

Was Payra Port a mere pipe dream?

It is a shocking revelation that the Payra Port, despite an investment of Tk 15,691 crore made with the promises of transforming the economic landscape of the southern region, has remained largely underutilised. Currently, the port handles only a limited volume of imports, primarily coal for a local power plant, while chronic navigability problems and a lack of regional industry have prevented the expected volume of international shipping and exports.

The fundamental problem, according to a report, lies with the Rabnabad Channel, the port’s main navigational route, which was supposed to maintain a depth of 10.5 metres to allow

larger vessels to reach the port. In reality, its depth routinely falls to 5-6 metres during the peak monsoon season, preventing deep-sea access. The only way to increase the depth is through dredging, but Tk 6,500 crore has already been spent on it. What is unfathomable is why such a large investment failed to deliver a sustainable solution. How could the then government and relevant departments embark on such an expensive port without ensuring its viability? Where are the economic zones, industries, terminals, and smart city that were proclaimed as part of this mega project?

Payra has a 650-metre jetty, a large backup yard, and a container freight station, but there

is very little commercial activity around them. Meanwhile, companies have had to bear additional costs to transfer cargo to smaller vessels, prompting some businesses to shift to other ports. Clearly, without sufficient business activity in the surrounding region, a port cannot operate at its intended capacity. At present, there is little manufacturing or export activity and, consequently, limited cargo to handle. The business community in Patuakhali has complained that thousands of acres were acquired for the project but the promised economic benefits have not materialised. The project thus has become another example of a pattern seen during the AL government: expensive mega projects undertaken without creating the conditions needed to make the infrastructure economically productive.

The port authorities have reportedly submitted a fresh proposal costing Tk 4,600 crore for permanent dredging and the procurement of dedicated dredgers. But before committing more money, the government must establish why previous dredging failed, what the long-term maintenance costs would be, and whether sufficient cargo and commercial activity can be generated to justify continued expenditure. We’re told that the impending completion of the Andharmanik River bridge could be a game-changer for road freight, and if the proposed Patuakhali EPZ and planned industrial zones are developed, overall port activity could increase. But that’s where the challenge lies: the port can be commercially viable only if the interrelated infrastructure around it is developed. This includes reliable roads, navigation infrastructure, bridges, and industrial and special economic zones. But before pouring more money into the project, the government should first demand accountability for the previous investment and assess how any new investment can create the conditions for a commercially viable port.

PM for unified training

often failing to play an effective role due to a lack of proper coordination.""As a result, our younger generation is not receiving the desired recognition at the national and international levels against these certificates," he added. The Prime Minister directed the NSDA Governing Body to formulate the necessary policies through a small committee within a short time and bring the skills development and training programmes of different ministries under a coordinated framework.He also stressed introducing a system of providing training and certificates under a common syllabus.

The meeting was briefed on the administrative structure, manpower and functions of the NSDA.Discussions also took place on the National Skills Development-related policy and strategy papers, development of skilled human resources in line with the demands of national and international job markets, sector-wise analysis of skills demand, and short-, medium- and long-term action plans.The meeting also discussed improvement of training quality, certification and mutual recognition of certificates. Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, PM’s adviser for Public Administration Md Ismail Zabihullah, Industries Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar, Education Minister Dr. A N M Ehsanul Hoque Milon, Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister and Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury, and Prime Minister’s Adviser and PMO Spokesperson Mahdi Amin attended the meeting. State Minister for Public Administration Md Abdul Bari, State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque, PM’s Principal Secretary A B M Abdus Sattar, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Chowdhury Ashik Chowdhury, Principal Coordinator for SDGs Prof Dr SM Abdul Awal, Executive Chairman of NSDA Dr. Nazneen Kawshar Chowdhury, secretaries of different ministries and other senior officials were present, among others.

Tarique Rahman set to address

the need for greater international cooperation.He questioned the persistence of poverty and hunger despite international commitments to development and called for a world based on peace, human dignity, justice and mutual responsibilities among nations. Thirteen years later, Khaleda Zia addressed the General Assembly during its 48th session on October 1, 1993. She subsequently addressed General Assembly proceedings on several other occasions, including the commemorative meeting marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995, the 27th Special Session on Children in 2002, and two separate meetings during the 60th session in 2005.Thus, UN records show Khaleda Zia addressing General Assembly proceedings on five occasions between 1993 and 2005.

Now, Tarique Rahman is preparing to take the same international platform for the first time as Prime Minister of Bangladesh.According to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, the Prime Minister is scheduled to leave Dhaka for New York on September 21 to attend the 81st session of the UN General Assembly and is expected to address the Assembly on September 24.

She said climate change would feature prominently in the Prime Minister’s speech and that Bangladesh would present its position and priorities on the issue before the international community.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said the Prime Minister would present Bangladesh’s new outlook and future vision before the world leaders, highlighting the country’s democratic transformation, future development priorities,

Fixing Bangladesh's VAT cash squeeze without reversing reform

Md. Neyamul Hossain

ness the agencies say they are watching for.

Then the war came. No finance ministry budgets for a maritime chokepoint closing; the reform was designed for calm weather and launched into a storm. With the Strait of Hormuz disrupted, Bangladesh has been buying spot LNG at prices that are close to triple the pre-war rates, and the finance ministry’s estimate for this year’s LNG subsidy has climbed to Tk 40,000 crore, against Tk 14,500 crore last year. VAT collections in the first two months of the current fiscal

The reasons it gave read like a recovery: a post-election government with a mandate strong enough to carry reform; reserves rebuilt to about \$32.9 billion at the end of 2024; a more flexible exchange rate; record remittances; and growth back to 4.1 percent with 4.3 percent projected this year. A stable outlook lowers the premium that foreign banks charge to confirm our letters of credit and narrows the spread on offshore borrowing. It also lifts the discount applied to every investment decision about Bangladesh. It is the price at which the world lends us its confidence, and that price has just fallen. Moody’s has also marked out the next frontier. It has described Bangladesh as having one of the narrowest revenue bases among the sovereigns it rates, with interest payments swallowing close to 30 percent of revenue and named stronger revenue mobilisation and better institutional effectiveness as the conditions for an upgrade. What will be judged now is how reliably the treasury collects what the law already says it is owed, and that is the lens through which the argument over the VAT calendar deserves to be read. The FY2026-27 budget made quarterly VAT returns the default. It cut the deposits required to contest a tax demand to a fraction of their former level, at a time when more than 33,000 pending cases were tying up an estimated Tk 1.10 lakh crore of business capital. As an accountant, I have watched clients wait years on an appeal with much of the disputed sum locked away, so that figure is not abstract to me. And it published a five-year corporate tax roadmap holding rates steady till FY2030-31, giving investors a horizon longer than a single budget speech. Each measure lowers the cost of being compliant relative to the cost of staying informal. This is the only strategy that has ever widened a revenue base in an economy like ours, and precisely the institutional effectiveness the agencies say they are watching for. Then the war came. No finance ministry budgets for a maritime chokepoint closing; the reform was designed for calm weather and launched into a storm. With the Strait of Hormuz disrupted, Bangladesh has been buying spot LNG at prices that are close to triple the pre-war rates, and the finance ministry’s estimate for this year’s LNG subsidy has climbed to Tk 40,000 crore, against Tk 14,500 crore last year. VAT collections in the first two months of the current fiscal year came to Tk 17,663 crore, against Tk 22,628 crore a year earlier. A fall of just over a fifth.

year came to Tk 17,663 crore, against Tk 22,628 crore a year earlier. A fall of just over a fifth. The rate did not change; the clock did. Quarterly filing was always going to cost the treasury something in its first year, and in an ordinary year that was a price worth paying. Money that once reached the treasury within weeks may now sit in a company’s account for a quarter, and by my reckoning something in the region of Tk 20,000 crore of public money is resting in private hands for a season. Economists call this a float, and whoever holds one is being lent money at zero interest by whoever is waiting for it. A revenue base that shrinks by a fifth when the calendar changes will be called narrow. One that keeps its monthly heartbeat while the paperwork is simplified will be called resilient.

India lets firms with turnover up to five crore rupees file quar-

party alliance held its Dhaka-Chattogram long march on September 5.The programme of long marches to four divisional cities and rallies was announced at a sit-in at Muktiangan in Dhaka on August 6.As announced, the alliance is scheduled to hold a Dhaka-Khulna long march on October 10 and a Dhaka-Sylhet long march by train on October 24. A grand rally is scheduled to be held in Dhaka on November 14.

Pressure to stop news on

Railway High School, filed a general diary (GD) against journalist Md. Amjad Hossain. He said that the GD mentioned allegations of eve-teasing by sending messages on the phone at night.However, journalist Md. Amjad Hossain denied the allegation and said that such allegations were made against him only after publishing a report on public interest related to railway government property and quarters. He claims that the GD has been filed to harass him in the wake of pressure and threats to stop publishing news.Journalist Md. Amjad Hossain alleged that the pressure, offers of money, lobbying and threats to stop publishing news after publishing information on irregularities related to government property are worrying for the environment of independent journalism. He demanded an impartial investigation into the incident, verification of the factual information and ensuring his safety as a journalist.

JS Standing Committee to recom

additional secretary, senior officials of the Department of Environment and the Forest Department, and relevant senior officials of the Parliament Secretariat attended the meeting.

Price Surge Sweeps Chittogram

Meanwhile, premium-grade prawns have touched Tk 800 to Tk 900 per kg, and tetra is retailing at Tk 700 per kg. Ratan Das, a fish vendor at the 2 No. Gate area, noted, "Prices at the wholesale level are extremely high, and on top of that, transportation costs have escalated. Having bought stock at higher rates, we are compelled to sell at elevated prices." Prices for essential protein sources like broiler chicken and eggs have similarly heated up. Broiler chicken prices have risen by roughly Tk 20 per kg, retailing between Tk 190 and Tk 200, while a dozen eggs now costs Tk 150. The simultaneous price hike across all essential items has triggered widespread outrage among ordinary consumers. Shoppers pointed out that if the price of a single item goes up, households can adjust their budgets accordingly. However, when vegetables, fish, meat, and eggs all become expensive at the same time, managing a household budget becomes nearly impossible. Buyers have urged the authorities to step up market monitoring and strict enforcement, from wholesale warehouses down to retail counters, to keep the situation under control.

Attempt to Evade Scanner Fails

automated screening. Engineer Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil, Public Relations Officer at Shah Amanat International Airport, confirmed that the government revenue, including duties and taxes on the seized gold, was calculated at BDT 1.176 crore. The confiscated gold has been handed over to customs authorities.Customs Intelligence is currently preparing to file a formal case and initiate legal proceedings against the detainee. Airport officials reaffirmed that strict surveillance by intelligence agencies and customs authorities will continue to curb smuggling activities.

Private sector accelerates

development, create entrepreneurs, boost employment and

terly while paying monthly through a pre-filled challan set at 35 percent of the previous quarter’s tax. Britain has kept quarterly returns for almost everyone but has, since 1993, required its largest VAT payers to make payments on account within the quarter. A similar path may be open here without disturbing the spirit of the budget.

The quarterly return could remain the default for every registered business, so the relief promised to small and medium enterprises stands.

The largest remitters, above a threshold the National Board of Revenue (NBR) can set from its own data, could be asked for

a monthly payment on account, pre-filled by the system in a manner similar to India’s, with the balance settled at the quarter’s end. The breathing space that buys could then be used to complete the digital invoicing the NBR has candidly admitted it has not yet built. This would be convergence with global practice, not a reversal, honouring both the predictability business was promised and the monitoring the revenue authority needs. The government has spent a year earning back the markets’ trust, and a rating agency has now backed it in writing. Trust of that kind has to be serviced with a calendar that lets the state collect what it is owed at the tempo at which it must spend it, while keeping every commitment made to business. The finance minister has built the reform. If the next review is to move the rating itself rather than the outlook, the case will be won in the plumbing beneath it.

revitalize the local economy. Executive Director of BB Rangpur office Md Salah Uddin presided over the meeting. Bankers, civil society representatives, entrepreneurs, business-people, farmers' representatives, heads of various government institutions, other stakeholders and journalists from Rangpur division participated in the event.

The participants shared their views, experiences and forward-ed suggestions regarding private sector development, financing for entrepreneurs, expansion of local production and trade and effective implementation of the incentive package announced by BB. The meeting placed special emphasis on the "One Village, One Product" concept, focusing on identifying promising local products and entrepreneurs, increasing production, expanding markets and ensuring necessary financing. Discussions also covered branding and marketing locally produced goods with high potential to reach wider domestic and international markets, as well as bringing the relevant entrepreneurs under the banking umbrella. The BB Governor called upon all stakeholders to work in a coordinated manner to implement the "One Village, One Product" concept for effective implementation of the incentive package announced by BB for private sector development. He also advised using the hotline number 16236 for direct communication between customers and Bangladesh Bank. He urged the concerned banks to take effective measures to ensure that the benefits of the incentive package announced by Bangladesh Bank reach genuine and deserving entrepreneurs. At the same time, he put special emphasis on expanding markets for products manufactured by entrepreneurs, facilitating access to finance, and further invigorating local economic activities. The meeting underscored the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to foster initiatives such as establishment of cold storage facilities in Rangpur region, development of renewable energy, promotion of export-oriented agricultural and industrial products and human resource development.

17 Teaching Posts Vacant

School'. Currently, it is an active government school operating under the Comilla Board. According to Wikipedia, the school is supposed to have 11 or more teachers, but in reality, fewer than 9 are working.Locals allege that while everyone is busy with everything else, no one is paying attention to this 154-year-old traditional institution. Although news about the teacher crisis has been published in various media before, no solution has been found. The upazila administration had said that the higher authorities have been informed for the posting of teachers. Students, parents and conscious circles have demanded immediate recruitment of teachers to the vacant posts to normalize teaching.

SRB Begins Operations;Members

In his address, the Director General instructed that the highest standards of transparency and accountability be ensured in all operational activities of the SRB, in accordance with the newly enacted law. He also formally announced the commencement of the SRB operations.He informed that the process of changing the SRB logo, flag, and uniform in line with the new law is currently underway. These changes will be implemented soon after receiving government approval.The Director General urged every SRB member to discharge their duties with integrity, honesty, and patriotism. He also called upon the members to work towards earning the trust of the general public by ensuring public safety and the rule of law.



Titas-28 well inaugurated, 12.5mmcf gas added to national grid from yesterday

Staff correspondent

The Well No. 28 (Titas-28) of the Titas Gas Field in Brahmanbaria has been officially inaugurated yesterday. With opening, 12.5 million cubic feet of gas is being added to the national grid daily starting yesterday. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit formally inaugurated the well here this afternoon. Engineer Khaled Hossain Mahbub Shyamal, MP, from Brahmanbaria-3 and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Commerce; Energy and Mineral Resources Division Secretary Ziaul Haque; and Engineer Md. Md

Abdul Jalil Pramanik, Managing Director of Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL), were present, among others. Speaking at the event, Aninda Islam Amit said the ongoing gas crisis must be addressed by increasing local production alongside importing gas. Currently, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is being imported at nearly three times the cost, he said, adding that it is not sustainable to bear such high costs for a prolonged period.

So, the state minister, said plans have been adopted to progressively improve the gas supply situation by 2030 through enhanced production capacity. He said the commencement of the daily supply of 12.5 million cubic feet of gas

from Titas-28 to the national grid would revitalise industrial production, boost power generation, and accelerate the country's economy. Simultaneously, he said, drilling operations for wells Titas-29, Titas-30, and Titas-31 are also underway. Amit said the government has taken initiatives to boost both domestic gas production and import capacity in the energy sector. He said a target has been set to secure a total of 3,300 million cubic feet of gas daily (mmcf), including 1,200 mmcf from combined sources and another 1,000 mmcf from a land-based LNG terminal. Meeting the country's gas demand will be possible if a supply of 5,000 mmcf can be ensured by 2030, he

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Robust internet, one citizen-one wallet needed for sustainable development: Amir Khosru

Staff correspondent

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said robust internet connectivity, a "one citizen-one wallet" system and the integration of the rural economy into the digital system are essential for sustainable development and for bringing marginalised people into the economic mainstream. "Digital inclusion and financial inclusion complement each other. Robust digital infrastructure and effective implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) can help ensure sustainable development," he

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Education system destroyed over past 17 years: Rizvi

Staff correspondent

BNP Acting Secretary General and Prime Minister's Political Adviser Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that the country's education system had been crippled and undermined over the past 17 years, weakening the backbone of the nation. "A system was deliberately developed to keep Bangladesh behind in international competition in information technology and overall progress," he said.

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Drive Against Illegal Sand Extraction in Gowainghat 8 Dredgers Destroyed



Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

The upazila administration has conducted a task force and mobile court operation in Gowainghat, Sylhet, against the illegal extraction of sand from non-leased areas. During the operation, eight dredger machines used for illegal sand extraction were destroyed. At the same time, a steel-body boat used to transport sand was sunk. The operation was conducted this afternoon

near the Pargana Bazar Bridge area of Sadar Union under the leadership of Zakaria Hossain, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate of Gowainghat Upazila.

According to upazila administration sources, an unscrupulous group had been illegally extracting sand from the non-leased area near Pargana Bazar Bridge for a long time. Acting on a tip-off, the administration conducted a sudden raid there on Wednesday afternoon. During the operation, eight bomb dredger machines used for illegally extracting sand were dismantled and rendered unusable at the scene. In addition, a steel-body boat used to transport sand was sunk in the water. A team from Gowainghat Police Station provided overall assistance in maintaining law and order during the operation.

The upazila administration said that such drives against the illegal extraction of sand from non-leased areas will continue.



Coast Guard Distributes Relief to 150 Low-Income Families in Saint Martin

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

Cox's Bazar Correspondent: The Bangladesh Coast Guard has distributed dry rations and relief materials to 150 low-income families in Saint Martin's, Cox's Bazar.

The relief materials were distributed from the Coast Guard ship 'Tajuddin' between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Thursday (September 17), under the supervision of the Coast Guard East Zone. Coast Guard Media Officer Lieutenant Commander Sabbir Alam Sujon disclosed this information in the afternoon. He stated that, alongside ensuring public safety in the country's coastal and riverine regions, the Coast Guard regularly provides humanitarian

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A youth who fired shots in public over a car parking dispute in Bhanga, Faridpur arrested in Dhaka

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

The police and RAB have arrested a controversial youth, Md. Hamidul Gazi (42), who fired shots in public while brandishing a revolver during a car parking dispute on the highway in Bhanga, Faridpur. At the same time, the revolver used in the incident and a brown

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Allegation Taking Extra Money at Sub-Registry Office

Rajapur (Jhalakathi) Correspondent

Allegations have been raised of taking extra money beyond the government-fixed fees at the Rajapur Sub-Registry Office in Jhalakathi. To verify the allegation on the spot, Md. Rafiqul Islam Jamal, Member of Parliament Jhalakathi-1 (Rajapur-Kathalia) constituency, made a surprise visit to the Sub-Registry Office

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The Victory Square, Known as Dimla Mini Park, Built at a Cost of Crores Taka, Is in a Dilapidated Condition

Drug Users and Rowdy Youths Gather Day and Night !

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Due to a lack of maintenance, the 'Victory Square', known as a mini park and built on approximately four bighas of government land in the heart of Dimla Upazila Sadar in Nilphamari at a cost of nearly Tk 1 crore, is now in a dilapidated condition. Once, it was one of the major places for entertainment and mental relaxation for government

and private-sector employees, local residents, and especially children in this border upazila. Besides, the Victory Square was also an important venue for various political, social, and cultural programmes in the upazila.

The Victory Square has a large Shaheed Minar, a mural of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a Liberation War memorial, steel and cement benches

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DC Pirojpur Visits Educational Institutions in Nesarabad

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

Pirojpur District Commissioner Abu Sayeed visited several educational institutions in Nesarabad upazila on Thursday (September 17), inspecting the Shaheed Smriti Degree College and attending a guardians meeting at Swarnakathi Collegiate Academy. During his visit, the District Commissioner inspected various aspects of the institutions and exchanged views with teachers, students and guardians on improving the quality of education, ensuring regular attendance of students, increasing parental involvement and promoting the overall development of students. He also observed the overall environment and the ongoing education and health-related services at the institutions. During the visit, he distributed sports equipment among students of several educational institutions. Nesarabad Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ashik Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Raihan Mahmud, and senior officials from the upazila administration and police administration were also present during the visit.

Nationalist Sramik Dal Leader Shot in Sandwip, Critical Condition at CMCH

Staff Reporter CHATTAGAM, Nasir Uddin

Babul (45), General Secretary of the Upazila Nationalist Sramik Dal in Sandwip, was shot late Friday night during an attack by rival groups.

The incident occurred around 11:30 PM on Friday (September 18) in front of Need Bangla Government Primary School, located south of Panditer Hat in

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Coincidence or Premeditated Murder?

13-Year-Old Son of CoU Teacher Murdered Widespread Outrage Escalates

Staff Reporter

"Is coming to work in Cumilla my crime Why was my only son killed I demand an answer!"—The air around the Cumilla University (CoU) campus grew heavy with the heart-wrenching lament of Dr. Nahida Begum, an associate professor of the Department of Bangla. A day after going missing, police recovered the battered body of her 13-year-old son, Ishayek Shahriar Apatrim.

On Saturday afternoon, police retrieved Apatrim's body from the Sananda Hill area in



on Friday, mentioning he was going out to take photos with friends. He went missing shortly after.

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Speakers for coordinated efforts to combat childhood cancer

Staff correspondent

Speakers in a series of programmes yesterday called for coordinated efforts involving hospitals, medical colleges, physicians, educational institutions, media and social organisations to raise awareness, ensure early detection and provide timely treatment to combat childhood cancer. They made the call at a rally, human chain and press briefing organised by the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Society of Bangladesh (PHOSB), marking the National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month 2026, said a press release. On the occasion, the PHOSB brought out a rally on Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) campus, and organised the human chain and the press briefing at the National Press Club here aimed at raising awareness about childhood cancer, with the slogan "No fear, awareness; no delay, timely treatment." BMU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

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Journalism is the Pursuit of Truth Accountability Lies Solely with the People: Kader Gani Chowdhury

Staff Reporter

The core strength and accountability of journalists lie solely with the general public—not with any group or individual. Objective, truthful, and just journalism is the only way for the media to earn credibility. Muhammad Kader Gani Chowdhury, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), made these remarks as the chief guest at a training workshop titled "Journalism, Video Journalism, and Mobile Journalism" organized for mofussil journalists at the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) on Wednesday.

Presided over by NIMC Director General Muhammad Hiruzzaman, the event featured Additional Director General Rownak Jahan as a special guest. The session was conducted by Director Dr. Md. Maruf Nawaz, with senior institute officials and trainee journalists in attendance. "People Hate Servile Journalism" The BSS Chief Editor stated that journalists are the sentinels of society and must never reduce themselves to partisan stooges. The general public deeply despises servile and sycophantic journalism. Issuing a stern warning, he added, "Journalists must not become 'pet dogs.' Calling truth as truth and black as black is the true essence of journalism. A mix of truth and falsehood can be many things, but not journalism." "Newspapers Are the People's Parliament" Highlighting the importance of print media, he said, "Newspaper is the

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জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপথালমোলোজী)
এমপিএইচ (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপথালমোলোজী)
পিএইচডি (অপথালমোলোজী)

সিনিয়র কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল এন্ড ফ্যাকো সেন্টার

সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

০১৭০২-৫৫৮৭৫৯
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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.

Titas-28 well inaugurated, said.He further stated that the commissioning of the Titas-28 well would play a vital role in strengthening the country’s energy security.A long-term plan spanning the next decade has been adopted, which includes drilling 150 wells by 2030 and another 150 wells by 2035, he said.

Of these, he said, the drilling of 31 wells has already been completed and work on seven additional wells is underway.The state minister said once the drilling of the 150 wells is completed, they will yield about 1,762 mmcf. Additionally, he said, gas supplies will be ensured through 1,100 mmcf from two existing Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs) and through two more planned FSRUs.

Amit said the country’s normal daily gas demand is about 3,800 million cubic feet.Prior to the conflict in the Middle East, the daily gas supply stood at 2,600–2,700 mmcf, he said.

Due to the crisis, the state minister said, this figure dropped to 2,350 mmcf.But, he said, due to urgent government initiatives, the supply situation has improved since September 15. Simultaneously, gas exploration activities have been intensified in both onshore and offshore areas, he added.BGFL sources said drilling operations are progressing for wells Titas-29, 30, and 31, as well as Bakhrabad-11, in Brahmanbaria.Once those are completed, these wells will add another 55 mmcf to the national grid.Consequently, it will be possible to supply a total of additional 67.5 mmcf to the national grid within the next three to four months.Drilling for the Titas-28 well began on December 15 last year. Subsequently, on June 19, the well began supplying gas to the national grid on a trial basis. During this trial period, gas worth about Taka 200 crore was added to the national grid. The well has a depth of 3,601 metres (about 13,000 feet), and the cost of drilling it was around Taka 200 crore.

Robust internet, one said.The Finance Minister made the remarks as the chief guest at a group dialogue titled "Financial Inclusion 2.0", organised by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) at a hotel in the capital, said a Finance Ministry press release.He said uninterrupted and high-speed internet connectivity is essential to ensure the overall momentum of the digital economy."Without strong internet infrastructure, it is not possible to fully realise the benefits of digital finance," he said.The minister said the government is taking steps to identify marginalised producers and artisans under the "One Village, One Product" programme and bring them under digital payment and banking services.He said affordable smartphones are now being produced in the country, with devices available at prices ranging from Tk 4,000 to Tk 5,000, creating greater opportunities for farmers and ordinary people to use technology.Farmers can now access information on weather, fertiliser requirements and market prices more easily through digital technology, he added.He said the introduction of banking services for Family Cards, Farmer Cards and allowances for imams and priests is also automatically contributing to financial inclusion.The finance minister stressed the need to ensure cybersecurity and appropriate policy safeguards or "guardrails" so that innovation does not stagnate amid rapid technological changes. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman moderated the dialogue, which was attended by heads of various banks, insurance companies and financial institutions.

Education system Rizvi made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the 'SSC Meritorious Students Reception-2026' organized by South Keraniganj Thana BNP at the ground of Keraniganj Women's Degree College this afternoon.

Referring to education as the backbone of a nation, Rizvi said that over the past 17 years, "that backbone has been turned into a plastic backbone." He alleged that there had been incidents in which students were allowed to pass examinations on instructions from higher authorities without sitting for the exams or merely by writing the questions in their answer scripts. "Neither individuals nor the nation benefit from forcibly awarding higher marks or ensuring passes in this way," he said. Stressing the need to improve the quality of education on the basis of merit in the era of technology, Rizvi said poor academic results and students falling behind in university admission tests were not isolated incidents.

"Rather, these are the outcomes of treating the entire education system as a matter of play," he said.He said that in the current context, students were getting results based on merit, describing the practice as extremely important for the nation.Reiterating BNP's commitment to promoting women's education, the BNP acting secretary general said education was the main condition for women's empowerment. He said former Prime Minister and late BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia had introduced free education up to the intermediate level for female stu-

dents. "BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman has announced that in the future, female students will not have to bear educational expenses up to BA and BA Honours levels, as education will be completely free," he said. Rizvi also highlighted the importance of responsible leadership in society and local communities. Dhaka District BNP General Secretary Nipun Roy Chowdhury, MP, who presided over the programme, told the students that their achievement marked the beginning of a new chapter in their lives."With honesty, responsibility and patriotism, you have to become the helmsmen of tomorrow's Bangladesh," he said.

At the programme, newly announced SSC GPA-5 achievers from Dhaka-3 constituency were presented with commemorative mementos, crests and scholarship money. Local BNP and its affiliated organizations' leaders and activists, civil society representatives, teachers, meritorious students and guardians attended the reception.

The Victory Square for seating, separate toilets for men and women, walking paths, LED lighting, and various facilities for children’s physical and mental development, including swings, slides, a climbing dome, and a two-seater spring-loaded ride. There is also a drainage system.

After the construction of this aesthetically designed square, it generated considerable interest among local people. People used to come from far and wide to see it. Many would visit the place with their families whenever they had free time. However, local residents said that the condition of the square has become extremely deplorable since the vandalism and looting incident on August 5, 2024. They also alleged that the square is gradually facing a serious crisis of existence due to gatherings of drug users and rowdy youths and the accumulation of garbage. It is learnt that on March 21, 2022, at noon, Sakhawat Hossain Shafik, Organizing Secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Awami League, formally inaugurated the Victory Square as the chief guest at the invitation of the then Member of Parliament from Nilphamari-1 (Domar-Dimla) constituency, freedom fighter Alhaj Aftab Uddin Sarker.

However, local people hold differing political views regarding which government or whose initiative led to the construction and inauguration of the facility. According to local residents, public funds were spent on its construction, meaning taxpayers’ money. Therefore, they consider the Victory Square not the property of any individual or political party, but rather a state and public asset.

According to local residents, on August 5, 2024, the day of the mass uprising, various structures of the square were severely damaged in attacks and vandalism by an agitated crowd. At that time, various structures and belongings there, including the mural of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were attacked and vandalized. During that period, some opportunists removed and took away several steel gates of the boundary wall, benches, fans, lights, furniture, library books, grills, doors and windows, dustbins, and various other materials. At present, although the electrical pillars of the square remain, all of them no longer light up as before. The Victory Square, which was once decorated with lighting, is now largely shrouded in darkness. One of the swings for children has broken down and is lying on the ground. One side of the two-seater spring-loaded ride is broken. Garbage has accumulated beneath the climbing dome. The slides have developed rust. There are no dustbins either. The toilets have also become unusable. Garbage and waste are scattered throughout the entire square.

Local residents alleged that due to a lack of regular cleaning and maintenance, the once-lively Victory Square has gradually turned into an unsafe place. They also alleged that gatherings of teenagers, the presence of drug users, smoking, and gatherings of rowdy youths have increased there. There are also allegations of dumping garbage and waste and urinating and defecating at various places inside the square.

Some local residents said that although this important facility of the upazila has remained in a dilapidated condition for a long time, no effective initiative for renovation, cleanliness, and regular maintenance is visible. As a result, this important mini park, built with public funds, is gradually deteriorating. Farida, a teacher who came to the Victory Square with her child, said, “Previously, whenever we had a little free time, we would come here with our family. Now we do not come here as much. The environment here is no longer like before. There is garbage everywhere, the smell of urine, and rowdy boys can be seen smoking openly. My child thought the Victory Square was still the same as before. So, due to his insistence, I was forced to bring him here.” Shamim, a government employee, said, “My child was crying at home because he wanted to come to the Victory Square. So I brought him here alone. The environment was much better before. At that time, I would also bring his mother along with him. That environment no longer exists.”

Local residents have made similar complaints. Jalil, owner of the rice hotel in front of the Victory Square; Rahim, owner of an ice cream and variety store; Anil, a fuchka and chotpoti seller; Wasim, a photocopy and computer businessman; and Khokon, a mobile and bKash businessman, said, “Previously, many people would come to the Victory Square with their families. At that time, our sales were also good. Now, not many people come here with their families because the environment and cleanliness are no longer like before. Leaving others aside, we ourselves no longer bring our families here.” They further said, “We want the previous environment of the Victory Square to return. It is not anyone’s personal property; it is the property of the country—all of us, that is, the people.” Local residents have demanded the immediate repair of the damaged structures of the Victory Square, restoration of electrical lighting, repair of children’s recreational equipment, making the toilets usable, and arrangements for regular cleaning and maintenance. At the same time, they have demanded necessary monitoring and effective measures to ensure security at the square.

According to local residents, if this public asset, built at a cost of crores of taka, is allowed to deteriorate through neglect, not only will an entertainment centre be lost, but an important facility built with public money will also face destruction.

Dimla Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ashraful Islam said, “I have conducted raids at the Victory Square twice consecutively with accompanying police forces. However, we did not find any drug users. If necessary, further raids will be conducted. If the presence of drug users is found, legal action will

be taken.” Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Imranuzzaman said, “We had told the DC Sir about renovating the abandoned places in the area. When information about abandoned places was sought, we took photographs of the entire Victory Square about six months ago and sent them to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs. The work was supposed to be completed quickly. Once the projects are approved by the ECNEC, new structures will be constructed here and the necessary renovation will be carried out by the government. Therefore, we do not want to waste public money by doing the same work repeatedly. The project is being implemented centrally. We will inspect the site again and, for the time being, take measures to restore the lighting system and bring the place to a reasonably good condition through small projects.

Coast Guard Distributes assistance to low-income people during times of crisis.

As part of this ongoing effort, dry rations and relief materials were distributed to the 150 low-income families in Saint Martin’s. The Coast Guard official further added that such humanitarian assistance activities would continue in the future to support the people living in the country’s coastal and remote areas.

Nationalist Sramik Musapur Union under Sandwip Upazila. The victim, Babul, is the brother of Abdul Karim, Joint Convener of the Musapur Union Jubo Dal. According to local sources, tension had been running high in the area following the recent arrest of Abdul Karim in connection with the abduction of a police officer.

Locals reported that miscreants opened fire on Babul in front of the school before fleeing the scene. Nearby residents rescued him and took him to a local private hospital in Sandwip. As his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) later that night.

Confirming the incident, Sandwip Upazila BNP Convener Advocate Abu Taher said, "Nasir Uddin Babul was admitted to CMCH around 2:00 AM. Terrorists carried out a planned attack on him." Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sandwip Police Station, Sujan Halder, stated that a police team inspected the scene shortly after receiving the news. He assured that the situation in the area is currently under control. However, no written complaint or case has been filed yet, and police are investigating the matter.

13-Year-Old Son of CoU Unable to trace him despite searching all possible locations, his father, K. M. Firoz Shahriar, filed a General Diary (GD) with the Cumilla Sadar South Police Station. Less than 24 hours later, the teenager's lifeless body was discovered in the hilltop jungle. MP Expresses Outrage, Demands Justice Within 90 Days

Expressing deep condolences to the bereaved family, local Member of Parliament (Sadar constituency) Monirul Haq Chowdhury voiced his outrage, stating, "As the local MP, I feel deeply ashamed and saddened. We failed to protect an innocent child. I will discuss this matter with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. I demand that justice for this brutal murder be delivered within the next 90 days." Suspect Detained; Multiple Teams Investigating Shortly after the incident, Kotbari Police detained a youth named Tuhin, son of Nurul Alam from the Sananda area, as a suspect. Inspector Mohibul Alam Bhuiyan of Kotbari Police Station confirmed the detention.

Cumilla Superintendent of Police (SP) Anisuzzaman said, "Multiple teams are already working on the ground, and several crucial clues and evidence have been recovered. The detainee is currently being interrogated. Our operation will continue non-stop until the actual perpetrators are arrested."

The tragic death of Apratim has cast a deep pall of gloom over the university community and local residents. Classmates, CoU faculty, students, and locals have demanded the swift arrest and exemplary punishment of those responsible.

A youth who fired shots in private car have been seized.On Thursday (17 September) afternoon, Faridpur's Superintendent of Police Shahriar Mohammad Miyaji confirmed this information at a press conference. The police stated that on 15 September, Hamidul was arrested in a joint operation in the Banani area of Dhaka by the Bhanga police and RAB-1. Subsequently, based on the information he provided, a .22 bore revolver used in the crime was recovered from an abandoned toilet at his home in Louhajang, Munshiganj.

At the press conference, the Superintendent of Police mentioned that on the night of 17 August, while demonstrating power and strength in front of the Bhanga Highway Police Station, Hamidul fired two rounds of shots on an empty road and fled. Later, when that video of the shooting went viral on social media, it created a huge uproar across the country. The investigation revealed that the arrested Hamidul has a total of 9 cases against him in various police stations, of which 8 are drug-related. The police suspect that he has been involved in illegal drug trafficking for a long time under the guise of a jute business. The law enforcement agencies have stated that preparations are underway to present the accused in court after the legal process is completed.

Allegation Taking Extra on Thursday afternoon. At around 3:30 PM, he went to the office with journalists, police, and party leaders and activists. There, the MP spoke with land buyer Md. Zakir Hossain. Zakir Hossain said that he bought a piece of land for 3 lakh taka. He paid 36,000 taka to deed writer Md. Alkaz Hossain for the registration of the deed. MP Rafiqul Islam Jamal said that taking 36,000 taka for a 3 lakh taka land is more than the government-fixed registration cost. The Sub-Registrar has been asked about this matter.

However, deed writer Alkaz Hossain said, “I took 30,000 taka as deed expenses. The remaining 6,000 taka was spent by Zakir Hossain to collect receipts from outside.”

Rajapur Sub-Registrar (part-time) Md. Mehedi Hasan said, “Deed writer Alkaz Hossain has been served a show-cause notice and asked to respond.” MP Rafiqul Islam Jamal said, “For a long time, I have been receiving complaints of extra money being taken at the Sub-Registry Office. Especially, such complaints were coming more from small land donors and recipients. So I came to the office to see

the matter directly.” He further said, “Transparency must be ensured in the activities of the Sub-Registry Office. It must also be known how much money is being taken from the deed recipients in the name of writing the deed.” He also informed that if necessary, a team will be formed at the party level to monitor the matter. During the inspection, Upazila BNP Senior Vice President Abdul Haque Nantu, Upazila Jubo Dal Convener Md. Masum Billah Parvez, Member Secretary Syed Nazmul Haque, Swechchhasebak Dal Convener Babu Ratan Debnath, Member Secretary Md. Riaz Hossain Khan and other local leaders and activists were present.

Speakers for coordinated Professor Dr Md Nazrul Islam inaugurated the programmes as the chief guest this morning. PHOSB President Professor Dr Afiquel Islam chaired the inaugural session while its General Secretary Associate Professor Dr Chowdhury Samsul Hoque Kibria moderated it.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr Md Nazrul Islam called for greater public awareness about childhood cancer.

Professor Dr Afiquel Islam said, “This month (September) reminds us that cancer is not only a disease of adults, children can also be affected by this serious disease.”

The initiatives to raise public awareness about childhood cancer began in the United States in 1990 and subsequently, in 2010, the month of September was officially declared Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, he said. Dr Afiquel said the main objectives of observing Childhood Cancer Awareness Month are to increase public understanding of childhood cancer, promote early detection, expand access to treatment, encourage research and provide support to affected children and their families.Dr Chowdhury Shamsul Haque Kibria stressed the need for a coordinated approach to tackling childhood cancer.

“Alongside treatment, we need to increase public awareness, ensure early detection and bring children under treatment without delay,” he said. He said coordinated efforts by hospitals, medical colleges, medical organisations, educational institutions, media and social organisations could help reduce misconceptions and unnecessary fear about childhood cancer and minimise delays in seeking treatment.Other speakers said parents should seek medical advice without delay if children experience prolonged or recurrent fever, unusual paleness, unexplained bruising or abnormal bleeding, bone pain, unusual weakness or sudden behavioural changes.They said Bangladesh still lacks a comprehensive national childhood cancer registry, making it difficult to determine the exact number of children affected by the disease.According to various studies and estimates, the speakers said, thousands of children are newly diagnosed with cancer every year. However, the disease often goes undetected in time for many children, and many fail to access the necessary treatment, they added.The speakers identified delayed diagnosis, high treatment costs, difficulties in reaching treatment centres, limited availability of medicines and supportive care, and treatment abandonment as major challenges.They called for establishing a nationwide childhood cancer registration system, expanding treatment facilities and ensuring affordable and quality treatment for every child.

Journalism is the people's parliament always in session." He further noted that journalists are like students whose exam scripts are evaluated by the 180 million people of the country. As the public constantly monitors who reports the truth and who spreads lies, a journalist's sense of responsibility must be far higher than that of an average person.

'Power Play' and Caution in Online Journalism Comparing modern online and digital journalism to T20 cricket batting, Kader Gani Chowdhury remarked, "In online journalism, you must take control of the game right from the start. Alongside delivering breaking news in the first over, rapid dissemination of information is crucial—much like a 'power play.' However, in the rush to deliver news quickly, false, half-true, or misleading information must not be served under any circumstances." Addressing new and mofussil journalists, he concluded that there is no substitute for regular study and practice to become a good journalist. The habit of reading books and newspapers is what makes a journalist responsible and acceptable to society.

Bangladesh mission seeks easier remittance options for expatriates

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh High Commission in the Maldives is exploring practical ways to help Bangladeshi expatriates send their earned money home safely and legally amid the island nation’s continuing foreign currency crunch.

In was told in a press release of the Bangladesh High Commission in Male yesterday. The release said Bangladesh High Commissioner to Maldives Dr Nazmul Islam held separate meetings with officials of the State Bank of India, Bank of Ceylon and Habib Bank to resolve the issue..

The meetings discussed the Maldives’ dollar shortage, liquidity in its banking sector, currency conversion, expatriate remittances and possible solutions based on other countries’ experiences. The current foreign currency situation has made converting the local currency, the rufiyaa, into foreign currencies and managing outward financial flows increasingly difficult for banks operating in the Maldives.

The High Commission said the difficulty is not limited to Bangladeshi workers but is linked to the Maldives’ wider foreign currency situation and banking system.

The meetings found that Indian expatriates, who were previously allowed to remit up to US\$700 per month through the State Bank of India, can now send only \$150 following successive reductions in the limit. The two sides also exchanged views on whether Bangladesh could benefit from regional experiences involving currency-conversion and swap arrangements between India and the Maldives. The Bank of Ceylon said currency-conversion complica-

High-flying Raphinha wants to finish career at Barcelona

Sports Desk

Barcelona captain Raphinha said on Friday he hopes to extend his stay at the club and end his playing career there after a blistering start to the season in front of goal.

The Brazil winger has been playing up front after Barcelona sold Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres, and has rapidly taken



to his new position, plundering 11 goals in seven games. "Yes, I intend to extend my contract. When I extended it the first time, I signed until 2028 on the assumption that I would be then 30 or 31 years old, and I didn't know how things would turn out," Raphinha told RAC1 radio. "Given the way I've started the season, I think I can keep going for a few more years and I would be very happy to extend my contract and, hopefully, finish my career here without having to go elsewhere," the 29-year-old added. Raphinha was named captain at the start of the season after the departures of Ronald Araujo and Marc-Andre ter Stegen and a knee injury to Frenkie de Jong.



Denmark cautiously optimistic over Greenland deal with US

Entertainment Desk

Denmark's government on Saturday cautiously welcomed US President Donald Trump's announcement of an agreement on Greenland that would expand the US military presence on the Arctic island while keeping it under Danish control. The announcement follows months of threats by Trump to take control of Greenland, a semiautonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark and a NATO ally. Greenland's top diplomat also welcomed the development, saying the agreement had been a long time coming. Trump said Friday that the deal would give the United States "permanent control over security" and address its security concerns in Greenland. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's office later said the agreement would be signed by the US, Denmark and Greenland next week during the United Nations General Assembly. However, it still requires approval by the Danish and Greenlandic parliaments before it can take effect. "Next week could be a good week ... for Greenland, Denmark, and the United States alike," Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen wrote on Instagram. He said the agreement could replace a period of uncertainty with a binding arrangement that strengthens security in the Arctic and North Atlantic while respecting Denmark's and Greenland's red lines. Greenland Foreign Minister Múte B. Egede said he was pleased that an agreement was now within reach. "It has taken some time," he told Danish broadcaster TV2. "I'm pleased that we finally have an end product within reach. And it's about time." Trump said the United States would immediately begin

expanding its military presence in Greenland, which is rich in mineral resources. The US maintained several military bases and installations on the island during the Cold War but later reduced its presence. It still operates the Pituffik Space Base in northwestern Greenland, which supports missile warning, missile defense and space surveillance operations for the US and NATO. Few details of the new agreement have been made public. A US State Department official said it would prohibit non-NATO military bases in Greenland, restrict investments by potential adversaries and prevent China and Russia from establishing bases there. The official spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to comment publicly. US, Danish and Greenlandic officials had been holding quiet negotiations for months to address Trump's security concerns about Greenland, which has about 56,000 residents. After returning to the White House, Trump repeatedly urged Denmark to sell Greenland to the US and said the territory was important to American security. He also refused to rule out using military force to take control of the island. Denmark and Greenland have repeatedly said Greenland is not for sale and rejected reports that the US had been gathering intelligence there. Russia and several European countries also strongly opposed the US push for Greenland. Greenland pro-sovereignty activist Orla Joelsen said on X that the fight against Trump's plan to take over Greenland had been won. The new agreement, the activist said, explicitly recognizes Denmark's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the Greenlandic people's right to self-determination.



Trump says CNN, MS NOW, Politico barred from White House

Entertainment Desk

US President Donald Trump said Friday that CNN, MS NOW and Politico would be barred from the White House, accusing the three news organisations of repeatedly reporting what he called "fake news." Trump made the announcement on his social media platform and later defended the move while speaking to reporters in the Oval Office. He also suggested that other media outlets could face similar restrictions. Trump gave no details on how the ban would be implemented. Journalists from the three outlets were still working at the White House on Friday afternoon following his announcement. "Because they're fake news," Trump said when asked why he was targeting the outlets. He said the decision was based on what he described as cumulative coverage over the past several years. CNN condemned the move, saying it stands behind its White House team and its "fair and accurate reporting." It said any ban would interfere with its constitutional right to report without government hindrance. Politico said it would continue to report on the White House and defend its First Amendment rights. MS NOW did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The announcement is the latest escalation in Trump's disputes with news organisations during his second term. His administration has previously taken legal or regulatory action involving several major outlets, including The Associated Press, The New York Times and the BBC. The move has also raised questions over First Amendment protections. Reuters reported that free-speech experts said restrictions based on the content of news coverage could face legal challenges. A 1977 federal appeals court ruling, Sherrill v. Knight, held that while the White House is not required to provide press access, once it establishes facilities for credentialed journalists, access cannot be denied based on the content of their reporting. Any denial must meet a compelling government interest and provide procedural safeguards. Trump has also indicated that additional media outlets could be excluded from the White House.

Saudi Arabia issues aerial threat alerts as Mideast tensions persist

Entertainment Desk

Saudi Arabia warned of a "hostile aerial threat" and issued a series of emergency alerts across the country late Friday and early Saturday, with at least one explosion heard in the capital, Riyadh. No casualties or damage were reported after the alerts were lifted. Saudi authorities did not say what triggered the warnings or explain the reported explosions. However, they have previously said they intercepted missiles and drones launched by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. The alert in Riyadh was the first reported warning in the Saudi capital since the latest escalation involving the Houthis. Meanwhile, Iran's state television reported Saturday that a man identified as Hossein Pedram was executed after being convicted of spying for Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad. According to the report, Pedram passed classified information about sensitive military sites in Iran's Isfahan province to Israel. It did not explain how he obtained the information. Pedram was reportedly arrested after the sites, including missile bases, were targeted during a 12-day air war between Iran, Israel and the United States in June last year. The executions have drawn international criticism from human rights groups. UN Security Council condemns Houthi attacks The U.N. Security Council on Friday condemned the Houthis' military escalation, including attacks and threats against Saudi Arabia and commercial vessels. The council said the attacks "risk further expanding the conflict, threatening maritime security and international trade" while undermining regional and international efforts to achieve peace in Yemen. It also warned that continued escalation could worsen Yemen's already severe humanitarian situation. The council's 15 members called for "practical cooperation" to prevent the Iran-backed Houthis from obtaining weapons, military training, financing and other support needed to carry out attacks. They also stressed that all countries must enforce the U.N. arms embargo against the rebel group. Clarify the confusing timeline and scopeRemove the unsupported executions plural.



Russia holds parliamentary vote in Ukraine regions it claims to have annexed

Entertainment Desk

Russia's parliamentary election is for the first time including residents of four Ukrainian regions that Moscow claims to have annexed since launching its full-scale invasion more than 4 1/2 years ago, in a move aimed at strengthening its control over the areas. Ukraine strongly condemned the voting as illegal, while a human rights activist said residents in Russian-held areas were being pressured to take part. Voting across Russia began Friday and will continue through Sunday in an effort to boost turnout. However, balloting in the Russia-controlled parts of Ukraine and some Russian border areas began at the end of last month. Russian officials said the extended voting period was necessary for security reasons. Russian authorities say more than 3.5 million voters live in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, which Moscow calls the "new regions." Russia declared the territories annexed in September 2022, although it did not fully control them. The annexations have not been internationally recognized. At a polling station in the Russian-held part of Donetsk, voters cast ballots while an armed Russian soldier stood nearby. Putin highlights importance of vote Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that voting in the regions was important, as residents would elect members of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, for the first time since what he called their "reunification with Russia." Russian soldiers fighting in the war also will be allowed to vote, Putin said. Voting is also taking place in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Russia annexed in 2014. The election is the first wartime parliamentary vote in Russia and is intended to reinforce the Kremlin's political control and demonstrate public support for the war. "Your choice and resolve will once again demonstrate that millions of people stand behind our fighters," Putin said, adding that Russians were united by shared values, historical memory and love for their homeland. Ukraine calls for rejection of vote Ukrainian authorities described the voting in the occupied territories as illegal and urged foreign governments and international organizations not to recognize the election or its results. Kyiv also warned Ukrainians that help-



human rights group and one of the signatories of the statement, said local election officials were visiting homes with Russian soldiers and security agents to pressure people into voting. She said Moscow-backed authorities were also threatening public-sector workers with dismissal if they did not vote and making pensions and other social benefits conditional on participation. People receiving social assistance, including pensioners and people with disabilities, could be placed on lists of those considered "disloyal" and risk losing benefits or humanitarian aid if they refused to vote, Artemchuk said. Volodymyr Fesenko, a political analyst at the Kyiv-based Penta Center, said elections held under such conditions could not be considered genuine. "The very fact that voting takes place amid endless shelling and bombing reflects the Kremlin's attitude toward the people and the electoral process in the occupied territories," Fesenko told The Associated Press. He said electoral procedures conducted by Russian occupation authorities "have nothing to do with democracy." Make the wire copy more conciseImprove the lead's clarity and flow..

US military estimates Iran war cost at \$43.6 billion

Entertainment Desk

The cost of the Iran war to the US military has risen to an estimated \$43.6 billion as of September 3, according to a new assessment provided to lawmakers this week. The estimate from US Central Command, which oversees American military operations in the Middle East, is the latest accounting of the conflict since the United States and Israel launched the war on February 28. A Congressional Budget Office report released Tuesday estimated that the war had cost \$38 billion through August 1 and said expenses could continue to rise by about \$3 billion a month, depending on the intensity of the conflict. The latest breakdown, obtained by The Associated Press and previously reported by Bloomberg and Punchbowl News, shows continued heavy spending on munitions by US forces. Spending on weapons increased by more than \$6 billion in just over a month, rising from \$21.7 billion in the CBO estimate to \$28.1 billion in the latest US Central Command assessment. The military costs are only one measure of the war's broader impact. The conflict has also affected oil prices and financial markets and resulted in deaths and injuries among US troops. The political impact of the war is expected to feature in the November midterm congressional elections, amid growing criticism of the conflict. The latest cost estimate comes as the Trump administration seeks approval for a proposed \$1.5 trillion military budget. The White House is also asking Congress to approve a \$95 billion package to help finance the Iran war and other priorities. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth urged lawmakers to approve the proposed budget during a speech Friday in Austin, Texas, at Saronic Technologies, a company that manufactures drones for the Navy. "We're asking for \$1.5 trillion in the current budget to make generational investments to keep our country strong and sustain good, high-paying jobs for American manufacturers like Saronic," Hegseth said. "We will deliver on this generational investment. We will fund



this department." Meanwhile, Democratic senators have called on Hegseth to provide a full accounting of the costs of the Iran war. In a letter to the Pentagon chief, the lawmakers accused the Defense Department of withholding basic budget information from Congress and the public as US casualties and taxpayer costs continue to rise. The military's one-page breakdown submitted to Congress includes expenses for operating warships, aircraft and bases, as well as equipment losses and medical support for troops. According to the Defense Casualty Analysis System, Pentagon figures show 18 US troops have been killed and more than 830 wounded in the conflict. The latest estimate does not include damage to US military bases in the Middle East that have been targeted by Iran with ballistic missiles and drones. A Pentagon inspector general's report released Monday said Iranian attacks had damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings and other structures at US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Jordan. Munitions account for by far the largest share of the latest military expenditure, making up well over half of the total cost. Among the weapons in highest demand are defensive missile interceptors, including those used by the Army's Patriot and THAAD systems. Falling stockpiles of the interceptors have also raised concern in Europe. US and NATO officials told AP that there is a "beyond critical" shortage of the missile interceptors. Saudi Arabia is also facing dwindling supplies and has sought assistance from regional and Western allies as its standoff with Houthi rebels in Yemen continues.

US lifts sanctions on Eritrea's ruling party, military

Entertainment Desk

The United States has lifted sanctions imposed on Eritrea's ruling party and military by the Biden administration, according to the US Department of the Treasury. The sanctions were imposed in 2021 over humanitarian and human rights concerns linked to the conflict in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, where Eritrean forces supported Ethiopian troops against fighters loyal to the regional government. The conflict ended with a peace accord in November 2022. In a statement issued Friday, the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control said sanctions had also been removed from several Eritrean individuals, including Hagos Gebrehiwet, a key financial official. The state-owned Red Sea Trading Corporation was also removed from the sanctions list. Eritrean Information Minister Yemane Gebremeskel said the sanctions had been unjustified and caused significant damage to the country. "We welcome the gesture and remedial measures by the Trump Administration," Gebremeskel told The Associated Press. The lifting of the sanctions comes amid growing concerns over security in the Red Sea. Recent advances by Houthi forces in Yemen have increased threats to shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, while Eritrea's southern coastline and the port of Assab are located near the strategic waterway linking the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.





Atlee's Raaka teaser hints at global ambition

Entertainment Desk

Director Atlee's upcoming sci-fi action drama Raaka, starring Allu Arjun and featuring Deepika Padukone and Rashmika Mandanna, has generated fresh excitement with a cryptic promotional teaser released by the makers.

The teaser revealed little about the film but carried the message, "Get ready to witness a global triumph."

Another tagline read, "Beyond what seemed possible. We dared to imagine. We dared to achieve. Raaka: A global triumph."

The makers have so far kept details about the film's story, shooting locations and scale of production under wraps, adding to the anticipation surrounding the project.

About Raaka

Allu Arjun is reportedly set to play four different roles in Raaka — a grandfather, a father and two sons, according to reports. There is also speculation that the film may explore the idea of two parallel universes.

However, the filmmakers have not officially confirmed these details.

The cast also includes Janhvi Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur in key roles, alongside Deepika Padukone and Rashmika Mandanna.

Produced by Sun Pictures, Raaka is described as a sci-fi action drama. The film marks the first collaboration between Allu Arjun and Atlee.



Love alone is not enough to make relationship last: Barsha

Entertainment Desk

Afiea Nusrat Barsha is one of the most talked about heroines of Dhallywood. Despite her long career, she is not very successful.

Last year, she announced that she would quit acting due to family reasons.

After that, Barsha was not seen in any new work. However, she is quite active on social media and keeps in touch with her fans.

However, Barsha has never been in the middle of controversy regarding her personal life.

The actress tied the knot with film actor Ananta Jalil in 2011. Therefore, their happy marriage has always been an example of a beautiful relationship.

Barsha gave a tip on social media to make relationships last longer. Her heartfelt post brought up various things about the importance of family bonds.

In the post, Barsha wrote, "To sustain any relationship, you have to invest in it. And this investment does not just mean money.

Of course, money is needed to survive in life, but money is not always the most important thing to sustain a relationship.

Shakira to cap off world tour with Madrid 12-gig run

Entertainment Desk

Shakira will kick off on Friday evening a marathon twelve-concert run in Madrid, bringing an end to both her world tour and the Colombian superstar's eight-year absence from Spain.

The 49-year-old "Hips Don't Lie" and "Waka Waka (This Time For Africa)" singer will take to a temporary 50,000-seater "Shakira stadium" erected in the south of the Spanish capital up till 11 October, according to events giant Live Nation. With no other European tour dates announced, Madrid's authorities are expecting a significant economic windfall from her grand return, after welcoming fellow Hispanic superstar Bad Bunny in May and June for a series of 10 gigs. Shakira has not performed in Spain since 2018, several years before her separation from former Spanish footballing great Gerard Pique was made public in 2022. She embarked on a world tour in February 2025 to promote "Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran" (Women no longer cry).



Ed Sheeran set to return to stage after supporting acts withdraw

Entertainment Desk

Ed Sheeran is scheduled to resume his tour Saturday, potentially performing alone, after all of his supporting acts withdrew following the removal of opening act Macklemore over pro-Palestinian remarks made during a concert.

It remains unclear how Sheeran will structure his performance at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field after the departure of the opening acts and supporting musicians. Sheeran has performed much of his Loop Tour solo, although Irish folk band Beoga had joined him for several songs at each stop.



Macklemore was initially scheduled as Sheeran's US opening act but was replaced by Danish band Lukas Graham and Irish singer Aaron Rowe. Both later withdrew. Finneas, Billie Eilish's brother and musical collaborator, was also scheduled to join Sheeran's South American shows later this year but pulled out earlier this week.

Sheeran has made no public statement since the artists withdrew. Tickets for Saturday's concert were still available Friday, while his website listed no replacement acts. A coalition of pro-Palestinian organizations plans to protest outside the venue Saturday afternoon. The controversy began after Macklemore

shouted "Free Palestine" during a Sept. 5 concert in New Jersey. Sheeran said he was not involved in the decision to remove Macklemore, which came after pressure from New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, whose company owns a stadium where Sheeran was scheduled to perform Friday.

Within hours of Sheeran's statement Tuesday, his supporting acts announced their withdrawals.

Macklemore said Wednesday that he would donate \$1 million to Palestinian relief efforts and urged Kraft to match the contribution. A spokesperson for Kraft said the billionaire and Sheeran had each agreed to donate \$2 million, but did not say where the money would go. Sheeran's representatives have not responded to several requests for comment.

Pollstar reported in May that Sheeran's Loop Tour was the world's highest-grossing tour, averaging more than \$7 million in box office revenue per city. Through the end of 2025, Sheeran ranked No. 3 among the highest-earning concert acts since 2021. Sheeran has said the tour promoter was ultimately responsible for dropping Macklemore.

In his Tuesday statement, the Grammy-winning singer said he did not want to become involved in debate over the Gaza war, saying fans attend his concerts to hear music rather than discuss such issues. He also said he had spent much of the week speaking with venues in an effort to "build a bridge" before Macklemore was removed. Sheeran said he would never knowingly disappoint his fans or abandon members of his touring crew and others whose livelihoods depend on the tour. Although promoters and venues have significant influence over concert tours, experts say an artist of Sheeran's stature generally has considerable control over decisions involving his shows.

Mortuza Palash, hero of Apu Biswas's film 'Shikar', arrested in murder case

Entertainment Desk

Ali Mortuza Palash, hero of the new film starring Apu Biswas, has been arrested in a murder case during the 2024 anti-discrimination student movement. Mortuza has been sent to prison on the orders of the court. As a result, the first film of the Palash-Apu duo, 'Shikar', faces uncertainty.

The shooting of the movie 'Shikar' began in Nepal in August. The 'Shikar' team shot for more than 25 days. After the flash floods in Nepal, they returned to the country on August 28. On that day, the police arrested Mortuza Palash from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. However, the arrest of Palash has not been made public until now.

Recently, news was reported in the media that Palash is the accused in the Parvez Bepari murder case during the anti-discrimination student movement. It is learned that after his arrest, Palash was taken on a one-day remand by the CID.

After the remand on September 14, the CID told the court that important information about the murder was obtained from Palash. In addition, he also knows about other absconding accused.

The CMM court in Dhaka ordered Palash to be detained in prison in this incident. Meanwhile, director Kamruzzaman Roman had planned to shoot the remaining parts of 'Shikar' in October. However, with Mortuza Palash in prison, there is uncertainty about the future of the movie. The director is uncertain about the shooting of the remaining parts and the release of the movie.

In this context, director Roman said, "Most of the shooting of the movie 'Shikar' has been completed in Nepal. Three scenes and one song scene are left. The plan was to shoot these scenes next October.

But since the hero is in prison, the final schedule cannot be made yet. I have learned that he is dealing with the matter legally. The production company hopes that he will be released soon. If that does not happen, then there is no choice but to wait." It is known that Palash is also involved in the production of 'Shikar' in addition to acting. Although he did not say anything about it, the director said that most of the artistes have been paid.

However, the producer and technicians are still owed their salaries; which are supposed to be paid after the completion of the movie. The movie is being produced under the banner of the production company Reza Films. The screenplay of the thriller film 'Shikar', set in the border area, is written by Abdullah Zahir Babu.

Apart from Palash and Apu Biswas, the film also stars Mahmudul Islam Mithu, Sumon Anwar, West Bengal's Kharaj Mukherjee, Rajatav Dutta, Shyam Bhattacharya



'Stranger Things' star Millie becomes mother of 2nd child

Entertainment Desk

At the age of 21, popular Hollywood actress Millie Bobby Brown became a mother for the first time by adopting a daughter.

Now, at the age of 22, she has become a mother of her second child. A cute baby boy has been welcomed into her and husband Jake Bonjovi's family. The 'Stranger Things' actress shared this joyful moment of life with her fans on social media.

Sharing a sweet photo of the newborn's hand, Millie wrote, "Hi, little buddy!" In the shared photo, Millie was seen wearing a special ring with the word 'Mom' written on it, which caught the attention of netizens.

This British actress gained international fame for playing the role of 'Eleven' in the popular Netflix series 'Stranger Things'.

What Srilekha says, calling Modi 'autocratic'

Entertainment Desk

The announcement of a programme to light lamps in every house of the country on the occasion of the 76th birthday of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been met with strong anger from the general public and popular actress Srilekha Mitra of West Bengal.

Srilekha described the call to light lamps in the midst of severe flooding and skyrocketing prices in India as a 'painful irony'.

The actress also called Modi and his ruling party 'autocratic'.



Knicks star Jalen Brunson to guest star on 'Law & Order : SVU'

'Entertainment Desk

New York Knicks star Jalen Brunson is set to make a guest appearance on the TV drama "Law & Order: SVU" this fall.

NBC announced Thursday that Brunson will appear in the show's fifth episode of the season, scheduled to air Nov. 5. The network did not disclose details about his role.

Brunson is also scheduled to host the season premiere of "Saturday Night Live" on Sept. 26. He appeared Monday during

the opening segment of the Emmy Awards telecast, which was hosted by "Law & Order: SVU" star Mariska Hargitay.

Hargitay is a Knicks fan and attended Game 4 of the NBA Finals, when New York overcame a 29-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 107-106.

The victory helped the Knicks win their first NBA championship since 1973. Hargitay and Brunson hugged on the court after the game.



'The days of standing on sidelines and taking pics are over', Joy for Dighi

Entertainment Desk

The Film Directors' Day was organised by Bangladesh Film Directors' Association at the BFDC on Wednesday. Information Minister Andaleev Rahman Partho was present as the chief guest at the event.

A video of the event is being discussed on social media. In the video, it can be seen that towards the end of the event, actress Prarthana Fardin Dighi, with the help of fashion designer Gautam, approached the minister and stood to take a picture. At that time, the minister smiled and said that he had another job and quickly left the place after exchanging greetings.

During that time, a slight embarrassment was also seen on Dighi's face.

Actor and director Shahriar Nazim Joy expressed his observations about the video. According to him, artistes should move away from the tendency to stand next to ministers and take pictures outside of work.

In a status posted on social media regarding the incident, Joy said that while many people are interested in taking pictures with Dighi, he did not see any excessive interest in the minister in taking pictures with her in the video.

Joy mentioned two messages surrounding this incident.

He said that the presence of some government ministers and advisors at film industry events after August 5 is a positive message for the industry.

At the same time, artistes should refrain from the tendency to unnecessarily stand next to ministers and take pictures outside of work.

Joy wrote, "He helped the artiste by taking a picture standing next to the minister to avoid getting into trouble in the future. Artistes should understand that the days of taking pictures standing next to ministers for no reason outside of work are over."

He also said that if the film industry becomes self-sufficient and artistes succeed in developing their talents, ministers will be interested in taking pictures with them. Joy also congratulated the Film Directors' Association for organising such an event that brought together senior government officials and film luminaries. At the same time, he praised the contribution of media personality Faridur Reza Sagar, calling him the main guardian and behind-the-scenes hero of the film industry.



Madonna to open VMAs with 1st live performance in 23yrs

Entertainment Desk

Madonna is set to open this year's MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) with her first live performance at the ceremony in 23 years.

The pop icon last performed at the VMAs in 2003, when she shared the stage with Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera in one of the show's most memorable moments. Madonna is also leading this year's nominations with 11 nods following the release of her latest album 'Confessions II'.

She is ahead of Taylor Swift, who received nine nominations, while Ariana Grande and Sabrina Carpenter earned seven each. With 19 career VMA wins, Madonna has previously led nominations twice – receiving nine nominations for 'Vogue' in 1990 and another nine for 'Ray of Light' and 'Frozen' in 1998.

Nana Patekar gives Rs 1.5cr to buy a car after hearing about farmer's suicide

Entertainment Desk

Veteran Bollywood actor Nana Patekar is known for his hot-tempered and angry personality on screen.

However, general public may not be fully aware of how soft and kind-hearted he is in real life.

Renowned screenwriter Ranbir Pushpa recently narrated an incredible and emotional story of Nana's life.

The author revealed story of how he changed his decision to buy a luxury car worth Rs 1.5 crore and stood by the destitute farming families.

In an interview, Ranbir said that one day, Nana became very emotional after seeing the tragic scenes of farmer suicides in India on news.

Next day, he was supposed to buy himself a new luxury car worth Rs 1.5 crore. But after seeing the grieving families on TV screen, he changed his mind.



Sowj Land Freed from Encroachment After 40 Years in Pirojpur

G.M. Adol, Pirojpur District Correspondent

Five illegal shops, including a tin-shed structure that had occupied land belonging to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) for nearly four decades, were demolished in Kaukhali of Pirojpur on Wednesday (September 16). The eviction drive was conducted beside the northern side of Kachuyakati Bailey Bridge in Kaukhali upazila of Pirojpur district. The operation was carried out in the presence of Pirojpur District Administration Revenue Deputy Collector Md. Rubaiyat Ferdous and RHD Sub-Divisional Engineer Md. Al Amin. The illegal structures were demolished using a bulldozer. According to RHD sources, a work order has been issued for the construction of a modern PC girder bridge in the

Kachuyakati area of Kaukhali. However, the long-standing illegal structures on RHD land had been creating obstacles to the construction project. The RHD had issued a final notice asking the occupants to remove the illegal structures by September 14. As the structures were not removed within the stipulated time, the eviction drive was conducted on Wednesday in accordance with court directives and in the public interest. The eviction has freed the RHD land from long-standing encroachment and cleared the way for the bridge construction project to move forward. Local residents also expect the new bridge to ease traffic congestion and improve communication in the area. Relevant officials said that following the removal of the illegal structures, there should be no major obstacle to the construction of the planned bridge.



Police Raid Yaba Manufacturing Den in Khilkhet, Drugs, Machinery, and Raw Materials Seized One Detained

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

Police conducted a raid on House No. 12, Road 2, in the Pink City residential area of Khilkhet, seizing Yaba pills, Phensedyl, Yaba manufacturing machinery, and a large quantity of raw materials. The operation resulted in the seizure of 3,500 Yaba pills, 30 bottles of Phensedyl, 350 empty Phensedyl bottles, and a Yaba manufacturing machine. One individual, Yasin Arafat (37)—a resident of the Kotwali Police Station area in Jashore—was detained in connection with the incident. According to the police, an associate of Yasin

named Zakaria managed to flee by scaling a wall during the raid; efforts to arrest him are underway. Preliminary police findings indicate that the house had been rented about eight months ago. Authorities are investigating how the raw materials and equipment were transported to the site, the duration of the operation, and the identities of other individuals involved. Legal proceedings are currently in progress. Md. Sohrab Al Hossain, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khilkhet Police Station, stated, "We maintain a firm stance against drugs. No drug dealers will be spared. Efforts to apprehend the fugitive suspect are ongoing."



Md. Hossain Chowdhury is sometimes a politician, a social worker, and sometimes a sports enthusiast. He was born into a respectable Chowdhury family in Rauzan, Chattogram. Since his childhood, he has been a bit mischievous in nature, as well as helpful and religious. Politically a BNP supporter, Md. Hossain Chowdhury is now a dedicated soul for the helpless and destitute people of his own village. He has an indescribable good relationship with people of all classes among us.

Land Encroachment Attempt at Religious Site Sparks Protests in Chhagalnaiya

Staff Reporter

Tensions have flared in Chhagalnaiya, Feni, following an alleged attempt by an influential local group to encroach upon land belonging to a religious institution. Angry residents and followers took to the streets, staging protest marches and standing guard to protect the property after the group attempted to illegally construct a boundary wall. According to local sources, an opportunistic land-grabbing circle had been eyeing the property—long used for religious purposes—for a considerable time. Recently, disregarding existing norms and regulations, the group attempted to forcibly erect a boundary wall to consolidate control over the plot. As news of the construction spread, hundreds of locals gathered at the site and halted the illegal work. In the wake of the incident, law enforcement agencies have heightened vigilance in the area to maintain order. Police stated that they are investigating the matter based on complaints and assured that strict legal action will be taken against the illegal encroachers upon completion of the inquiry. Meanwhile, aggrieved villagers have submitted a memorandum to the local administration seeking immediate intervention.



Tk 385cr embankment, 24km road to be built in Bhairab

Kishoreganj Correspondent

A major infrastructure development initiative has been taken to protect Bhairab town and surrounding areas from recurring erosion by the Meghna River. Under the initiative, a 24-kilometre-long embankment and road will be constructed from Bhairab Ferry Ghat to Mendipur at an estimated cost of Taka 385 crore. The project will help protect the town and adjoining settlements from river erosion while creating a new road link to improve communication and transportation of goods in the area. State Minister for Textiles and Jute Mohammad Shariful Alam disclosed the information while speaking to journalists after inspecting the Meghna River at Kalipur in Bhairab town yesterday afternoon. He said several unions of Bhairab upazila, including the town, have been affected by erosion caused by the Meghna. "Based on the longstanding demand of the people and an election pledge, the project has been taken to construct a 24-kilometre embankment and road from the Ferry Ghat to Mendipur," he said. The initial estimated cost of the project is around Taka 385 crore, and its scope will be expanded gradually, the state minister added. He said the project would focus not only on preventing river erosion but also on improving the communication network. The road to be built on the embankment will create new opportunities for local people to travel and transport goods, he said. The project has also been designed to ensure that construction of the embankment does not obstruct the flow of water through canals and wetlands connected to the Meghna. The state

minister said bridges would be constructed at necessary points to maintain the natural flow of water alongside the construction of the road and embankment. During his visit to Bhairab, the state minister also attended several other development programmes. In the morning, sports and training equipment were handed over to Bhairab Football Academy at the temporary office of



the Bhairab upazila BNP at the Kamalpur Dak Bungalow. Later, he inaugurated sanitation, road and drainage improvement works for low-income people at the Harijan community in Chandani Tila of Bhairab Bazar. The works are being implemented under the Local Government Division's Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project. In the afternoon, sports equipment was distributed among educational institutions, players and sports organisers at the upazila auditorium, funded by the Upazila Parishad and the law-maker's fund. Executive Engineer of Kishoreganj Water Development Board Munsir Amir Faisal, Bhairab Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) KM Mamunur Rashid, Upazila BNP President Md Rafiqul Islam, General Secretary Md Ariful Islam, Poura BNP President Haji Md Shahin, General Secretary Mujibur Rahman, Organising Secretary Saiful Haque and Bhairab Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Zahidul Haque Javed, among others, were present.

Community dialogue held in Barishal to prevent dengue

Barishal Correspondent

A community dialogue was held in Barishal yesterday to raise public awareness about preventing dengue and curbing the spread of Aedes mosquitoes. District Information Office organised the event at the conference room of the Barishal Divisional Government Public Library under the project titled 'Awareness Communication Activities for the Development of Children, Adolescents and Women', with support from UNICEF Bangladesh. Director General of the Department of Mass Communication S. M Abdur Rahman attended the programme as the chief guest, while Director Mir Mohammad Aslam Uddin was present as special guest. In his speech, Abdur Rahman stressed the importance of raising awareness at individual, family and community levels to prevent dengue. He urged people to destroy Aedes breeding grounds, keep homes and surroundings clean and hygienic and seek medical advice promptly if dengue symptoms appear. He also called for increased awareness and urged people not to discriminate against dengue patients. Representatives of voluntary and youth organisations said government initiatives alone are not enough to address dengue and called for active public participation. They stressed coordinated efforts by families, educational institutions, media, local organisations and communities to spread awareness effectively. Voluntary organizations- Ahar, Chihno, SNDC and Lal-Shobuj—participated in the event. They are conducting cleaning drives and community sessions in different upazilas of Barishal. An awareness video on dengue prevention was screened at the event, along with a special video message from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on dengue prevention.



In Kalapara, the farmers volunteered for road-drain and Andharmanik Setu cleaning campaign free of charge

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

After voluntary road and drain cleaning operation in Patuakhali Kalapara, 5 farmers have taken part in cleaning the bridge built on the Andharmanik river. On Saturday morning, under the leadership of farmer Kamal Gazi of Nilganj Union of the upazila, they started the cleaning operation of the bridge. On Saturday, it was seen that the drains of the bridge were filled with garbage and the cleaning operation was being conducted to prevent the spread of dengue, the farmers said. Locals welcomed their great initiative. Earlier, on September 14, they started cleaning the various drains and roads of Kalapara city due to

the accumulation of water in the light rain. The farmers said that they will continue this activity for another 15 days. Farmer Kamal Gazi said, we all have the responsibility to keep the country clean. I am cleaning the city and the bridge at my own expense. I will do more in the future. If everyone like me steps forward in this way, everything will be beautiful. Diseases will also be saved. Kalapara Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mo Arifuzzaman said, this farmer named Kamal Gazi is doing his own initiative to clean the garbage of this municipal city and Kalapara Bridge. We will also support him.



Training workshop on snakebite awareness held in Rajshahi

Rajshahi Correspondent

A training workshop on snakebite prevention and treatment, as well as snake rescue and release, was held in Rajshahi yesterday marking International Snakebite Awareness Day-2026. The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Forum organized the workshop at Shah Makhdom Degree College in the city. Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mohammad Faizul Kabir attended the programme as the chief guest. Former Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Rajshahi University Professor Jalal Uddin Sardar, Principal of Shah Makhdom College Rezaul Islam and Officer-in-Charge of Boalia Model Police Station Masuma Mustari were present as special guests. Wildlife Inspector of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division Jahangir Kabir and snake expert and researcher Borhan Biswas Roman conducted the training. Founder and General Secretary of the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Forum Engineer Junaid Ahmed presided over the programme. The speakers discussed the identification and species of venomous and non-venomous snakes found in Bangladesh, using photographs, as well as snakebite statistics, reasons behind snakebites, the use and effectiveness of antivenom, and ways to prevent snakebites and raise public awareness. They also stressed the importance of rescuing and releasing snakes that play a beneficial role in maintaining ecological balance instead of killing them.



Mohammad Iqbal Hossain is a young emerging social worker from Ward No. 7 of Union No. 5 in Mirsarai Upazila, Chattogram. He is the General Secretary of the Krishak Dal of Osmanpur Union No. 5, Mirsarai Upazila, and a well-known friend to all youth, young people, workers, and farmers. He seeks prayers from all, including his relatives and fellow villagers.



Joraganj Police Station conducted separate raids and arrested 8 people including 4 drug dealers, 1 convicted accused, and 3 others wanted in other cases.



BD Care Foundation tree plantation and sapling distribution in Amtoli



Amtoli (Barguna)Correspondent

A tree plantation and sapling distribution program has been held in Amtoli, Barguna, with the aim of protecting the balance of the environment and making it green. The official journey of the social and humanitarian organization BD Care Foundation has begun through this program. The program was held at 10 am on Thursday in the Amtoli Upazila Parishad premises in cooperation with the upazila administration. Upazila Executive Officer Hasan Md. Hafizur Rahman inaugurated the program. BD Care Foundation President Md. Monirul Islam presided over the program and the organization's General Secretary Md. Mehedi Hasan moderated the

program. Former Municipal BNP Convener Md. Kabir Fakir, Member Secretary Md. Jalal Khan, Upazila Senior Fisheries Officer Tanmoy Kumar, Upazila Forest Officer Md. Monirul Haque, former Upazila Public Rights Council Convener Md. Saidir Rahman, members of the organization and people from different classes and professions were present. The speakers said that there is no alternative to planting trees to combat the adverse effects of climate change and maintain the balance of the environment. Not only planting trees, everyone should be responsible for the regular care and conservation of the planted trees. Upazila Executive Officer Hasan Md. Hafizur Rahman said that the participation of social organizations along with government initiatives in protecting the environment is important. The journey of an organization starting through human welfare and environmental protection activities carries a positive message. Later, tree plantation was done at various places including the Upazila Parishad premises and saplings of different species of trees were distributed among the locals. The organizers said that in the future, BD Care Foundation will be by the side of the people by conducting various social and public welfare activities along with environmental protection.

Scouts, Rovers begin 'Safe from Harm' certification course in Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Correspondent

A 'Safe from Harm' certification course for scout unit leaders and rover members began in Thakurgaon yesterday with the aim of promoting safe and secure scouting activities and raising awareness about safeguarding children, adolescents and young people. The course was inaugurated by Akhtaruzzaman, commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts, Dinajpur Region, at a programme held at Anisur Haque Babu Auditorium of Thakurgaon Press Club this morning. Jalal Uddin, vice-president of Bangladesh Scouts, Dinajpur Region; Anjuman Ara Baby and Zakirul Haque Chowdhury, deputy regional commissioners; Abdur Rashid, deputy director of the AIS Department of Bangladesh Scouts; and Lutfur Rahman Mithu, secretary of Thakurgaon District Scouts, were present at the programme. Scout unit leaders and rover members from different units also attended the event.

Former Mirsarai Vice Chairman Detained Day After Eye Surgery

Jwel Nag, Mirsharai, Correspondent

Former vice chairman of Mirsarai Upazila Parishad, Ferdous Hossain Arif, has been detained by police. He was taken into custody from a residence in Chattogram city at around 2:00am on Thursday, according to his wife, Rowshan Ara Ratna. Ratna said Arif underwent eye surgery at around 11:00am on Wednesday. He was scheduled to return to the hospital on Thursday for a dressing change and follow-up treatment. She also said that Arif had undergone three surgeries on his retina over the past four months. According to Ratna, the family had requested that Arif be allowed to appear at the police station himself after completing his scheduled eye dressing. However, she said the police did not accept the request. "After around 10 to 12 police personnel arrived at the residence at



about 2:00am, they took him to the police station," Ratna said. It was not immediately clear under which case, or on what specific charges, Arif had been detained. Police had not provided any official information regarding the matter at the time of reporting. The officer-in-charge of Halishahar Police Station confirmed Arif's detention when contacted, but declined to provide further details.



Life imprisonment for father-in-law in the case of raping daughter-in-law in Madhukhali, Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A person named Hafizar Sheikh (60) has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the court in a case filed for the rape of his daughter-in-law in Madhukhali, Faridpur. At the same time, he has been fined 20,000 taka, and in default, an additional three years of rigorous imprisonment has been imposed. On Thursday afternoon, the judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal (District and Sessions Judge) Shamima Parveen announced the verdict in the presence of the accused. After the verdict, he was sent to the district jail under strict police escort. The convicted Hafizar Sheikh is a resident of Mitain village in the Bagat Union of Madhukhali Upazila. According to the case details, the victim woman was married to Hafizar's son with family consent. Since the marriage, the accused father-in-law had been making immoral proposals to the woman at various times. Despite multiple family arbitration sessions regarding this, Hafizar did not change his behaviour. The complaint states that on August 25, 2022, at around 11 am, Hafizar forcibly raped the victim by luring her into his room. Fearing social stigma, the victim did not suppress the incident and went to her father's house, where she discussed the matter with relatives and filed a case at Madhukhali police station. After investigating the case, SI Syed Tofazzal Hossain of Madhukhali police station submitted a charge sheet to the court on February 16, 2023, naming Hafizar Sheikh as the sole accused. Confirming the matter, the state lawyer (PP) Advocate Golam Rabbani Bhuiyan stated that after a lengthy hearing and analysis of evidence, the court has delivered this exemplary verdict as the allegations against the accused have been proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Two Kg Ganja & Tk. 4950/- sized from Drug Sales.2 Accused Arrested Jorarganj Police

Staff Reporter

As per the direction of the SP Chattogram District, Mr. Md. Masud Alam, BPM, under the supervision of Officer-in-Charge of Jorarganj Police Station, Mr. Mohammad Abdul Halim. ASI (Unarmed) / Md. Aminul Islam of Jorarganj Police Station, along with accompanying officer and force, conducted an operation on the basis of secret information and arrested the following persons from in front of the unpaved road near the south side of New Bhair Bhair Store adjacent to Chinkhi Astana Station Road under Bariarhat Municipality under Jorarganj Police Station. 1.Md. Jafar (65), Father Late Nur Ahmed, Mother Hossneyara Begum, Village Uttar Sonapahar, Ward No. 02, Zakir Amin Bari, Bariarhat Municipality, PS Jorarganj, District Chattogram. 2. Md. Millat Hossain (42), Father Late Abul Kalam, Mother Late Sharifa Begum, Village Paragalpur, Ward No. 04, Abul Bashir Saudagar Bari, Jorarganj Union No. 03, PS Jorarganj, District Chattogram. They were arrested along with 02 (two) kg of ganja and cash Tk. 4950 (Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty) from drug sales. In this connection, Jorarganj Police Station Case No. 28, Date 19/09/2026, Section, 36(1) Table 19(a)/41/26 of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 has been lodged. The accused have been produced before the learned court.



Fensedyl, Yaba, Ganja and Indian Liquor Entering Sylhet Through Meghalaya Border

Naem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

Various types of narcotics, including Fensedyl, Yaba, Ganja and Indian liquor, are reportedly entering Bangladesh through different points along the Sylhet border adjacent to India's Meghalaya state. There are allegations that several border routes in Jafong, Bichnakandi, Pantumai and Jaintapur are being used to smuggle these drugs into the country. Despite regular operations, border patrols and increased surveillance by law enforcement agencies, the inflow of narcotics has not been completely stopped. According to concerned authorities, drug traffickers are changing their smuggling tactics in response to increased law enforcement activities. Taking advantage of opportunities, they are reportedly attempting to use remote border routes, waterways and less-frequented paths to smuggle narcotics. Local sources said that various remote hilly trails, rivers and routes near canals in the border areas have become relatively convenient for smugglers. It is alleged that narcotics are brought in through these routes in small consignments, temporarily stored in border areas and later transported to different parts of the country. Meanwhile, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), police and other law enforcement agencies have been conducting operations at different times to prevent drug trafficking, seizing narcotics and arresting individuals allegedly involved in the trade. However, concerns remain in the border areas as traffickers continue to attempt to bring narcotics into the country using new methods. Concerned citizens said that surveillance along the border needs to be strengthened further, while those involved in drug trafficking should be identified and brought to justice. They also called for greater public awareness in border areas and stronger anti-drug initiatives.

Extreme suffering on the road to farmland in Sarail, no one to look into it.

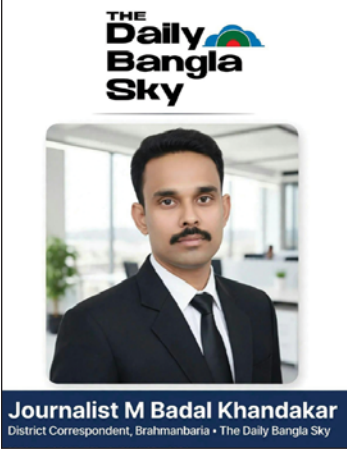
M Badal Khandakar (Special Correspondent)

Morakathi village in Ward No. 1 of Shahbazzpur Union in Sarail Upazila of Brahmanbaria. The only unpaved road to thousands of acres of farmland starts from the west side, next to Janu Mia's house in the village. The current condition of the road is so deplorable that the farmers' distress is now at its peak. A visit to the spot shows that the entire road is submerged in mud and water. Large pot-holes have been created due to the movement of tractors and bullock carts. A little rain causes knee-deep mud to accumulate. People are somehow moving by placing sacks on the side. Local farmers say that several hundred farmers from 3-4 villages use this road every day to bring various crops including paddy and jute. Going to the field with cows and buffaloes is now like a battle. Often sacks of paddy have to be carried on shoulders. During the monsoon season, the suffering increases manifold. A farmer from Morakathi village said, "This is not a road, it's a death trap. We cultivate thousands of acres of land through this road to the west of Janu Mia's house. We cannot take cows, we cannot bring paddy. It has been lying like this for many years." The locals complain that even though years have passed, no initiative has been taken to repair this important agricultural road. Informing the public representatives again and again has been of no use. Therefore, the affected farmers and locals have strongly demanded the Upazila administration and Nadia Pathan Papon, MP of Brahmanbaria reserved seat for women, and Rumin Farhana, MP of Brahmanbaria-2 constituency, to quickly fill this road with soil and make it brick soling or paved.

Three Decades on the Side of Truth, The Story of Pen Warrior M Badal Khandakar

Tachlima Khandakar Nushrat (Sarail Upazila) B. Baria

When the name of journalism is uttered in Sarail, Brahmanbaria, one of the most fearless and uncompromising pen soldiers whose name comes to the fore is journalist M Badal Khandakar. His pen remains sharp against drugs, terrorism, and irregularities. He is the son of the late Advocate Nazim Uddin Khandakar and Mst. Rahima Akhtar. His father was a lawyer and a symbol of justice. Embracing his father's ideals, M Badal Khandakar entered the world of writing in 1993. Faced a Case for Publishing News, Yet Did Not Stop He had to pay the price for revealing the truth at the very beginning of his journalism career. In 1994, after publishing a courageous news report on a significant irregularity in the area, he became a victim of a false case. Many might have stopped there, but he did not. That case made him more resolute and more defiant. Since then, he has proven himself in three mediums — print, online, and video journalism. When the grip of drugs was engulfing the youth in Sarail and Brahmanbaria, M Badal Khandakar declared war through his pen. Through one investigative report after another and video reports, he unmasked drug dealers. Due to this courageous role, he has also become known to the common people as an "anti-drug journalist."



Journalist M Badal Khandakar District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria • The Daily Bangla Sky

Newspapers Where He Is Currently Serving, With three decades of long experience, he now holds important positions in several national and local media outlets. National Daily The Daily Bangla Sky - District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria National Daily Janakatha - Special Correspondent Daily Banglar Sangbad - Special Correspondent In addition, he is closely associated with numerous online and print newspapers. A Pioneer in Leadership and Social Service Not only in journalism, he is also unique in organizational skills. Currently, he is serving as President, Bangladesh Press Club, Sarail Upazila Branch President, Nazim Uddin Smriti Sangsad (Organization founded in the name of his father) President, Udayan Youth Organization General Secretary, Friends Club He is also actively involved with various social and humanitarian organizations. Family Life: In his personal life, he is a successful father. He is the father of four children, including three sons and one daughter. With the inspiration of his family, he has chosen journalism as the main profession and vow of his life. The well-wishers of the area believe that because there are fearless journalists like M Badal Khandakar, the path to revealing the truth is still open in society.

7 arrested in Sonagazi special police raid, including drug abusers and warrant fugitives

Staff Reporter

In line with the zero-tolerance policy against narcotics and a drive to apprehend wanted fugitives, Sonagazi Police arrested seven individuals during multiple raids across different areas of the upazila over the last 24 hours. The raids were conducted by a smart team of Sonagazi Model Thana under the direction of Superintendent of Police Prottyush Kumar Majumder, guidance of the Assistant Superintendent of Police (Sonagazi Circle), and overall supervision of the Officer-in-Charge (OC). Among the arrestees, five were detained on drug consumption charges, while two are warrant-listed fugitives. The individuals arrested for drug abuse are: Nur Alam alias Alam (50): Son of late Ali Ahammad, resident of Char Sahabhikari (Tel Bepari Bari), Ward No. 5, Char Darbesh Union. Abul Bashir alias CNG Babul (50): Son of Sofi Ullah, resident of Char Sahabhikari, Ward No. 5, Char Darbesh Union. Mahfuzur Rahman alias Henju (35): Son of Abul Hashem, resident of South Char Chandia (Kallago Bari), Ward No. 9, Char Chandia Union. Nasir Uddin (35): Son of Abul Kalam, resident of Char Khoaj (Pathan Bari), Ward No. 7, Sonagazi Union. Mosharrar Hossain alias Mister (30): Son of Nurul Islam, resident of Char Khondakar, Ward No. 9, Sonagazi Union. The warrant-listed fugitives are: Mijanur Rahman: Son of Abdul Hadi, resident of Chharaikandi (wanted under a CR warrant). Kholesur Rahman Moku (40): Son of Jalal Ahammad, resident of Ichhapur (Sharif Master Bari), Ward No. 6, Bogadana Union (convicted under a GR warrant). Sonagazi Model Thana Police stated that the drive was part of their regular law enforcement operations. All arrestees have been forwarded to court following due legal procedures, and similar operations will continue to curb crime and eliminate drugs in the area.



Siratunnabi Celebrated at Alokito Rajapur Cadet Madrasa

Rajapur (Jhalakathi) Correspondent. Siratunnabi (PBUH) was celebrated at Alokito Cadet Madrasa in Rajapur, Jhalakathi. On this occasion, a Qirat and Naat-e-Rasul (PBUH) competition and prize distribution ceremony was held on Thursday in the madrasa's conference room throughout the day. The event was presided over by Md. Kabir Hossain, the Chief Patron of Alokito Cadet Madrasa. The Chief Guest was Md. Shamim Reza Sojib, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Rajapur Upazila. Special Guest Md. Abubakar Siddique, Headmaster of Yusuf Ali Secondary School, delivered a speech. Retired teacher Master Yusuf Ali and retired teacher Md. Faruk Ahmed were present at the time. Students of the madrasa participated in the Qirat and Naat-e-Rasul (PBUH) competition at the event. Later, the guests handed over prizes to the winners of the competition.

Alleged Violation of Court Injunction

Press Conference Held in Sitakunda Over Alleged Property Encroachment, Forged Deeds and Facebook Defamation

Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

A press conference was held in Sitakunda, Chattogram, on Saturday (September 19, 2026), protesting what the affected parties alleged to be the violation of a court injunction, illegal occupation of property, construction of structures, creation of forged documents, and the dissemination of misleading information on Facebook. The press conference was held at 12:00 noon at the conference room of the local Press Club. In a written statement, Omar Faruk, representing the affected parties, alleged that Abdul Haque and Nurul Haque had sold the disputed property to them through a registered deed at the Sitakunda Sub-Registry Office on December 30, 2013, thereby relinquishing their ownership rights over the property. According to the written statement, following the death of Abdul Haque, his heirs allegedly attempted to occupy the property and construct structures there. Subsequently, a case was filed before the Joint District and Sessions Judge's Court

seeking a declaration of title and cancellation of the disputed deed. The case is numbered 120/24. The affected parties further alleged that the court subsequently issued an injunction against the heirs of Abdul Haque. However, despite the alleged injunction, the heirs allegedly occupied 4.17 decimals of land belonging to Omar Faruk and Abu Taher and 1.51 decimals of land covered by a deed in the name of Masud Parvez Sahed, and constructed structures there. They also alleged that the heirs of Abdul Haque had been circulating false, fabricated and misleading information against them through Facebook. The affected parties said they were compelled to hold the press conference to protest the alleged violation of the court order, the disputed documents and the alleged social media campaign. They called for an investigation into the allegations and appropriate legal action in accordance with the law. Those present at the press conference included affected parties Md. Abu Taher, Naim Uddin, Masud Parvez Sahed, Md. Sohel, Md. Wahid and Md. Toyeb Uddin.

