were pursuing. "Being a major political party, you are cre-



ating a blueprint for what kind of politics you will pursue. Please do not create one that will make you ashamed in the future," Badhon said. Regarding the support she received following the attack, Badhon said the director of the Venice Film Festival, the Italian government, the Bangladesh government and the Bangladesh Embassy in Italy had helped her. However, she alleged that her own team had disowned her and barred her from participating in the remaining festival activities. "They disowned me and prohibited me from joining them for the rest of the festival. Later, although I was supposed to attend the Toronto International Film Festival, they also barred me from going there," she said. Among her co-actors, she said, Sunerah, Zayneen and Zayneen's mother had provided her with significant support. Badhon also expressed gratitude to the Bangladesh government, the prime minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their support following the incident. "Government officials contacted me on the night of the incident. The ambassador of Bangladesh in Italy was extremely supportive," she said. "The Italian government, the cultural minister, the undersecretary and the police department provided me with 24-hour protection every day. For security reasons, the director of the Venice Film Festival also arranged for me to stay at the Lido," she added. Badhon thanked people in Bangladesh and expatriate Bangladeshis for standing by her regardless of their political affiliations. "Alhamdulillah, Allah does everything for the best. I will never forget the support I received from people across the country, including supporters of both the opposition and the government, regardless of their political ideology, as well as expatriate Bangladeshis," she said.

Ladakh filmmaker Stanzin Jigmet wins gold at Student Academy Awards

Entertainment Desk

Ladakh filmmaker Stanzin Jigmet has won the Gold award at the 53rd Student Academy Awards for his film "The Dragon Letter," bringing international recognition to Indian cinema. The awards ceremony was held on Sept. 14 during the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). This year, the Student Academy Awards received 2,972 submissions from students representing 894 colleges and universities around the world, according to ANI. Jigmet had earlier shared a note on Instagram in August after the winners were announced. "The Dragon Letter @the-dragonletter has won a Student Academy Award 2026. From the remote village of Mulbekh in Ladakh, in the Indian Himalayas, to the Academy — this journey still



feels unreal," he wrote. He dedicated the award to his family, friends, cast and crew, as well as ESCAC, Pixel Challenger Films and everyone who supported him and his personal story. "Where we come from does not limit how far our stories can travel," Jigmet wrote. Academy CEO Bill Kramer, Directors Branch Governor and Academy Museum Trustee Jason Reitman, and Academy Foundation Board President and Casting Directors Branch Governor Kim Taylor-Coleman delivered remarks at the ceremony. Actor Gemma Chan, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Liz Garbus and actor Gael Garcia Bernal served as presenters. The winning Student Academy Award films will be eligible for consideration in three short-film categories at the 99th Academy Awards — Animated Short Film, Live Action Short Film and Documentary Short Film.



Asian Games set for liftoff but will everyone have a bed?



Sports Desk
The Asian Games open in Japan on Saturday with 2028 Olympics places up for grabs, fast-rising talents of world sport in action and thousands of athletes staying on a cruise ship in typhoon season. More than 17,000 competitors and officials are expected at the continent's biggest sporting spectacular, which takes place in Nagoya and the wider Aichi prefecture until October 4. The number of participants -- more than the Olympics -- has been a sore point for stretched-to-the-limit organisers, who initially expected 15,000 and have had to scramble to find accommodation for the rest. They opted from the start to house athletes in temporary accommodation in a bid to cut costs, ranging from a cruise liner and wooden containers to hotel rooms. Organisers say that the 20th edition of the Games, which were first held in 1951, will be "the most spectacular for generations". Between 4,000 and 5,000 athletes and officials will stay on the Italian cruise ship Costa Serena, which usually features 571 cabins, seven swimming pools, eight restaurants and nine bars. Cruise ships have been used previously as accommodation at international sporting events, but never on this scale. The unusual accommodation plans have been met with concern by some countries, with India even building their own replica container huts to prepare athletes for their stay. On Monday, South Korean sports officials branded the facilities as "the worst" accommodation ever at the Games and said the beds were too short. With just days to go, a Korean Olympic committee official also told AFP that there was "a serious shortage of accommodation". - Rain, go away - Organisers are adamant that everyone will have a bed and confident that the typhoon season that usually visits Japan in September and October will not dampen the party.

Weather has already disrupted preparations, with record rain-fall forcing athletes to evacuate their accommodation briefly last week. Rainwater also seeped into some competition venues, although organisers said there was no serious damage. More rain is forecast this week. Athletes from 45 countries and territories will compete in more than 40 sports across the two weeks. Basketball and football are already under way, with several more events set to start before Saturday's glittering opening ceremony. As always at the Asian Games, Olympics staples such as athletics and swimming will sit side-by-side with regional favourites like sepak takraw

and kabaddi. In a bid to attract younger viewers there will be eSports, break-dancing and BMX cycling. Padel, the fast-growing racquet sport, and MMA will make their Asian Games debuts. The Games will function as qualifiers for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics in seven sports including surfing, tennis, archery and squash. Among those competing will be Philippine tennis sensation Alexandra Eala and a pair of prodigies in 15-year-old Indian cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and 13-year-old Chinese swimmer Yu Zidi. "I love playing and competing with the Philippine team," said Eala, who is skipping the China Open to take part. - Gold rush - Taiwan boxer Lin Yu-ting will also be there, two years after she won Paris Olympics gold in the middle of a major gender row that saw her eligibility questioned. Hosts Japan will look to their Olympic champions for success, with gymnast Shinnosuke Oka and javelin thrower Haruka Kitaguchi named in their team. North Korea will have more than 100 athletes competing across 14 sports, aiming to "bring joy to Marshal Kim Jong Un". China will again expect to top the medals table after winning a whopping 201 golds and 383 medals on home soil in Hangzhou at the Covid-delayed Games in 2023. They will send more than 800 athletes, including 36 Olympic champions. "We will showcase China's standard and strength on the regional and global stage," said diver Wang Zongyuan. Sooryavanshi will be part of an India cricket team looking to make a statement before the sport returns to the Olympics in LA after an absence of 128 years. India could face bitter rivals Pakistan in the final at Nagoya's new purpose-built cricket ground. Reports of tents serving as dressing rooms and distant washroom facilities have left some of the top teams unimpressed.

Sunderland embark on European adventure after decades in doldrums

Sports Desk
Sunderland will walk out at the Stadium of Light on Wednesday for their first European match in 53 years -- the latest milestone in a remarkable recovery for a club that spent decades in the doldrums. Just over four years ago the Black Cats were languishing in League One -- the third tier of English football. But they won promotion to the Championship in 2022 and climbed into the Premier League via the play-offs in May 2025, finishing a surprise seventh in their first season back in the big time. The northeast club have a storied history --



only six clubs have more top-flight English titles -- but the sixth and last of those came way back in 1936. Sunderland were a byword for glamour in the 1950s, dubbed the "Bank of England club" due to their heavy spending. But they had relatively little to show for their outlay and last won a major trophy in 1973, when they beat Leeds in the FA Cup final. Despite their prolonged stagnation, the club, about 12 miles (19 kilometres) from bitter rivals Newcastle, remained one of the best supported in England, attracting crowds of 30,000-plus even in League One. Now the 49,000-capacity Stadium of Light, opened in 1997, is staging Premier League football again and preparing to host continental football for the first time. The European journey is rich reward for Kyril Louis-Dreyfus, son of the late Marseille owner and billionaire Robert Louis-Dreyfus, who bought a stake in the club in 2021 and has since increased his shareholding. The appointment of Regis Le Bris as head coach in June 2024 proved a masterstroke -- the Frenchman took the club back into the Premier League at the first attempt and they defied the odds last season.

Sunderland, led by inspirational captain Granit Xhaka, are now gearing up to face AZ Alkmaar after a patchy start to their season. "It's a symbol for the club. We are getting better, the momentum is big and for our fans it is going be crazy to be fair," Le Bris told TNT Sports. "We are really proud to be in this position. We earned this opportunity last season with a great season. We had tough moments but at the end we stayed consistent." He added: "It's important to show our desire, to show the city, our togetherness, the connection with our fans." - Sunderland joy - For fans of Sunderland, the journey in recent years has been dizzying. "Supporting Sunderland has gone from being a solemn duty, which you used to curse the misfortune of your post-code and/or your parents for, to something that, for the first time in generations, is bringing joy to people's lives," Michael Lough wrote on the Wise Men Say website. "Usually, the higher up the pyramid you go, the hollower and more soulless the experience becomes, and the wider the disconnect between the fans and the players grows. "Regis Le Bris likes to use the word 'connected' in his press conferences, and I can't remember the last time the city, the players, the fans and the club felt this level of connection." Joining Sunderland in the Europa League this season are Bournemouth, who are playing continental football for the first time in their history. Andoni Iraola led the southcoast club to a sixth-place finish last season but then left for the Liverpool hot seat, meaning Marco Rose will be in charge. Bournemouth, who travel to Spain to face Real Sociedad on Thursday, are yet to win in the Premier League this season despite leading in all four games after developing a frustrating habit of conceding late goals. "Everyone here in Bournemouth is looking forward to this game," said German coach Rose. "It's going to be a special night for the club against top opposition. I'm really proud to be part of this." A third English club, Crystal Palace, are in the Europa League courtesy of winning the UEFA Conference League last season. Premier League clubs have dominated the competition in recent seasons thanks to their vast resources with Aston Villa and Tottenham winning the Europa.



Kent lose Hasan Mahmud ahead of crucial promotion run-in

Sports Desk
Kent's Director of Cricket Simon Cook said today that the team will miss the service of Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud as they have been in contention to move to Division one in the County Championship. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) recalled Hasan to manage his workload ahead of the upcoming tight international schedule. "We're disappointed to have lost Hasan's services for the County Championship run-in, but we respect the decision made by the BCB after constructive talks, and wish him well this Winter," Cook said in Kent's website today. However, another Bangladesh fast bowler Syed Khaled Ahmed will continue to play for Kent. "Whilst he will be a big miss, both of our other overseas bowlers, Keith Dudgeon and Khaled Ahmed, remain available for these last two matches of the Summer," Cook added. Kent will be without Hasan Mahmud for their final two County Championship matches of the season. The 26-year-old pacer took 26 wickets in four Championship appearances, helping Kent climb to third place in Division Two. He also claimed four wickets in the Vitality Blast, finishing his county stint with 30 wickets in seven matches across the two competitions. The BCB has opted to reduce Hasan's workload with Bangladesh preparing for the.

BHF to host inaugural Warriors Handball League

Sports Desk
The Bangladesh Handball Federation is set to organize the inaugural Warriors Handball League (Men)- from September 20 to 22, featuring Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Bangladesh Ansar, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Handball A team. All matches of the three-day competition will be held at Shaheed (Captain) M. Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium in the capital. The league will see each team play the other three teams. The team with the highest points at the end of the league stage will be declared champions, while the second-placed team will finish runners-up. The champions will receive Taka 30,000, while the runners-up will get Taka 20,000 as prize money. The league is expected to provide handball players with regular competitive opportunities, enhance their skills and capabilities, and contribute to the development and promotion of handball at the national level.

SAFF Championship fixture schedule revealed

Sports Desk
The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) has officially unveiled the fixture schedule for the SAFF Championship, with Bangladesh set to host the region's premier football tournament from November 5 to 17. Host Bangladesh have been placed in Group A alongside Bhutan and Sri Lanka and will begin their campaign against Bhutan on November 5. Bangladesh will play their second and final group match against Sri Lanka on November 11.

Shanto sees BPL as platform for emerging cricketers

Sports Desk
National Test captain Nazmul Hossain Shanto has expressed his excitement about the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 tournament, citing it as an important platform for players to prove themselves and emerging cricketers to make their mark. Shanto shared his thoughts in a video released in the official BPL page, recalling his long association with the tournament and the thrill he feels ahead of each season. "By the grace of Allah, I have been playing in the BPL for many years. Every year, whenever I hear that the BPL is going to start, there is a different thrill. This is a very big platform for us as players. If we can perform well there, it always brings something positive for ourselves and our careers," he said. For Shanto, however, the BPL is about more than individual performance. He believes the tournament plays a vital role in shaping the future of Bangladesh cricket by providing opportunities for young and emerging players to showcase their talent. "BPL is a very big tournament for our country. Every year, we see several emerging young players get the opportunity to play here. So it is a very important platform for us," he added. According to Shanto, performing well in a major tournament like the BPL can boost players' confidence and have a positive impact on their careers. There was some uncertainty surrounding the next edition of BPL as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) wants to take time in an effort to redesign the tournament and make it free from the controversies.



Bangladesh aim to improve performance against Korea Republic

Sports Desk
Bangladesh women's national football team captain Maria Manda said they gained valuable experience and learned a great deal from their previous group match against stronger opponents DPR Korea at the 20th Asian Games. "We have to keep moving forward and prepare ourselves to compete against stronger teams. We need to work harder, improve our performance and be better prepared for the challenges ahead," Maria said in a video mes-



Robi, BCB launch nationwide search for bowling stars

Sports Desk
Robi Axiata, in partnership with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), yesterday launched "Robi Bowler Hunt", a nationwide talent-discovery initiative to identify promising male and female fast bowlers and spinners from across the country. The initiative was launched at the BCB headquarters at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, said a press release. Through a series of trials across the country, "Robi Bowler Hunt" will give aspiring bowlers an opportunity to showcase their skills and pursue a pathway towards professional cricket. The nationwide trial programme will begin in Sylhet on September 27 and cover all divisional cities, with Dhaka hosting two trials, taking the total number of trials to nine. Following the divisional trials, a select number of bowlers from each location will be invited to a final camp in Dhaka. Winners selected by the BCB will be enrolled in the board's player development and grooming programme for advanced training and mentoring. Registration for the hunt will be available through the "My Robi" and "My Circle Apps" following the launch, with participants able to register until the day before the trial in their

respective locations. The hunt will feature an expert judging panel including former Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed and former West Indies fast bowler Corey Collymore, along with several former Bangladesh national cricketers. Current and former national team players will attend both the divisional trials and the final round. Speaking at the launch, Robi Managing Director (MD) and CEO Ziad Shatara said cricket was one of Bangladesh's greatest passions and that the country had untapped bowling talent in every corner. "Through 'Robi Bowler Hunt', we are providing aspiring fast bowlers and spinners, both male and female, with a nationwide platform to showcase their skills." He said, "In partnership with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, this initiative aims not only to discover promising talent but also to create a pathway for their future development." BCB President Tamim Iqbal Khan said the initiative would contribute to identifying and developing new talent for Bangladesh cricket. "Bangladesh's continued success in cricket depends on discovering and developing new talent." "Robi Bowler Hunt" will help identify promising fast bowlers and spinners, both male and female, from across the country," he added.



Dodgers clinch playoff berth in bid for third straight World Series

Sports Desk
The Los Angeles Dodgers, seeking a third straight World Series crown, booked their playoff berth Monday with a 4-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds. With a 91-59 record and 12 games remaining in the regular season, the Dodgers are now assured of at least a wild card series place, as they pursue a historic three-peat as MLB champions. The Dodgers are currently in position for one of the National League's top-two seeds -- who receive first-round byes and hosting rights in the division series -- along with the Milwaukee Brewers, who are also assured of post-season action. Over in the American League, the Tampa Bay Rays have already qualified. The free-spending Dodgers beat the New York Yankees in the 2024 World Series and triumphed over the Toronto Blue Jays last year. Having added outfielder Kyle Tucker in the off-season and two-time Cy Young Award-winning pitcher Tarik Skubal last month, the Dodgers are favorites to complete their hat-trick. They could become the first National League club to win the World Series three years in a row and the first since the Yankees from 1998-2000. But reaching the playoffs for a 14th straight season has not been all plain sailing. Having reached the All-Star break leading Arizona by 11.5 games in the NL West division -- by far the largest margin for any division leader -- the Dodgers suffered a slump in form. Two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani has been derailed by injuries, and is not expected to pitch again this season, while his batting form has also dipped. But a recent season-best run of eight straight victories restored the Dodgers' substantial lead at the top of the NL West. Their closest rivals for a top-two seed are the NL East's Atlanta Braves. Kyle Tucker and Teoscar Hernandez each hit home runs in the Dodgers' comfortable Monday night victory in Cincinnati.



their opening group match.



Demolition of illegal structures built on occupied land in the hospital area and the Roads and Highways Department in Faridpur



Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

The district administration has demolished over two hundred illegal structures built on government land occupied in the area of Faridpur Medical College Hospital and the Roads and Highways (RHD) department. The operation was conducted on Tuesday (15 September) from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM under the leadership of Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Faridpur Sadar Upazila. According to administration and local sources, the illegal establishment of shops on government land had reduced the normal width of the road, causing severe obstacles for patients and general pedestrians accessing the medical college hospital. As a result, the district administration took this coordinat-

ed step to alleviate the long-standing suffering of patients and their relatives seeking services. The operation began from the front of Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Subsequently, the demolition activities were extended to the land under RHD jurisdiction up to the turning point of the Bhanga-Faridpur Goalchamat road, passing through the River Research Institute area. All temporary shops, along with semi-permanent structures, were demolished using bulldozers. Confirming the operation, Assistant Commissioner Mohammad Shafiqul Islam stated that this step was taken to free government land from illegal occupation and to ensure smooth access for the general public in the hospital area. The district administration's demolition operation will continue in the public interest. During the demolition operation, a large number of members from the Roads Department, district police, RAB, and Ansar forces were present to maintain law and order. For this demolition operation, the general public expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of Faridpur Medical College Hospital, Shama Obaid, MP for Sadar 3 constituency, Chowdhury Nayab Yusuf, and Executive Engineer of the RHD, Khalid Saifullah Sardar.

3 get life terms, one seven years in Madaripur murder case

Madaripur Correspondent

A court here yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment and another to seven years in prison in Sekandar murder case in Rajair upazila of the district in 2014. Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 Nahidur Rahman Nahid pronounced the verdict this afternoon, Public Prosecutor (PP) of the court Emarat Hossain confirmed. The convicts are Liton Howlader, 30, Titon Howlader, 26, Bacchu Howlader, 40, and Atiar Howlader, 35, all sons of deceased Gafur Howlader of Basabari village in Rajair upazila. The court sentenced Liton, Titon and Bacchu to life imprisonment and fined each of them Taka 1 lakh. In default of payment, each will have to serve an additional one year in simple imprisonment. Atiar was sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka 10,000. In default, he will have to serve an additional two months in simple imprisonment. According to the case statement, Sekandar Ali Howlader and his nephew Kamrul Howlader came under attack near the western side of Basabari Bridge in Rajair on the evening of July 5, 2014. The prosecution alleged that the attack was carried out as part of a pre-planned assault stemming from a land dis-

One held with 69 rounds of shotgun cartridges in Pirojpur

Pirojpur Correspondent

Police have arrested a youth and recovered 69 rounds of shotgun cartridges, two walkie-talkies, locally made knives, toy pistol, fake police ID and weapon license cards from Shiyalkathi-Chowrasta area in Kawkhali upazila of the district. The arrested person was identified as Shawon Islam Opu, 24, son of late Shakhawat Hossain of Shiyalkathi area of the upazila. Kawkhali Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Anwar Hossain confirmed the matter this morning. Police arrested Shawon during an operation in Shiyalkathi-Chowrasta area on Monday evening. Later, they recovered the items from the rooftop of the two-storey building of his house. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the rooftop of Shawon's house and detained him. During the raid, they recovered 69 shotgun cartridges two walkie-talkies, two locally made knives, a toy pistol, two fake weapon licenses, a fake police ID card and a leather-made weapon cover.

Fokirhat Sadar UP Chairman Candidate BNP Leader Mushfiquzzaman Ripon

S A Kalam Fokirhat Bagerhat

In the upcoming local government election 2026, Sheikh Mushfiquzzaman Ripon, a senior and popular local political figure, is traversing the field as a candidate for the party nomination of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the historic 4th Fokirhat Sadar Union Parishad election of Fokirhat Upazila, Bagerhat District. Drawing on his long political life, experiences of imprisonment and oppression, struggles on the streets, and achievements as a two-time successful UP member and panel chairman, he has expressed his commitment to transform his union into a modern and equitable model union this time. Upon inquiry, it is known that Sheikh Mushfiquzzaman Ripon, born on January 26, 1973, spent his childhood and grew up in Fokirhat. His father, the late M A Salam, was the founding manager of Sonali Bank Fokirhat branch, established in 1978. In his political career, he started as the organisational secretary of the Upazila Jubo Dal from the Parvez-Tipu panel in 1992. Later, he was elected as the general secretary in 1995 and re-elected as the general secretary of the Upazila Jubo Dal through direct grassroots voting in the conference held in 2003. He was elected as the convenor of the Fokirhat Upazila Jubo Dal approved by the central BNP in 2021. Throughout his long political journey, he has been a victim of extreme political vengeance during the Awami League government while maintaining party loyalty. At least six political cases have been filed against him, and he has had to serve time in prison multiple times. For more than 12 years, he has lived a fugitive life away from his family. During this time, it is alleged that his 5-acre fish farm was looted and vandalised. As a result, he suffered severe political and financial damage. In addition to political adversity, he has gained widespread recognition in the area as a public representative and social worker. In



2002, he was first elected as a UP member from Ward No. 1 Attaki and later re-elected in 2013 with a huge vote. While serving as a UP member, he also efficiently performed his duties as a panel chairman. During his tenure, he played a significant role in the development of the area, including the soling of unpaved roads, construction of culverts, eviction of illegal occupation of Jatar Khal, improvement of market infrastructure, and distribution of social security allowances and ration cards to actual beneficiaries. Especially during the devastating cyclone 'Sidr' in 2007, he earned praise among the general public as a 'crisis resolver' by going door to door to create lists of the affected, arranging administrative assistance, and personally clearing fallen trees from the roads to restore communication. Additionally, as an athlete and organiser, his skills in the Khulna Second Division Football League and various fields in Bagerhat on behalf of the Attaki Sporting Club and Kazidia Monzur Smriti Sangha once captivated the audience. With the upcoming election in mind, Sheikh Mushfiquzzaman Ripon expressed his electoral vision, stating that he wants to transform Fokirhat Sadar Union into a drug-free, terrorism-free, and corruption-free model union. His main objectives include ensuring citizen services with transparency and accountability, adopting development projects through open ward meetings, improving educational and religious institutions, and freeing the youth from addiction to mobile and drugs to bring them back to the playground. Expressing complete optimism about receiving evaluation from the party's policy-making level, this senior leader stated that after many sacrifices, hard work, lawsuits, and unjust imprisonment, he believes that at this stage of his life, the party will evaluate him as the candidate for the paddy sheaf in Fokirhat Sadar Union. At the same time, he expressed hope to work as a servant of the people for one term with the support and love of all new and senior voters in the area.



One Arrested Red-Handed with Yaba from Nabingar Bazar

M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria During a special operation by Nabingar Police Station, police arrested a drug dealer named Rajon Mia with 172 pieces of yaba from under Islami Bank in the main market of Nabingar Sadar, Brahmanbaria. He is the son of Kalu Mia from East Para, Nabingar. The operation was conducted by a police team including SI Swarup Kanti Pal, PSI Sakib, ASI Pradip Das, and ASI Shafiqul Islam of Nabingar Police Station. The operation was carried out on Monday night, September 14, 2026. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Nabingar Police Station, Md. Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, said that Rajon Mia has multiple cases against him at the police station, including theft and drug cases. A regular case has been filed under the Narcotics Control Act and he has been sent to court.

A Unique Example of Humanity, Disabled Papon Gets His Job Back Through the Initiative of District Council Administrator Alhaj Sirajul Islam Siraj

M. Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria.

District Council Administrator and General Secretary of Brahmanbaria District BNP, Alhaj Sirajul Islam Siraj, has set a unique example of humanity in Brahmanbaria. Through his sincere initiative, Papon, a disabled man who had been unemployed for a long time, has gotten back his lost job. And after receiving his first salary, he rushed to meet the very person who opened the door to new hope in his life to express his gratitude. It is learned that Papon once worked at the Nabinagar Dakbanglo. However, during the caretaker government period, he lost his job for various reasons. That job was the only source of income for his family. After losing his job, the family was forced to live in extreme uncertainty, poverty and hardship. Learning about Papon's helpless situation over the years, District Council Administrator Alhaj Sirajul Islam Siraj took the matter seriously. Through necessary initiatives and sincere efforts, he arranged for Papon's job to be reinstated. As a result, the long wait came to an end and with the return of his livelihood, peace has returned to the family. Recently, after receiving his first salary, an emotional Papon paid a courtesy visit to the District Council Administrator. At that time,



he greeted him with utmost respect, expressed his gratitude and sought his blessings. That moment touched everyone's heart. This incident is not just the story of one person getting his job back; rather, it is a shining example of responsibility, humanity and standing by people. The story of Papon is a real-life example of how empathy and sincere initiative toward helpless people in society can change the life of a family. Locals have applauded the humanitarian initiative of District Council Administrator Alhaj Sirajul Islam Siraj, expressing the hope that Papon's new journey in life will be even more beautiful and prosperous.

CMP holds Open House Day to address public grievances

Chattogram Correspondent

Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday held an 'Open House Day' to hear and address complaints and concerns from people seeking police and administrative services. The event was held in the afternoon at the conference hall of the CMP Police Lines in the Dampara area. CMP Commissioner Hasan Md. Shawkat Ali heard the grievances of service seekers and directed the relevant officials to take prompt measures to resolve their problems. Several people received immediate solutions to their complaints and expressed satisfaction and gratitude to the police commissioner. CMP Additional Police Commissioners Wahidul Haque Chowdhury, Hossain Mohammad Kabir Bhuiyan and Mohammad Faisal Ahmed, Deputy Police Commissioners Md. Habibur Rahman, Sheikh Shariful Islam and Nesar Uddin Ahmed, along with other senior officials and city residents, attended the programme.



Server glitch halts prepaid meter recharging in 21 districts for 17 hrs

Khulna Correspondent

Prepaid electricity meter recharging under the West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZOPADICO) remained suspended for around 17 hours in 21 districts, including those in Khulna and Barishal divisions and Faridpur, due to a server glitch. The recharging service resumed fully at 6:10am yesterday (Tuesday), said a press release issued by Md Mahbubur Rahman, assistant manager (public relation officer) of WZOPADICO) Ltd's headquarter yesterday. The press release said the logical connection between the database server and the application server of the prepaid metering system was disconnected at 1:15pm on Monday (Sept 14). As a result, the vending operation, including prepaid meter recharging, was temporarily suspended, causing inconvenience to customers in different areas under WZOPADICO Ltd. A technical expert team of WZOPADICO Ltd's prepaid metering department worked continuously to restore the connection, and the vending operation became fully functional at 6:10am yesterday. In the press release, WZOPADICO Ltd authorities expressed sincere regret to prepaid meter customers for the difficulties and inconvenience they faced while trying to recharge their meters during the service disruption.

In Fakirhat, pickup driver killed in collision with unknown vehicle

S A Kalam, Fakirhat, Bagerhat

In Fakirhat, Bagerhat, pickup van driver Mo: Afzal Hossain (27) was killed in a collision with an unknown vehicle while waiting for assistance from another vehicle. This accident occurred in the Kakadanga area of Fakirhat on the Khulna-Dhaka highway. Deceased Afzal Hossain was the son of Mo: Monirul Islam from Guptipur village in Kalaria, Satkhira. Police report that on Tuesday (15 September) at around 2 AM, the driver set off from Gopalganj towards Satkhira with his pickup van. Upon reaching the Kakadanga area of Fakirhat, his pickup van experienced a malfunction. At that time, he stopped the pickup van by the roadside and was signaling to other vehicles for help when an unidentified vehicle hit him and quickly fled the scene. Upon receiving the news, the police from Mollahat Highway Station arrived at the scene and took him to the Upazila Health Complex. The on-duty doctor there declared Mo: Afzal Hossain dead. SI Mo: Ifsub Sheikh, in charge of Mollahat Highway Station, confirmed the matter. He stated that the body has been recovered. After the legal process, the body will be handed over to the family.

Jute production surpasses target in Sherpur, bringing smiles to growers

Sherpur Correspondent

The golden fiber has made a strong comeback in Sherpur this season as favourable weather and higher yields have helped jute production surpass the target, while better prices than last year have encouraged farmers to expand cultivation. According to the district agriculture office, favourable weather conditions have contributed to a bumper jute harvest this year, with the market value of jute produced in the district estimated at around Taka 40 crore. A visit to different fields in Sadar upazila found farmers busy harvesting jute, tying the stalks into bundles and soaking them in water for retting. Others were engaged in stripping the fiber from retted jute, while farmers were also drying the fiber on bamboo racks and wooden structures beside water bodies and collecting jute sticks. The prospect of getting good prices has doubled the farmers' activity in the fields compared to other times of the year, turning rural Sherpur into a festive scene of jute harvesting. The district agriculture office said jute cultivation had declined significantly in the district



about a decade ago. But the situation has gradually changed as average per-hectare yields have increased and farmers have become more interested in the crop. This year, jute was cultivated on 1,912 hectares against the target of 1,911 hectares, with an estimated production of 4,015 metric tonnes. So far, around 90 percent of the jute has been harvested. Farmers are getting an average yield of 10 to 12 maunds per bigha. Farmers said they spend around Taka 10,000 to Taka 12,000 to cultivate jute on one bigha of land and can earn a profit of around Taka 15,000 to Taka 20,000. They are also earning additional income by selling bundles of jute sticks for Taka 80 to Taka 100 each.

Road accident affected 64 families get Tk 2.16-cr in Rangpur

Rangpur Correspondent

As part of rehabilitation and assistance to the families affected by road accidents, grant cheques worth Taka 2.16 crore were distributed to 64 families of the deceased and injured of Rangpur yesterday. Deputy Commissioner Israt Jahan distributed the cheques provided by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) as the chief guest at a function organized at her conference room in the city. Assistant Director of BRTA at Rangpur office Engineer Md Shafiqul Alam Sarkar and leaders of Rangpur District Road Transport and District Bus Owners Association and members of the deceased and injured family were present at the event. The distribution included Tk five lakh each to the families of 30 deceased victims, Tk one lakh each to 18 seriously injured individuals and Tk three lakh each to 16 victims who were injured in accidents and unable to return to a normal life. BRTA Assistant Director Shafiqul Alam Sarkar said that the BRTA has been regularly distributing financial assistance cheques in response to applications submitted by the families of those killed or injured in road accidents. Most of the recipients were the primary breadwinners of their families before falling victim to these accidents. Many lost their lives or became bedridden after losing limbs. Their families are currently in dire straits.