



President stresses technical technology education to reduce unemployment

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir today stressed the need for greater emphasis on technical and technology-based education to reduce unemployment in the country. He made the call when a delegation led by Jagannath University (JnU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Rais Uddin paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban

this afternoon, said a President's Press Wing release. During the meeting, the President inquired about the progress of construction of JnU's second campus and called for further improvement in the quality of education at the university. The JnU vice-chancellor briefed the President on the university's overall academic activities. The President said students need to

develop proficiency in multiple languages to keep pace with global advancement, placing particular emphasis on learning a third language. He also expressed interest after JnU VC formally invited him, in his capacity as Chancellor, to attend the university's upcoming convocation. Secretaries of the President's Office, JnU registrar and treasurer were present at the meeting.

Blue economy can become key driver of Bangladesh's future economy: Education Minister



Staff Correspondent

Education Minister Dr ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon on Monday said blue economy could emerge as a key sector of Bangladesh's future economy and it has a huge scope for research, education and resource development. He also said the government has planned to establish a university specialising in the blue economy, where Bangladesh and China could work together, the minister said at the second China-Bangladesh Administrative Experience Exchange Roundtable held at a hotel in the capital. The event was jointly organised by the University of Dhaka's Centre for China Studies and the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. Milon said friendship between Bangladesh and China has continued for a long time and has never stopped. "Whether it is sunny, cloudy, windy, rainy or stormy, the relationship with China goes on and on. The continuation of this effort is

going on now." He said China was once highly populated and its population became a resource for the country, contributing to its present position in the global economic sector. "We also have a large population but no resources, we feel it. But if we compare with China, yes, of course, we can see and we can go ahead and we can see our future through the resource. Number one resource is population," he said. He said this is the time to reap the demographic dividend. "The other resource is the blue economy," he said. Milon said Bangladesh has an exclusive zone of 200 nautical miles and a continental shelf extending to about 560 kilometres/nautical miles, describing the area as part of the country where resources are available. The minister said Chinese experts, professors and researchers are now looking into the sector, and the blue economy is one of the important sectors for research and education in Bangladesh. He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is also talking about the issue. Turning to human resources, Milon said developing human capital is another major resource and the most important area for Bangladesh. "This population should be

NYC BNP leaders activists upbeat ahead of Tarique Rahman's arrival

Staff correspondent

Leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated bodies in New York today took to the streets of Jackson Heights with banners, festoons and shouting slogans, expressing enthusiasm over Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's arrival in the city to attend the 81st UNGA session. As the Prime Minister was on his way to New York and scheduled to land this evening, BNP leaders and activists gathered in Jackson Heights, a major hub of the Bangladeshi community, and staged rallies and processions to welcome him. Carrying banners and festoons, they chanted slogans-- "Tarique Rahman is coming, the streets are shaking" and "Welcome to Tarique Rahman in New York", while local BNP leaders spoke about various development activities of the present government. Leaders and activists of the BNP's New York City unit, Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) and the Labour Party separately gathered in

Faridpur Kotwali police arrested 'Taki Ripon', a 14-year sentenced accused in a robbery case, in Dhaka, recovering 2 firearms

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

Saiful Islam alias Taki Ripon (46), a 14-year sentenced accused in a robbery case at Faridpur Kotwali police station, has been arrested by the Special Response Battalion (SRB). Based on the information he provided, a raid was conducted, recovering 2 locally made firearms (one shooter gun). On Monday (21st September), a press release sent by the SRB stated that on 19th September afternoon, a joint operational team of SRB-10, CPC-3 (Faridpur camp), and SRB-4 (Dhaka) conducted a raid at a residential building in the Pallabi area of the capital based on secret information. In the said operation, the absconding accused Saiful Islam, sentenced to 14 years in a robbery case at Faridpur Kotwali police station, was arrested. The arrested accused is the son of deceased A. Hock Bepari from the Ishan Gopalpur area of Faridpur Kotwali police station. Subsequently, based on the information provided by the arrested accused, a separate operation was conducted in the Ishan Gopalpur area of Faridpur in the early hours of 20th September, recovering 2 locally made one shooter guns by the operational team. The SRB's press release states that the arrested accused Saiful Islam is a professional criminal. He has 1 arms case, 2 robbery cases, 1 theft case, 1 acid crime suppression case, and 1 explosives act case against him in various police stations. The arrested accused has been handed over to the relevant police station after legal proceedings. The press release mentions that SRB's zero tolerance operations



Govt takes initiative to open 24 unused trauma centres

Staff correspondent

The incumbent government has taken an initiative to open the 24 trauma centres, lying unused for years alongside the country's highways, within the quickest possible time. At the same time, an initiative has been taken to launch a nationwide 24-hour ambulance network to ensure rapid emergency care for road accident victims and prevent disabilities. The government has also taken measures to modernise these long-unused facilities and open them as 'Accident and Emergency Treatment Centres'. Medical services will be introduced at all 24 centres in phases after ensuring necessary doctors, nurses, medical equipment and other logistics. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman gave instructions to open these centres at a meeting with officials of the health ministry on August 12. The meeting, it was decided that



UGC formulates policy on cross-border higher education

Staff correspondent

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is formulating a "Cross-Border Higher Education Policy" to internationalize the country's higher education and further integrate Bangladesh's higher education system with the global system. Under the proposed policy, internationally recognized foreign universities meeting quality standards will be allowed to establish branch campuses or study centers in Bangladesh. At the same time, qualified Bangladeshi universities will

have opportunities to establish branch campuses abroad. UGC Chairman Professor Dr Mamun Ahmed disclosed this when a 10-member delegation from UCISI University of Malaysia paid a courtesy call on him yesterday. UCISI University is a private university in Malaysia and operates a branch campus in Banani, Dhaka. The delegation was led by UCISI University President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir. The UGC chairman said the proposed policy

PM arrives in Istanbul en route to New York

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today arrived here en route to New York to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). "A Turkish Airlines flight carrying the Prime Minister, his wife Dr Zubaida Rahman and other entourage members landed at Istanbul airport at 10.55am today (Turkey time)" Prime Minister's Press Secretary AAM Saleh Shibly told BSS. Earlier, the flight departed from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 6:05am (Bangladesh Time). After a two-hour-and-35-minute stopover in Istanbul, the aircraft is scheduled to leave Istanbul for New York at 2:10pm (Turkey Time) and arrive at John F Kennedy (JFK) International Airport at 5:55pm (New York Time). The Prime Minister will be received by Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York Irene Zubaida Khan and Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Tareq Md Ariful Islam at the airport.

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Outgoing Chinese envoy meets Salahuddin

Staff correspondent

Outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Monday met Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed at his office in the Bangladesh Secretariat. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Bangladesh and China in security, law enforcement, cybercrime prevention, technological capacity building and training, said a PID handout. Both the minister and the ambassador emphasised the importance of enhancing law enforcement capabilities, particularly in technology and combating cybercrime. The Chinese ambassador said over the past two years, China has provided training to more than 100 members of Bangladesh's law enforcement agencies in areas such as cyber-

crime, public security management, traffic and transportation management, immigration, and for the UN peacekeeping missions. The home minister said the Bangladesh government has taken an initiative to establish a specialised "Cyber Security Unit" for the police and develop the necessary infrastructure. He said plans are being implemented to establish digital forensic laboratories and cyber laboratories at the police stations, and at district, divisional and central levels. Ambassador Yao Wen suggested that Bangladesh could send a team of experts to China to visit the laboratories, meet the Chinese experts and exchange technical expertise in a bid to help prevent cybercrimes in Bangladesh. In response, the minister announced that Bangladesh will send a five-member high-level

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Germany eyes deeper economic political ties with Bangladesh

Staff Correspondent

Germany is seeking deeper economic and political engagement with Bangladesh, with a visiting parliamentary delegation exploring expanded trade, investment and energy cooperation, including possible collaboration in natural gas extraction in Bhola. A delegation of the German-South Asian Parliamentary Group, led by Nicklas Kappe of the CDU/CSU, concluded a three-day visit to Bangladesh from September 17 to 19, according to a press release, issued by the German embassy here today. The visit highlighted growing European inter-

est in Bangladesh as a geo-economic partner and explored opportunities for deeper trade integration and cooperation in the energy sector. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, and members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The discussions covered Bangladesh's political and economic developments, trade and investment opportunities, climate change and the protracted Rohingya crisis. The two sides also discussed Bangladesh's energy challenges and

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PM heads to UN with small entourage: Mahdi Amin

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's adviser and spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Mahdi Amin, today described Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to the United Nations not as a ceremonial engagement or a display of power, but as a mission focused on serving the people and protecting Bangladesh's national interests. He said the journey to the United States takes one day, and the return takes another, leaving only four days to stay there. Without wasting a single moment, these four days are packed with back-to-back bilateral and multilateral meetings, high-level UN programme, and diplomatic engagements serving Bangladesh's interests, he said. "In total, it is a six-day visit. The official entourage consists of 35 people, including 15 ministers, state ministers, advisers, and special assistants, alongside essential personnel for security, media, and personal duties,"

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BGMEA expresses grief over Ashulia factory blast, announces support measures

Staff correspondent

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has expressed deep shock and grief over the gas cylinder explosion and subsequent fire at a factory of Pretty Group in Jamgara area of Ashulia, Savar, on Sunday evening. In a press release issued today, BGMEA conveyed condolences to the families of those killed in the accident and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls. It also wished a speedy and full recovery for those who sustained burn injuries and other injuries in the incident. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan said, "Standing beside the injured people and affected families is our first and foremost priority at this moment of crisis." Soon after receiving the news of the accident, a BGMEA crisis response team and a delegation visited the scene and provided overall assistance to the Fire Service and Civil Defence in the rescue operation, the release said. According to BGMEA, no regular garment worker was injured in the accident. The association has taken several measures following the incident. A BGMEA medical team is monitoring the treatment of the injured and burn victims admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and local hospitals, the release said. BGMEA is also coordinating closely with Pretty Group authorities regarding necessary medicines and medical treatment. The BGMEA is also forming a high-level investigation committee to determine the actual cause of the accident and examine safety deficiencies related to the unloading of cylinders or gas tankers, with a view to preventing similar incidents in the future. Besides, BGMEA said it would issue an emergency circular to all

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Space deficit mustn’t drive case backlogs

We are concerned that the shortage of dedicated courtrooms for lower court judges is largely driving case backlogs and, at times, impacting the quality of justice. According to a report in this daily, nearly one in four lower court judges in Bangladesh shares a single courtroom with colleagues; across 40 districts, 482 judges continue to rotate in shifts through 241 courtrooms. The Supreme Court Registrar General has stated plainly that infrastructure deficiency is “a severe obstacle to improving judicial performance.”

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Meanwhile, lawyers are forced to avoid lengthy cross-examinations, hearings get adjourned and cases don’t progress. Witnesses travel long distances only to be waiting for hours. This also impacts the jobs of court staff, who live in constant anxiety that documents will be lost or misplaced as case records scatter across multiple unused spaces. Judges report immense psychological strain, knowing their case disposal numbers will be evaluated against those of colleagues who work in dedicated benches without accounting for the infrastructural limitation. The remedies, though long overdue, are within reach. The government must develop a time-bound infrastructure plan, identifying courtroom deficits by districts and providing a construction timeline. Dhaka alone requires 17 additional courtrooms; Khulna needs 13; Chattogram needs 12. But infrastructure is only the first step. The government must also digitise case records to prevent losses and reduce paper-based delays. Case management software should allow judges to prepare orders outside courtroom hours. Besides, paralegal support should be expanded to handle preliminary case processing, freeing judges to focus on hearings and judgments. For acute shortages in 23 districts, temporary arrangements, such as mobile courts and shared spaces with administrative offices, must bridge the gap while permanent buildings are built. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms should be expanded to reduce the load on lower courts for minor civil disputes. These solutions are neither novel nor innovative; they are implemented globally and would require intent, coordination and the political will to act now.

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PM arrives in Istanbul

A motorcade will then escort him to the Hyatt Grand Central New York, where he will be staying during his visit.Earlier, Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam at a Dhaka press conference said the Prime Minister will attend a welcome breakfast hosted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres for heads of state and government on September 22.

e will subsequently join other world leaders at the opening of the session and attend a reception hosted by the US President in honour of heads of state and government and their spouses in the evening.

On September 23, the premier will exchange views with representatives of international charitable and humanitarian organisations at a breakfast meeting.Later, he will address a meeting on tackling the global inequality crisis, jointly organised by Brazil, South Africa, Norway and Spain.He will also attend a high-level meeting titled “Climate Action and the Just Transition,” convened at the initiative of the UN Secretary-General.

On the same day, at a side event on the Rohingya crisis, he will seek effective international cooperation to ensure the earliest possible repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar.

Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam also said at the climate-related meetings, the Prime Minister will articulate Bangladesh's position as a climate-vulnerable country, with particular emphasis on climate finance, adaptation, technology transfer, loss and damage, and climate justice.On September 24, the premier will deliver the opening remarks at a high-level meeting on the existential threats posed by sea-level rise. He will also attend two important side events hosted by Bangladesh.

He will address another side event on maternal and newborn health and midwifery as the chief guest on the same day.Tarique Rahman will highlight the new government's initiatives and future plans for protecting maternal and child health and stress the importance of skilled and professionally trained midwifery services.On the sidelines of the UNGA, the premier is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with the Crown Prince of Kuwait and the prime ministers of Croatia, Bhutan, Thailand, Pakistan and Haiti.He is also scheduled to meet the UN Secretary-General, the President of the European Council, the President of the World Bank Group, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, and the UN high commissioners for refugees and human rights.He is also expected to meet the President of the International Peace Institute.As part of the government's economic diplomacy, the premier will hold meetings with senior representatives of Meta, Wall Street and several other business organisations.The Prime Minister is scheduled to leave New York for Dhaka from JFK international airport at 11:00pm (New York time) by Emirates flight EK202 on September 25.

Outgoing Chinese envoy

delegation to China, led by an additional inspector general of police from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), along with an additional deputy inspector general and cyber and digital forensic experts. The delegation will observe cyber laboratories and technologies in China and prepare specific proposals for establishing forensic laboratories and procuring equipment in Bangladesh, he said.

Yao Wen said China is currently the No. 1 development partner of Bangladesh and a leading investor in the country. He urged the minister to ensure overall security for Chinese citi-

Does Payra Port have any business model

Md. Neyamul Hossain

Subsequent operating experience has made this underlying concern difficult to dismiss.

The capital and maintenance dredging programme was financed heavily from Bangladesh’s foreign-exchange reserves. Financing of 524 million euro was arranged for the programme. Major dredging subsequently enabled vessels of around 10.5 metres draft to use the channel. But the improvement proved difficult to sustain. By late 2024, the channel had again lost substantial depth, preventing mother vessels from reaching the jetty and forcing coal importers back into costly

The planned Patuakhali EPZ may eventually provide an important cargo base. But ports cannot simply wait for industries and shipping lines to appear. Port planning, industrial development, roads, inland waterways and border management need to be aligned around a common cargo strategy. Furthermore, a credible business model cannot function without a fully operational Customs House. Payra has had Customs House jurisdiction since 2016, yet legal designation is not the same as having sufficient manpower, systems, examination, scanning and on-port regulatory presence. After Tk 15,691 crore of public investment, completing that institutional architecture should be a modest but urgent task. Customs should also sit alongside the port authority when Payra approaches shipping lines, importers, exporters and investors, because clearance procedures are part of the service an international port sells. Payra does not need to become another Chattogram. Its future should instead be built around what its geography and sustainable draft allow it to do competitively. That may mean a more specialised role: captive energy cargo, selected bulk commodities, project cargo, coastal and feeder shipping, Patuakhali EPZ traffic, and inland-water connections with Dhaka and other markets. Its protected river route towards the interior—sheltered from the harsh conditions.

lightering. By March 2025, The Daily Star reported that some coal cargo was being discharged through Chattogram and then carried to Payra by lighter vessels because of insufficient navigability.This sequence should change the policy conversation from “How deep can we make Payra?” to “What depth can Payra sustainably maintain year after year, at what cost, and what cargo volume is needed to justify that cost?” And depth, an economic variable in Payra’s case, should determine its business model.

At present, Payra’s most reliable cargo base is essentially captive cargo—coal for nearby power generation. That creates tonnage, but not yet a diversified commercial port. Payra has substantial physical facilities, including a 650-metre jetty and large backup areas. But infrastructure capacity without cargo generation risks becoming idle capacity.

So before committing further investment in the port, the government needs a serious cargo and commercial development plan. It should identify realistic cargo catchments over five,

10 and 15 years; commodities that could economically use Payra rather than Chattogram or Mongla; prospective industrial users; vessel sizes and sailing frequencies; inland transport costs; and the recurring dredging expenditure required to support them.

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with Dhaka and other markets. Its protected river route towards the interior—sheltered from the harsh conditions of the bay—could remain an important advantage for smaller vessels and barges.

But these possibilities must be tested commercially. Shipping routes should emerge from cargo demand and cost, not from infrastructure availability alone. So, define Payra properly before expanding it further. Payra can still perform useful national logistics functions. Sunk cost—money already invested in the port—should encourage better utilisation of existing assets, not automatic continuation of earlier assumptions. The government should now undertake a transparent commercial and navigational review that brings together four variables: sustainable channel depth, annual dredging cost, realistic cargo volume and revenue potential. Those four variables should determine the next phase of Payra. What it needs is a commercially credible definition of the kind of port it can sustainably be and a business model soon.

zens, businesspeople and investors working in Bangladesh.

In response, Salahuddin said China is not only one of Bangladesh’s top investors but also one of its major strategic development partners. He reaffirmed the government’s strong commitment to ensuring the highest level of security for all Chinese citizens, businesspeople and workers involved in development projects in Bangladesh.At the meeting, Yao Wen informed Salahuddin that he will leave Bangladesh after completing his tenure in early October. He conveyed greetings to the home minister from China’s Minister of Public Security and handed over an invitation to visit China to attend a public security forum and meet the Chinese minister on the sidelines.Inspector General of Police Md Ali Hossain Fakir, CID chief Barrister Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, Additional Secretary of the Home Ministry Dr Ziauddin Ahmed, among others, were present at the meeting.

Blue economy can become

converted into manpower,” he said.He said young people and working people constitute nearly 65 percent of the country’s population, while Bangladesh has a population of about 180 million.

He said Bangladesh is in an advantageous position as more people are dying and fewer people are being born in Western countries, while Bangladesh has the opposite demographic trend, with more people being born and fewer people dying. “This is our main resource,” he said, adding that the world is now facing population scarcity, particularly in the Western world, while China’s population is also not growing at the same rate in accordance with its development.

“We must address, we must address this sector. And here we are now to address this sector,” he said.He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has committed to providing further budgetary support to the education sector. “This year I received 2 percent of net GDP. And he wishes to contribute up to 5 percent of GDP,” he said.Calling it a huge amount of the budget, the minister questioned where the additional allocation should be invested.

He thanked the Chinese government for extending ideas and research cooperation with Bangladesh in the two specific sectors, blue economy and disaster management, prevention and reduction.

Milon said Bangladesh needs to build a long-term bridge of friendship with China and expressed the view that the bridge could be built through education.“We need to build a bridge, the friendship long term with China and I believe this bridge could be built through education, only education and only education,” he said. He said such cooperation would prolong the friendship between the two countries.

NYC BNP leaders

Jackson Heights and expressed their enthusiasm over the Prime Minister’s arrival.

The welcome activities are part of a broader mobilisation by Bangladeshi expatriates in New York. In recent days, streets and prominent locations in Jackson Heights have been decorated with banners, posters and festoons, while the BNP, its affiliated bodies and individual expatriates have taken preparations to welcome the Prime Minister.According to community sources, 34 preparatory meetings have so far been held involving the USA BNP, its affiliated and associated organisations and former party leaders.The preparations have also focused on maintaining discipline during planned welcome programmes at the airport and in front of the UN headquarters.A Jubo Dal activist who came from Rajshahi said they

would remain united against the Awami League’s return to politics. “We will stand together outside John F Kennedy International Airport to welcome our leader when he arrives in New York,” he said.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman left Dhaka early today for New York to attend the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He is scheduled to address the Assembly on September 24, leading a 26-member delegation. His UNGA address is expected to highlight Bangladesh’s renewed democratic journey, rule of law and accountability, global peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, economic cooperation, youth and women’s empowerment, education and health, the Rohingya crisis and reform of the multilateral system.The Prime Minister is scheduled to begin his official UN engagements on September 22 with a welcome breakfast to be hosted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres for heads of state and government. The Prime Minister is scheduled to leave New York for Dhaka on September 25.

Germany eyes deeper

explored possible cooperation in natural gas extraction in Bhola.Both sides expressed interest in advancing discussions on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Bangladesh and the European Union.They also underscored the importance of sustained international support for resolving the Rohingya crisis and maintaining international pressure on Myanmar.As part of its engagements with the private sector, the German delegation visited several German industrial ventures in Bangladesh, including Heidelberg Materials, CHT and Siegwerk.The delegation also toured the Meghna Industrial Economic Zone (MIEZ) in Narayanganj, gaining first-hand insights into Bangladesh’s manufacturing and industrial landscape and the contribution of German companies operating in the country.The German parliamentarians praised Bangladesh’s large consumer market and competitive labour force while also discussing operational challenges faced by businesses.Beyond economic cooperation, the delegation discussed democratic inclusion and social development. The Speaker briefed the German parliamentarians on women’s political representation in Bangladesh, while the delegation’s deputy chair, Ulle Schauws, held engagements with leading local women’s rights and environmental organisations focusing on sustainable social development.

PM heads to UN with

Mahdi Amin said. He said it is not about ceremony, but working for the country’s people; not about showing off power, but protecting Bangladesh’s interests. This visit also marks a significant moment in global history, he said.

Mahdi Amin shared the remarks in a post on his verified Facebook page this afternoon.Prime Minister Tarique Rahman departed here for New York, USA, this morning to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

In his Facebook post, Mahdi Amin mentioned that following in the footsteps of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, their son — Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, elected by the people, — will stand on the global stage of the United Nations. As the third representative from the same family, Tarique Rahman will articulate the voice of the Bangladeshi people, the country’s interests, government policies, and future plans, he said.

Highlighting another unique aspect, Mahdi Amin said while the Prime Minister represents Bangladesh on the global stage,

the Foreign Minister of his own government will be presiding over the UN session.

The PMO spokesperson said after two decades of sacrifice, struggle, movements, and mass uprisings, a democratic government is now in power. With a massive mandate, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is carrying the voice of the country’s people to the global arena, he said. Noting that this is not merely a foreign tour, Mahdi Amin said it goes beyond simply showcasing the country at the United Nations; it represents the international articulation of the people’s aspirations. It embodies a legacy of emotions, sentiments, and ideals, marking the beginning of a new chapter in history on the global stage regarding Bangladesh’s interests, dignity and future, he added.

Faridpur Kotwali police arrested

to maintair law and order and combat illegal arms and crime will continue in the future.

Govt takes initiative

the names of the existing 24 trauma centres would be changed to ‘Accident and Emergency Treatment Centres’ and that, in consultation with the Roads and Highways Division, ‘Accident and Emergency Treatment Centres’ would be established through projects on vacant land alongside roads and highways.The Prime Minister also instructed that X-ray machines, ambulances and equipment, as required, should be procured from the approved budget of the Health Services Division.These 24 trauma centres were established at different times alongside important highways across the country to ensure treatment for people injured in road accidents closed to the accident sites within the shortest possible time.The objective was to bring injured people under treatment quickly and reduce fatalities.However, due to a lack of necessary manpower, medical equipment and administrative approval, the centres have remained unused for years. According to Health Services Division, initiatives were taken to construct 10 trauma centres in the 2004-05 fiscal year and another 14 in 2010 alongside various important highways across the country. Only two of these centres currently have limited outpatient services. One is being used as part of the orthopaedics department of a district hospital concerned.The objective of constructing these centres was to provide prompt treatment, particularly to patients suffering serious injuries to the head, chest, spine and bones.Initiatives had also been taken to establish a 20-bed ICU and a 40-bed isolation centre in each three-storey building.One such centre is the Mulibari Trauma Centre in Sirajganj Sadar. It was constructed in 2020 at a cost of around Taka 11 crore to provide immediate services to patients injured in road accidents on the Dhaka-Rajshahi-Rangpur highway.After remaining unused for six years, the centre was temporarily opened for 14 days from May 21 during the last Eid-ul-Azha to provide services to road accident victims. It was later closed again.The other centres are located in different parts of the country, including Atgharia in Pabna; Sherpur in Bogura; Sirajganj Sadar and Ullapara; Bhairab in Kishoreganj; Gopalganj Sadar; Shibchar in Madaripur; Shibalaya in Manikganj; Zajira in Shariatpur; Bhanga (Madhukhali) in Faridpur; Sreenagar in Munshiganj; Dhamrai in Dhaka; Elenga in Tangail; Lohagara, Hathazari and Raozan in Chattogram; Daudkandi in Cumilla; Bhaluka in Mymensingh; Chhatak in Sunamganj; and Bahulab in Habiganj.According to the original plan, each trauma centre was supposed to have a total of 14 doctors, including seven consultants, three orthopaedic surgeons, two anesthetists and two resident medical officers.In addition.



Speaker calls for climate-resilient energy-secure, sustainable Bangladesh, South Asia

Staff correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikrom, today called for concerted efforts to build a climate-resilient, energy-secure and sustainable Bangladesh and South Asia. "As law-makers, our primary responsibilities are to enact effective laws, strengthen parliamentary oversight and ensure that the voices of affected people are reflected in budgetary allocations," he said. The Speaker made the remarks while addressing a high-level policy dialogue

titled "Shaping the Climate and Energy Agenda in Bangladesh: A Parliamentarians' Dialogue" at a hotel in the capital today. The dialogue was organised under the South Asian Regional Parliamentary Forum to determine goals and strategies for climate resilience and sustainable energy transition in Bangladesh. Hafiz Uddin said Bangladesh ranks among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, while its people have demonstrated remarkable resilience in disaster management and local adaptation, said a

press release of parliament secretariat. "The climate crisis has no geographical boundaries," he said, calling for securing international climate finance and obtaining technological assistance from developed countries as a moral obligation. He urged lawmakers to raise Bangladesh's concerns at international forums to secure compensation for losses suffered by Bangladesh and other vulnerable countries due to sea-level rise and climate change. State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate

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Rain likely in parts of country

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) today forecasted rain in different parts of the country in next 24 hours commencing 9 am. Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram & Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh & Dhaka divisions," said a Met office bulletin issued this morning. Besides, it said, moderately heavy falls may occur at places over the country. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The highest temperature on Sunday was 35 degrees Celsius in Chattogram, while today's minimum temperature is 22.5 degrees Celsius in Narayanganj. In the last 24 hours (till 06 am today), the highest 58 millimetre rainfall occurred

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13 Not Alaw Awami League Leaders and Activists, Including a UP Chairman, Detained in Burichong

Ghazi Jahangir Alam Jabir, Burichong, Cumilla

Police from Burichong Police Station have detained 13 leaders and activists—including a Union Parishad (UP) Chairman—associated with the Awami League, an organization currently banned from operating. Police stated that the arrests were made during raids across various areas of the upazila following allegations of anarchy and sabotage linked to a "lockdown" program announced by the organization nationwide. According to police sources, the individuals were detained during operations conducted on September 20 and 21. Charges against them include carrying out activities on behalf of a banned organization and organizing processions. The detained individuals are: Md. Saheb Ali (50), incumbent Chairman of Mokam Union Parishad; Md. Faisal Bhuiyan (26) of Purbo Hura; Md. Abul Kashem (37) of Parihal Para; Shakib Hossain (22) of Purbo Hura; Jahangir Alam Hridoy (27), a Chhatra League leader from Dakshin Tetabhumti in Brahmanpara Upazila; Shafiqul Rahman (40) of Burichong Paschim Para; Abu Sani Khandaker Shakil (28) of Gobindapur; Kazi

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BB allows OBUs to undertake forex purchase, sale, swaps

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has allowed Offshore Banking Units (OBUs) of scheduled commercial banks to undertake outright purchase and sale of foreign currency and cross-currency swap transactions with domestic banking units, other authorised dealers, other OBUs and other legitimate local counterparties. The central bank issued the directive through a circular today to facilitate legitimate customer transactions, enhance foreign currency liquidity management, strengthen asset-liability management practices and align offshore banking operations with internationally accepted treasury practices. According to the circular, such transactions may be undertaken when they are directly related to permissible customer transactions, funding requirements, settlement obligations, liquidity management, asset-liability management or foreign

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Rohingya crisis a "grave human crisis": UNGA President

Staff correspondent

President of the UN General Assembly's 81st session Dr Khalilur Rahman has described the Rohingya crisis as a "grave human crisis" and said violence will not solve any problem. "The lesson I carry is this: violence will not solve any problem. It will only defer it and make it worse. Only through talks and negotiation, only by coming together, we can resolve these issues," he said. The UNGA President said it is a grave human crisis - a

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ICAO assures full cooperation for Bangladesh aviation development

Staff correspondent

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has assured its full cooperation in the development of Bangladesh's civil aviation sector, including efforts to further strengthen aviation safety and security. The assurance came in a recent letter sent to Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman

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Tk 119.56cr allocated to union parishads for solar power projects



Staff correspondent

The Local Government Division has allocated Taka 119.56 crore as a one-time special allocation to union parishads across the country to implement projects for supplying solar-generated electricity to the national grid. The funds have been released under the special allocation sub-sector of the Union Parishad Development Assistance sector of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The Union Parishad-2 Branch of the Local Government Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural

Development and Cooperatives recently issued a government order in this regard. According to the order, the government has approved the release of Taka 119 crore 56 lakh to the union parishads for implementing projects to supply electricity generated from solar power to the national grid. Under the order, the chairman of the respective union parishad will prepare a bill in Treasury Rules (TR) Form-32 to withdraw the allocated funds. The bill must be countersigned by the concerned Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) before being submitted to the Upazila Accounts Officer. The concerned UNO will act as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) for withdrawing the funds. The district and upazila accounts offices will issue account-payee cheques or payment advice against the bills. The district offices will make payments through cheques to the bank accounts maintained by the respective union parishads. Sonali Bank

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NBR to pursue "One NBR" architecture to raise tax-GDP ratio to 15pc by 2035

Staff correspondent

National Board of Revenue (NBR) has outlined a comprehensive reform and capacity-building roadmap to raise Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio from the current 6.8 percent to 15 percent by 2035 through pursuing the "One NBR" architecture focusing on widening the tax base, strengthening compliance, improving digital systems and integrating tax administration. To attain this goal, the income tax, customs and VAT wing will work in an integrated manner like "One NBR" architecture to attain this desired goal. The revenue authority presented the roadmap at the second meeting of the Parliamentary Standing

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MP Gazi Nazrul, wife remanded over second wife's 'suicide'

Staff correspondent

A court here today placed Member of Parliament (MP) from Satkhira-4 constituency Gazi Mohammad Nazrul Islam on a four-day remand and his first wife Maksud Islam on a one-day remand in a case filed over allegedly abetting his second wife, Mariam Khatun, to commit suicide. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ehsanul Islam passed the order as police produced the couple before the court and pleaded to place them on a seven-day remand in the

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Muhit calls for dengue awareness content as nationwide digital campaign begins

Staff Correspondent

A 3-month nationwide special digital awareness campaign has begun to prevent dengue, with State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr MA Muhit urging citizens, particularly content creators and social media influencers, to actively participate in spreading awareness through Facebook and other social media platforms. "Dengue cannot be fully controlled through administrative measures or insecticide spraying alone; individual and collective awareness and participation are crucial to prevent the disease," Dr Muhit said in a message today. Highlighting the extensive influence of social media, the state minister said active

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Dengue Ward Inaugurated at Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

A specialized 20-bed dengue ward has been inaugurated at Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital to ensure improved and specialized medical services for dengue patients. The dengue ward was inaugurated on Monday (September 21) at noon through a ceremony held on the hospital premises. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Nazmul Ahsan Sarkar, Managing Director of Rangpur Group, and conducted by Mirajul Muhsin, Additional Director. Dr. Wazed Ali, Divisional Health Director (Acting) of Rangpur, was present as the chief guest.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Md. Wazed Ali said that although dengue is a mosquito-borne disease, complications can largely be controlled if timely and proper treatment and monitoring are ensured. With the opening of a separate 20-bed ward for dengue patients in Rangpur, medical services for patients will become more organized. The specialized ward will ensure necessary treatment, monitoring and nursing care, while also making it possible to bring patients under treatment quickly. Hospital authorities said that Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital has been working

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কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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

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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.

ADP implementation hits five-year low at 1.85% in July-August

Staff correspondent

Implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) stood at only 1.85 percent in July-August of the current 2026-27 fiscal year, the lowest rate in the last five years. According to the latest ADP implementation progress report, ministries and divisions spent Tk 5,709.70 crore during the first two months of FY27 against an annual allocation of Tk 3,08,924.86 crore. In July-August of FY26, they spent Tk 5,714.83 crore against an annual allocation of Tk 2,38,696 crore, resulting in an implementation rate of 2.39 percent. Thus, development spending in the first two months of FY27 was Tk 5.13 crore lower than in the same period a year earlier. The report shows that ADP implementation has remained relatively low during the opening months of the last five fiscal years, though the annual allocation has changed significantly. In FY25, Tk 7,143.08 crore was spent during July-August, accounting for 2.57 percent of the annual allocation of Tk 2,78,288.90 crore. In FY24, agencies spent Tk 10,541.80 crore during the first two months, or 3.84 percent of the annual allocation of Tk 2,74,674.02 crore. In FY23, Tk 9,843.71 crore was spent

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Effective legal, institutional framework crucial for IP protection after LDC graduation: Experts

Staff correspondent

Experts and policymakers today stressed the need for an effective legal and institutional framework to address the challenges of intellectual property (IP) protection following Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category. They said the changing intellectual property landscape would create new challenges for Bangladesh's pharmaceutical, readymade garment, information technology, agriculture and other industrial sectors, while also opening up opportunities for innovation, technological advancement, branding and value addition. They made the remarks at a focus

group discussion titled "Industrial Shift in the Post-LDC Era: Strategies for IPR Issues of Key Industries", jointly organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP) and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) at the DCCI Auditorium in the city. ERD Secretary Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky attended the programme as the chief guest. In his introductory remarks, SSGP Project Director and Additional Secretary A.H.M. Jahangir said the private sector would face the most significant challenges in the post-LDC era. He stressed the importance of ensuring proper enforcement of intellectual property

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Speaker calls for climate

Change Shaikh Faridul Islam said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, has been working on energy transition. He said the government has set a target of generating 10,000 megawatts of solar power by 2030. The state minister also said the government plans to plant 25 crore trees within the next four years, while three crore trees have already been planted this year with government funding. He said Bangladesh alone cannot be held responsible for environmental pollution, as developed and industrialised countries also bear a significant share of the responsibility. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Dr Md Saimum Parvez took part in the event as the keynote speaker. Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the ministry of Foreign Affairs Barrister Jahrat Adib Chowdhury and MP Fazle Huda Babul delivered the welcome addresses. Lawmakers and local and foreign experts invited to the dialogue exchanged views on climate resilience and sustainable energy transition. Representatives of the South Asian Regional Parliamentary Forum and senior officials concerned were also present.

Rohingya crisis a “grave

population attacked, their homes bombed, their villages burned, chased out by their own country's people while pregnant mothers' abdomens cut open and the fetuses thrown into fire.“But I also saw their resilience, their ability to survive and their yearning to go home. When the Secretary-General visited Cox's Bazar last year, more than 100,000 refugees gathered on a Ramadan evening to share breakfast with him, each holding a placard reading: we want to go home,” Khalilur said. “That's why I see such value in the assembly - a place where people gather at the highest levels, in a safe environment, to work out the best way forward,” he said.As high-level week gets underway - the busiest week of the UN calendar, the largest gathering of world leaders in one place anywhere on the planet - Rahman sat down with UN News recently to discuss what a “much needed transformation” would actually look like, why he believes artificial intelligence poses a test unlike anything the UN has faced before and what lessons from his work on the Rohingya crisis he is carrying into the role.Bangladesh is hosting over 1.3 million Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island, a senior official told UNB, noting that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, during his General Assembly address, will seek to draw renewed international attention to the protracted Rohingya crisis and mobilise stronger global cooperation towards its resolution.He is scheduled to attend a Bangladesh-hosted side event on the Rohingya issue on September 23 where he will seek effective international cooperation for the earliest possible repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar.Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam on Sunday described the Rohingya issue as an “ongoing problem” and said Bangladesh would once again use the gathering of world leaders to highlight its magnitude and the challenges it poses.“We will once again present to the global community the magnitude of the Rohingya issue, the challenges it poses and the international cooperation, assistance and support Bangladesh requires,” Siam said.Bangladesh has repeatedly maintained that the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingyas to Myanmar is the only viable and lasting solution to the crisis. The UNGA President addressed critics who argue the assembly is toothless compared with a gridlocked Security Council, and reflected on the moment, more than four decades after serving his own foreign minister during a previous Bangladeshi presidency of the assembly, that brought him back to lead it himself.He took the gavel as President of the UN General Assembly's 81st session amid what he calls a crisis of confidence in the organisation he has served - in one capacity or another - for 35 years.The top Bangladeshi diplomat and sitting foreign minister has staked his one-year presidency on a single ambition: restoring trust. It's a theme he returns to often, tracing it back to the optimism of the UN's founding in 1945 and the gap between what Member States expected then and what the organization has delivered since.United Nations General Assembly high-level week provides a unique opportunity to hear directly from world leaders about how they see the world, their regions and their own countries, and what they expect from the United Nations, said UN General Assembly President Khalilur.“One of the things I'm looking for most closely is what they say about reviving trust in the organisation,” he said, describing it as the highlight of his presidency. “I've made it my own theme, and I want to draw on their views as a guide for my work on this agenda,” he said.Reflecting on the creation of the United Nations in 1945, Khalilur recalled the meeting in Yalta where US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met for about eight days.Alongside arrangements for ending the Second World War, they conceived of a world organisation whose primary purpose was to prevent a repeat of the conflicts seen in the two world wars, he said.“When the UN was formally created in San Francisco, delegations gave it a standing ovation and kept standing for a while. That represented the aspiration that the UN would be able to give peace,” he said.He said the world has avoided a large-scale global conflagration in the eight decades since the UN's creation.“And I'm happy to say that in the eight decades since, we've avoided a large-scale global conflagration,” he said.Countries that were not at the table at the time of the UN's creation have since emerged from colonial rule and built a robust development pillar within the UN, Khalilur said.“At the same time, we haven't prevented many conflicts, and progress on development has often been sluggish,” he said.“We have to work hard to ensure that the Security Council works more coherently and delivers as it was expected to,” he added.Khalilur said both the peace and development pillars carry major unmet expectations, which has contributed to frustration and a sense that the UN is not doing what people expected of it.“That has fed declining trust,” he said. Khalilur also highlighted human rights as the UN's third pillar.“I should also mention human rights, our third pillar: We spend only four per cent of our total spending on it. We've made major strides, but much remains to be done,” he said.“We have to work hard along all three pillars to bring back the confidence the organization had at its creation. It's a major challenge, and it will require all member states and stakeholders to work together,” Rahman said.AI needs safeguardsOn artificial intelligence, Khalilur said the technology could be “a great accelerator of human endeavour,” while also posing serious dangers to humanity.“We shouldn't do anything to slow innovation - that has to continue. But it's vital that we put guardrails in place, so this innovation serves humanity rather than working against it,” he said.Khalilur said responsibility for establishing such safeguards rests not only with governments but also with everyone involved in developing and using AI. “That's a job not only for governments but for everyone practically involved in developing and using the technology,” he said.“We need all of these communities to be part of the discussions and decisions ahead, so we find a safe pathway toward AI genuinely serving humanity,” Khalilur said.UNGA's convening powerResponding to questions about the relevance of the General Assembly, Rahman said its continued high-level participation demonstrates its utility.“If the assembly were useless, there wouldn't be a high-level week, and Heads of State wouldn't come. There must be some utility,” he said.He identified the UN General Assembly's “great convening power” as one of its key strengths. “What I see is the great convening power of a body that represents the entire world - there's no other place quite like it,” Rahman said.Khalilur said diplomacy is not always conducted in public and that the General Assembly provides Heads of Government and Heads of State with a safe environment to

discuss serious issues together and find ways to resolve them. “It's also an authoritative way of hearing directly from those governing our societies,” he said.“I believe the assembly will continue to play an important role in setting norms and giving overall direction to the work of the international community,” he added.Looking toward handoverThe UNGA President said he is focused not only on the immediate priorities of his presidency but also on what he can accomplish before handing over the gavel to his successor.“This is what I told my team today - I'm not looking at today. I am looking at the day when I'm handing over the gavel to my successor,” he said.He identified three areas where progress would be important: helping member states agree on necessary reform of the organisation, keeping the UN financially solvent and speeding up delivery at the local level. “If I can help Member States agree on necessary reform of the organisation, agree to keep it financially solvent and agree to speed up delivery at the local level - if I have some movement on any of these, I'll happily hand over my gavel to my successor,” Khalilur said.

Tk 119.56cr allocated

Limited will subsequently transfer the funds to the union parishads' accounts based on advice from the upazila offices. The expenditure will be met from the development budget allocation for the 2026-27 fiscal year under the relevant accounting head. The order directed the authorities to strictly follow the Union Parishad Development Assistance Utilization Guidelines, 2021 and the Public Procurement Rules, 2025 while spending the funds. The allocation must be used only for the specified activities. It further stated that the concerned DDO responsible for payment of the bills would be held accountable for any irregularities in the use of the allocated funds.Any unspent portion of the allocation must be returned to the government treasury by June 30, 2027. The Finance Division has also given its consent to the release of the funds. It conveyed the consent to the Local Government Division on September 15. ICAO assures full Millat, congratulating him on assuming office as a full minister.ICAO Council President Toshiyuki Onuma and Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar extended their greetings to the minister on taking up his new responsibilities.The two senior ICAO officials said the organisation would continue its full cooperation with Bangladesh in further advancing international civil aviation and ensuring safety and security in the sector. ICAO plays a key role in developing international civil aviation standards and recommended practices and works with member states to promote safe, secure and orderly growth of the sector.Its cooperation is considered important for the development of Bangladesh's civil aviation sector, modernisation of airport infrastructure and strengthening of aviation safety and security in line with international standards. The letter also wished Minister Millat every success in discharging his new responsibilities.

NBR to pursue “One NBR”

Committee on the Ministry of Finance last month, highlighting the need to improve revenue productivity to keep pace with the expansion of government expenditure.The NBR made detailed presentations on its capacity to meet government expenditure requirements, measures taken to narrow the tax-to-GDP gap, and assessment of the NBR's organisational structure and necessary measures.The NBR said achieving the FY2026-27 revenue target and raising the tax-GDP ratio cannot rely solely on higher tax rates. It requires a major expansion of the tax base, technology, data use and taxpayer compliance.It proposed an integrated “One NBR” architecture, bringing income tax, VAT and customs administrations into a more integrated taxpayer-management system. The NBR has outlined a roadmap to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio from the current 6.8 percent to 15 percent by 2035.The roadmap sets an interim target of 8.8 percent in the short term, followed by further improvement of 10 percent in the medium term before reaching 15 percent by 2035.The presentation identified investment in revenue administration, skills development, system interoperability, risk management and taxpayer services as key drivers of revenue growth.The NBR currently accounts for around 86 percent of the government's total revenue, according to the presentation.Talking to BSS, a senior NBR official said the revenue board is strengthening its institutional and operational capacity which has now become a state priority, particularly as Bangladesh seeks to increase domestic revenue mobilisation while supporting economic growth.According to NBR data, the country's tax-to-GDP ratio has remained mostly between 7 and 8 percent over the past 25 years. It reached around 10 percent during FY2011-12 to FY2014-15 before declining again, standing at 6.7 percent in FY2024-25 and 6.8 percent in FY2025-26.The NBR said the current ratio remains among the lowest compared with South Asian and neighbouring countries, while the long-term target has been set at 15 percent by 2035.The presentation said the NBR has analysed 25 years of data covering the size of GDP, government budget, revenue and development expenditure, NBR revenue collection and growth, government borrowing and tax-to-GDP trends in neighbouring countries to establish benchmarks and identify areas requiring reform. It also compared government expenditure with NBR revenue collection and found that government expenditure increased 4.47 times over the last one era under review, against a 3.40-fold increase in NBR revenue collection. The NBR therefore stressed the need to increase revenue productivity in line with the growth of public expenditure.The presentation showed that average revenue growth from FY2001-02 to FY2025-26 stood at 13.43 percent, while the NBR projected that achieving the FY2026-27 revenue target would require substantially higher growth compared with the actual collection in FY2025-26.The NBR identified several immediate areas for strengthening revenue administration, including taxpayer services, governance, policy capacity, data management, information technology and human resources. Under its proposed action plan, the NBR plans to review the legal framework and transition arrangements, establish a comprehensive enterprise architecture, create a unique taxpayer master database and develop a common data dictionary and system inventory. The NBR also proposed establishing a Revenue Policy Secretariat, developing a tax-expenditure register and introducing mandatory policy-costing templates.In the first three years, the NBR plans to introduce a unified taxpayer account, integrated customer relationship and case-management systems, third-party data matching, a cross-tax compliance risk engine and a common payment and arrears view. For customs, the NBR proposes retaining specialised border functions while integrating importer and exporter identities with valuation, VAT and income-tax risk data.Over three to five years, the NBR aims to develop near-real-time compliance analytics, expand pre-filled tax returns where legally feasible, automate low-risk refunds and introduce advanced entity-network and fraud analytics.It said its revenue policy also seeks to support industrial development and export competitiveness through reduced duties on raw materials and capital machinery, VAT exemptions for agriculture, essential commodities and ICT, sector-based reduced income-tax rates and exemptions, customs automation and single-window services. The revenue board listed agriculture, garments, refrigerators and air-conditions, information technology, automobiles and electric vehicles, mobile phones, SMEs and the capital market,

healthcare and education, pharmaceuticals and renewable energy among the sectors receiving various fiscal and customs policy support.

MP Gazi Nazrul, wife

case.Police recovered Mariam's body hanging from a ceiling fan inside Flat No. 203 on the third floor of Building No. 5 of NAM Bhaban on the evening of September 20. The Satkhira-4 lawmaker and his first wife were taken into custody after that.Mariam's father SM Masum Billah filed the case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station this morning against Gazi Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Maksuda Islam and Mariam's maternal uncle Obaidur Rahman for allegedly abetting her suicide.According to the case documents, Mariam, 19, married MP Gazi Nazrul in June, 2026, under the “direct instigation” of Obaidur Rahman. Mariam had been living with Nazrul and Maksuda at Flat No. 203 of Building No. 5 of NAM Bhaban, opposite the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.Mariam had told her family that Nazrul and Maksuda had been physically and mentally torturing her over various issues since the marriage.At around 5:30pm on September 20, Nazrul called the plaintiff over the phone and asked him to go to the flat immediately. Upon reaching there, Masum Billah found Mariam hanging by her neck. The case statement said the family found a suicide note written by Mariam on her bed while recovering the body.

Rain likely in

in Ishurdi. The sun sets at 5:56 pm today and rises at 5:47 am tomorrow in Dhaka.

13 Not Alaw Awami League

Golam Kibria (43) of Bakshimul Union; Mominur Rahman Mohan (38) of Bharasar; Md. Anwar Hossain Anu Mia (58) of Bakshimul Madhya Para; Md. Masum Haider Chowdhury (49) of Lohaimuri; Abdur Rashid Member (64) of Rajapur; and Md. Sohel Rana (40) of Jiyapur in Mainamati Union. Muhammad Lutfur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Burichong Police Station, confirmed the detention of the 13 individuals. He stated that legal action is being taken against these leaders and activists of the banned Awami League. Preparations are underway to send them to jail via the court following the completion of legal procedures. The OC added that police operations would continue to maintain law and order and to prevent processions, rallies, and acts of sabotage by the banned organization.

BB allows OBUs to undertake

exchange risk management.However, OBUs have been instructed to conduct the transactions in accordance with applicable foreign exchange regulations, prudential guidelines, approved internal policies, dealing and counterparty limits and sound risk management practices. The transactions must not be undertaken for speculative foreign exchange trading purposes, it said.Bangladesh Bank has also encouraged OBU's to adopt prudent foreign currency funding strategies, including accessing lower-cost currency funding where feasible. They may arrange appropriate outright foreign exchange purchase or sale transactions or cross-currency swap arrangements to facilitate cost-effective trade settlement, efficient foreign currency liquidity management and effective mitigation of associated foreign exchange risks.The central bank said the facilities are intended to enable OBU's to provide efficient services for permissible trade and financing activities, optimise foreign currency funding arrangements and manage currency exposures in line with internationally accepted market practices.All other provisions of the Guidelines for Offshore Banking Operations issued through FE Circular No. 11 on January 30, 2025 will remain unchanged.

Dengue Ward Inaugurated

from the beginning to ensure quality healthcare for the general public. Special importance is also being given to ensuring that financially disadvantaged and poor patients are not deprived of advanced medical treatment. The opening of a separate ward for dengue patients has further increased the opportunity to provide necessary services to patients during times of crisis. Nazmul Ahsan Sarkar, Managing Director of Rangpur Group, said, “Ensuring healthcare for people is one of our key responsibilities. Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital is working with the goal of ensuring that financial hardship does not become an obstacle to any patient's treatment. A separate 20-bed ward has been opened for dengue patients so that they can receive prompt and advanced medical treatment according to their needs. Various initiatives will continue in the future to further improve the quality of healthcare for the general public.” Meanwhile, relatives of patients receiving treatment in the dengue ward expressed satisfaction with the hospital environment and the services provided by doctors and nurses. They said that having a separate dengue ward has created a sense of confidence among relatives regarding patients' treatment and monitoring. They also expressed satisfaction that doctors and nurses regularly check on the patients. A patient's relative said, “We are not facing any kind of difficulty in coming to the hospital for treatment. Doctors and nurses regularly check on the patient and provide necessary advice. As there is a separate ward for dengue patients, the treatment environment also seems good.” Among others, Dr. Meshkatul Abed, Assistant Director of the Rangpur Divisional Health Directorate; Ashraful Alam Al Amin, Deputy Managing Director of Rangpur Group; Major (Retd.) Nasim Uddin, Director of the Board of Directors; Moazzem Hossain Sarkar; Mosharraf Hossain Dipti; Dr. A. B. M. Abu Hanif, Director of Rangpur Community Medical College and Hospital; Dr. Shariful Islam, Principal of Rangpur Community Medical College; and officials and employees of Rangpur Group and Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Muhit calls for dengue

public participation and dissemination of timely information can significantly reduce the risk of dengue.He particularly called upon young people, content creators and influencers on social media to come forward and contribute to the campaign.Dr Muhit called for a massive campaign with uploading and sharing of dengue awareness content, reels and stories.Many content creators have already joined the dengue awareness campaign through the Health Ministry, he said.Referring to international public health practices, the state minister said content creators can easily convey important messages on dengue prevention through creative videos, infographics and social media posts, including the need to get rid of stagnant water, keep surroundings clean and seek prompt medical attention when symptoms appear.“Everyone can contribute to this national initiative by creating awareness content,” he said.Over the next three months, the digital campaign will extensively disseminate information through social media on destroying Aedes mosquito breeding grounds, dengue symptoms and primary care. Citizens have also been urged to keep their homes, yards and workplaces clean and spread dengue prevention messages across the virtual space.

ADP implementation

during July-August, representing 3.85 percent of the annual allocation of Tk 2,56,000.27 crore.The figures indicate that the current FY27 implementation rate is the lowest among the five fiscal years covered by the report. Spending in July-August FY27 is also lower than in FY26, FY25, FY24 and FY23. The report also provides separate data for August. Development expenditure in August FY27 stood at Tk 3,588.52 crore, equiv-

alent to 1.16 percent of the annual ADP allocation. In August FY26, spending was Tk 4,070.18 crore, or 1.71 percent of that year's allocation.August spending therefore declined by Tk 481.67 crore year-on-year, while the monthly implementation rate fell by 0.25 percentage point.The annual ADP allocation has increased to Tk 3,08,924.86 crore in FY27 from Tk 2,38,696 crore in FY26, an increase of Tk 70,228.86 crore.The allocation in FY25 was Tk 2,78,288.90 crore, while it stood at Tk 2,74,674.02 crore in FY24 and Tk 2,56,000.27 crore in FY23.Despite the higher allocation in FY27, implementation during the first two months has remained below the levels recorded in each of the previous four fiscal years covered by the report. The figures cover implementation by ministries and divisions from July through August 2026 and compare it with the corresponding periods from FY23 to FY27.

Effective legal, institutional

laws, preparing industries for the transition and formulating necessary policies. In his welcome address, DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed said the importance of intellectual property rights (IPR) for products is continuously increasing in the global economy.“A strong intellectual property rights ecosystem is essential for Bangladesh in the post-LDC era,” he said.He said Bangladesh should focus not only on increasing production in promising sectors such as pharmaceuticals and readymade garments, but also on innovation, branding, technology transfer and value addition.Taskeen Ahmed identified structural delays in the existing IPR system, inadequate institutional coordination, lack of necessary policies, limited institutional capacity and insufficient awareness among private sector entrepreneurs as major challenges.He proposed establishing a modern and effective intellectual property rights office, setting up IP tribunals in Dhaka and Chattogram for speedy dispute resolution, introducing an automated digital system for trademark registration, recruiting trained manpower and creating greater awareness among entrepreneurs, particularly SME entrepreneurs.ERD Secretary Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky said locally produced goods have significant demand in the domestic market and there is considerable potential for exporting them if their designs and quality can be improved further.He noted that although budget allocations exist for research, the funds are not always utilised, while there are also allegations of inadequate allocations for research.“This indicates a lack of coordination which needs to be addressed,” he said.The ERD secretary said the government is announcing a special fund for the SME sector, but enhancing entrepreneurs' capacity and ensuring sustainable development would be essential for effectively implementing such allocations. He said the government, through the SSGP project, is providing sector-specific technical assistance and necessary amendments and reforms would be made to relevant policies.He, however, stressed that the private sector would also have to come forward.The ERD secretary also said initiatives have been taken to bring all government services under digital operations, which are expected to be launched soon. The keynote paper was presented by Mohammad Ataul Karim, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford and former consultant at WIPO Academy.He emphasised the need for Bangladesh's industries to make strategic use of intellectual property rights to adapt to the changing realities of the post-LDC era.He stressed the importance of making effective use of existing legal flexibilities available to Bangladesh on IPR, while strengthening research and development, industry-academia collaboration and incentives for innovation.In the panel discussion, Md. Jahangir Hossain, Director General of the Department of Patents, Industrial Designs and Trademarks (DPDT), said each industrial sector should formulate its own action plan to overcome post-LDC challenges and ensure appropriate initiatives and support from relevant government agencies.Abdul Baki, Project Adviser of SSGP and former secretary, said the extended timeframe for LDC graduation should be utilised effectively through greater coordination among relevant government agencies and close collaboration with the private sector. Major General Dr. Md. Shahedul Islam (Retd), Secretary General of BGMEA, said effective enforcement of Bangladesh's own intellectual property laws and incentives and support for entrepreneurs are essential to address post-LDC challenges.KSM Mostafizur Rahman, President of the Bangladesh Agrochemical Manufacturers Association (BAMA), called for identifying the agrochemical sector as a priority sector and formulating effective and updated policies.Raisul Kabir, Founder and CEO of Brain Station 23 Limited, said Bangladesh cannot achieve future success by focusing solely on outsourcing without giving adequate priority to new technology and innovation.

UGC formulates policy

would allow quality foreign universities to operate branch campuses in Bangladesh, with the highest priority given to educational quality, academic environment, good governance and protection of students' interests.He said approved foreign universities would have to maintain the same quality of education at their Bangladesh campuses as at their main campuses.Dr Mamun said academic programmes in modern and in-demand subjects would be encouraged to meet the growing demand for future-oriented knowledge and skills.Universities will also have to play a more effective role in producing skilled human resources, particularly in technology, artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, robotics, renewable energy and other emerging fields, he added.The UGC chairman said qualified private universities would soon be allowed to offer PhD programmes, considering the country's needs and institutional capabilities.He said initiatives were also being taken to expand scholarships, internships, joint research, joint degrees and other academic collaborations between Bangladeshi universities and reputed universities worldwide.Such initiatives would provide Bangladeshi students and teachers with greater opportunities in the international academic arena and accelerate the internationalization of higher education, he added.Seeking UCSI's cooperation in establishing branch campuses of quality Bangladeshi universities in Malaysia, Professor Mamun said the UGC was interested in working together and creating opportunities to provide necessary support for Bangladeshi universities to expand their academic activities internationally.The UCSI delegation expressed interest in further expanding the university's activities in Bangladesh. They sought approval to conduct various academic programmes and permission to offer PhD degrees.The delegation also expressed interest in scholarships, joint degrees and other academic activities for Bangladeshi students.UCSI proposed fixing reasonable tuition fees for Bangladeshi students and offering tuition fee waivers. The delegation also sought UGC cooperation in admitting foreign students to its Bangladesh campus.The university also expressed interest in being included in the UGC's foreign scholarship programmes for Bangladeshi teachers and offered tuition fee waivers for teachers under the programme. During the meeting, Professor Mamun was invited to attend UCSI University's convocation in Malaysia next December.

BGMEA expresses grief

garment factories across the country, directing them to strictly follow the highest safety protocols while unloading, handling and storing chemicals, gas cylinders and flammable materials.“BGMEA firmly believes that protecting workers' lives and ensuring overall workplace safety remain among its top priorities following any industrial accident,” the release said. The organisation also expressed gratitude to the relevant government departments, Fire Service and Civil Defence.



US, China compete for AI dominance amid shared safety concerns

International Desk

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to meet this week as their countries compete for leadership in artificial intelligence while also facing growing concerns about the technology’s potential risks. The two nations are seeking an advantage in AI, but both have raised concerns about how the technology could be used by the other side. As China continues to narrow the gap with the



United States, hopes for cooperation on global AI safety remain complicated by broader tensions between Washington and Beijing. “The U.S.-China conversation in AI is getting caught in the ups and downs in the broader U.S.-China relationship,” said Scott Singer, co-director of the China AI Initiative at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday that Washington and Beijing had discussed creating a mechanism for AI dialogue during talks in New York with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng. The US also proposed a “notification mechanism” for AI-related incidents that could affect national security. AI emergencies could offer room for cooperation The two sides could discuss risks such as AI-powered cyberattacks, biological misuse, major failures of AI systems and situations in which humans lose control over advanced AI, said Sun Chenghao, a senior fellow at Tsinghua University’s Center for International Security and Strategy. “There is still meaningful room for cooperation,” Sun said, adding that China is also paying increasing attention to AI-related risks, including cyber threats, malicious use and loss of control. Bessent said the proposed notification system would allow the two countries to alert each other about AI incidents that reach the level of a national security threat. “We want a shared vision of common goals and common threats,” he told reporters. Michael Kratsios, Trump’s science and technology adviser, also said discussions with China were important, particularly to reduce risks that could affect both countries. Both governments are concerned about AI being used against critical infrastructure. Chinese AI governance documents identify finance, electricity, telecommunications and transportation as sectors that could face risks from advanced AI, Sun said. Samm Sacks, a senior fellow at Johns Hopkins University, said China has shown interest in discussing issues such as sharing information about AI and cyber incidents with US experts.

If Washington and Beijing can agree on how to report and communicate during an AI emergency, it could gradually build technical confidence between the two countries, said Xiao Qian, vice dean of Tsinghua University’s Institute for AI International Governance. US chip restrictions remain a major issue Trump has repeatedly said that “whoever wins AI, wins” and has stressed the need for the US to maintain its technological lead over China. Beijing has accused Washington of seeking an AI monopoly by restricting China’s access to advanced technologies, including high-end computer chips. Any major easing of US export controls on advanced AI-related technology is unlikely to be discussed at the meeting, said Alfredo Montufar-Helu of consultancy Ankura. With Washington and Beijing competing across multiple areas, the scope for cooperation on AI remains “quite narrow,” he said. Despite US restrictions, Chinese AI models have increasingly challenged leading American systems. Models developed by companies including Moonshot AI and DeepSeek have shown capabilities comparable in some areas to systems from US companies such as Anthropic and OpenAI, often at lower costs. “Export controls have not stopped China from developing frontier-competitive models, but they slow its rate of expansion by limiting the compute it can use to serve users,” said Will Cong, a professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Chinese chip developers have also been making progress, while domestic companies are increasingly using locally produced chips. This has strengthened Beijing’s position in talks with Washington, said George Chen of The Asia Group. Dispute over AI technology sharing Another source of tension is US accusations that Chinese companies are improperly using technology from American AI developers. The US government and AI companies have accused Chinese firms of “distillation,” a process in which capabilities from advanced AI models are extracted and used to improve other systems. Chinese officials have rejected the allegations. Anthropic has accused Chinese AI companies DeepSeek and Moonshot of sending some user requests to its Claude AI models. Rebecca Arcesati of the Mercator Institute for China Studies said Chinese companies may be seeking to benefit from the infrastructure developed by their US competitors as American restrictions limit China’s computing capacity. Chinese officials and some technology analysts, however, argue that distillation is common across the AI industry and does not fully explain the progress of Chinese AI models. Beijing has also expressed concern about the potential impact of American AI on China’s critical infrastructure, including risks linked to Anthropic’s Claude system. It has further raised concerns about AI being used to spread political misinformation and potentially challenge its governance. “We cannot expect meaningful cooperation on AI safety if one side increasingly treats the other side’s technological progress as a national security threat,” Xiao said. She added that disagreements between the two countries make dialogue on AI safety even more important.

World Insights: Mecca defense pact faces first test as Houthi-Saudi tensions intensify

International Desk

Six weeks after Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed a defense agreement in Mecca pledging to regard an armed attack on any one of them as an attack on all three, the escalating confrontation between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia is putting the commitment to its first major test. Houthi forces have pushed along Yemen’s western coast toward the strategically important Bab al-Mandab Strait while increasing missile and drone attacks against targets deep inside Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, in response, has stepped up airstrikes on Houthi positions in Yemen. Tensions rose further after Saudi authorities said they had intercepted a Houthi drone south of Mecca before it entered the holy city’s airspace. The Houthis denied that they had targeted Mecca. The confrontation then moved closer to the Saudi capital on Saturday. Explosions were reported in Riyadh as authorities issued an air alert, while the Saudi-led coalition said its air defenses intercepted a Houthi ballistic missile aimed at the city. The Houthis said they had launched attacks on targets in Riyadh and Yanbu, a major energy center on the Red Sea. The widening exchange has turned the renewed conflict in Yemen into a broader test of regional deterrence. Türkiye and Pakistan have pledged to support Saudi Arabia, although neither country has announced plans to take part directly in combat operations against the Houthis. The situation is raising a key question over the Mecca agreement: whether its members can make their collective defense commitment credible enough to discourage further attacks without becoming directly involved in a wider conflict. Pressure spreads beyond Yemen Saudi Arabia is coming under increasing pressure across a wider area, from fighting in Yemen and around the Bab al-Mandab Strait to attacks threatening its cities and energy facilities. On Saturday, the Houthis said they had used ballistic and cruise missiles and drones to attack what they called “sensitive targets” in Riyadh and an Aramco facility in Yanbu in western Saudi Arabia. Saudi authorities said their air defenses intercepted the missile aimed at Riyadh and stopped attacks targeting Baish, Taif, Farasan and Yanbu.



Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the group was following a policy of “escalation for escalation,” linking the attacks to increased Saudi airstrikes in Yemen. The situation on the ground in Yemen has also changed significantly. Houthi forces captured the strategic Red Sea port of Mocha in southwestern Taiz province on Sept. 10. The following day, they took Dhubab and Mayyun Island in the Bab al-Mandab Strait after government forces withdrew farther south into neighboring Lahj province. Fighting has since intensified around the Kahhub mountain region and nearby high ground overlooking the approaches to the strait. Both sides have been sending additional forces to the area. The Bab al-Mandab Strait connects the Gulf of Aden with the Red Sea and, farther north, the Suez Canal, making it a key route for global trade and energy shipments. With shipping through the Strait of Hormuz already affected by wider regional tensions, instability around Bab al-Mandab is adding pressure on another major maritime chokepoint. From pledge to practice On Aug. 7, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signed the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement. The agreement is based on the principle of collective defense, under which an armed attack against any of the three countries is to be treated as an attack against all of them. Later that month, the three countries began establishing the pact’s institutional framework. At a meeting in Istanbul, they agreed to expand military coordination and defense-industry cooperation and to establish a permanent secretariat in Saudi Arabia. The Houthi attacks have now shifted the agreement from institutional planning to a practical test. Türkiye has offered the clearest indication of the possible form of its support. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Saturday that Ankara would honor its commitments and could provide technical assistance to address Saudi military needs. Pakistan has also issued strong political statements in support of Saudi Arabia. Islamabad has repeatedly condemned attacks on the kingdom and reaffirmed its support for Saudi sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan’s military has said it would go “to any extent” to defend Saudi sovereignty.



Russian strikes put Ukraine’s publishing industry at risk

International Desk

Seconds before a Russian drone struck, Viktor Kruglov was thinking about textbooks tens of thousands of them and how to deliver them to Ukrainian schools more quickly. Minutes later, a second explosive-laden Shahed drone hit the main warehouse of his publishing company, Ranok, in north-eastern Kharkiv. “Steel was blazing and burning,” Kruglov said, describing the Aug. 1 attack. The huge warehouse’s reinforced concrete melted and its roof collapsed. The fire continued for nearly a week, destroying millions of books. Ukraine’s publishing industry is now facing its most serious crisis, with Russian attacks damaging publishing houses, printing facilities and bookstores. The attacks are part of wider damage to the country’s cultural sector. Nearly 5,000 cathedrals, churches, museums, theaters and other cultural sites have been destroyed or damaged, while about 35,000 art objects have been looted, according to Ukrainian authorities. More than 13 million books about one-third of Ukraine’s annual print production — were destroyed during two months this summer, causing at least \$39.3 million, or 1.75 billion hryvnias, in damage, the Culture Ministry said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov did not respond to an Associated Press request for comment on the attacks against Ukraine’s publishing infrastructure. The destruction comes as demand for Ukrainian-language books has increased since Russia’s 2022 invasion. But publishers say the losses threaten the future of the industry beyond the financial damage. Publishers may have less money to invest in new writers, while small independent companies could reduce production or shut down. Larger publishers may also become more dependent on established bestsellers. “This is a deliberate policy of Russia because they understand that culture is what makes us feel resilient, what makes us feel the owners of our land, of our destiny,” Ukraine’s Culture Minister Tetiana Berezna said. At least 40 other publishing houses and several bookstores have also been damaged in recent weeks. “This is a huge blow to the industry, and if we don’t move quickly to put strategic support measures in place the industry could collapse entirely,” Kruglov said, describing publishing as an important part of Ukraine’s national security. The Ranok warehouse, which opened in 2013, was an automated logistics center capable of processing tens of thousands of books daily. The strike destroyed about 8 million books, including 620,000 textbooks supplied to almost all Ukrainian schools. Kruglov said Ranok has backup warehouses and keeps its files in cloud storage, allowing the company to reprint books and continue operating. Berezna said the attacks were part of what she described as Russia’s systematic destruction of Ukrainian heritage. She noted that Russia had previously restricted Ukrainian-language publishing and public speaking during the 19th century, when much of present-day Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire. “But still, the Ukrainian language exists. Ukrainian literature exists,” she said, adding that Ukraine’s history offered hope that its culture would survive. Russian drones strike Zaporizhzhia following Ukraine’s 1,000 -drone barrage

International Desk

Russian drones blasted the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia late Sunday, wounding five people and striking apartment blocks, a university and a shopping mall, officials said Monday. The bombardment, which also hit nine other Ukrainian regions, came a day after Ukraine launched over 1,000 drones at Russia during its parliamentary election. Ukraine’s air force reported shooting down or suppressing 148 Russian drones overnight, while Russia’s Defense Ministry stated its air defenses downed 244 Ukrainian drones and that its forces targeted Ukrainian ports, logistics hubs and warehouses. With no diplomatic progress after four years of war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Moscow is escalating the conflict ahead of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where he expects to meet U.S. President Donald Trump.

New writers face growing risks The attacks have also weakened publishers’ ability to take financial risks on new authors, Berezna said. Publishing debut writers is generally more expensive and less predictable than producing books by established authors or translated bestsellers. She warned that young writers who could eventually become important Ukrainian literary voices may receive less support. The Culture Ministry is preparing a financial support package that could include government purchases of Ukrainian books for school libraries, grants for small publishers, rent assistance for bookstores and war-risk insurance for print runs. However, publishers say more help is needed. At the Konvi printing plant, which was hit by a Russian missile in July, burned pages from fourth-grade English textbooks remained on the floor months after the attack. Paper was also trapped inside a damaged printing machine. The plant previously printed millions of books each year, including fiction, educational and scientific works. Commercial director Viktoriia Haidai said replacing the damaged printing press would cost 1.2 million euros (\$1.37 million), while restoring full production capacity could take four to five years. She said textbook printing that previously took three to four months could now take six to seven months, putting future delivery deadlines at risk. “It’s not just the large printing houses that are suffering,” Haidai said. “Many small printers, who don’t make themselves known publicly, have also been destroyed.” Industry seeks foreign and government support Iryna Baturevych, co-founder of Chytomo, a leading Ukrainian platform covering books and publishing, said the recent losses were unprecedented in the country’s independent history. She warned that small independent publishers were particularly vulnerable, potentially reducing the diversity of books available, especially in niche and experimental genres. Children’s publishing is also facing difficulties, she said. With many Ukrainian children living abroad, publishers are shifting toward other genres, while some authors are leaving the profession. Baturevych said the government would probably find money to keep textbooks in production, but support for the wider publishing industry was less certain. Ukraine’s financial resources are limited because much of the government’s spending is focused on the war. Roksolana Pidlasa, head of the Ukrainian Parliament’s budget committee, said that as of September, one day of the war costs Ukraine about \$190 million. Baturevych said foreign support would therefore be important for rebuilding the publishing sector. Kruglov said publishers need three main forms of government assistance: affordable loans and insurance similar to those available to other industries, investment to rebuild warehouses and printing facilities, and measures to increase demand for books and reading. Publishers currently struggle to obtain such loans because much of their value is tied to intellectual property rather than physical assets that can be used as collateral. “I hope the state will help, because there can be no independent Ukraine without independent publishing,” Kruglov said. “The Ukrainian book is the one product that cannot be imported.”

Three South Korean officers injured in explosion near North Korea border

International Desk

An explosion in South Korea’s heavily fortified border area with North Korea injured three military officers on Monday, the country’s Defense Ministry said. The blast occurred during an unspecified operation inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the buffer area separating the two Koreas. The ministry said the cause of the explosion was not immediately known. Officials did not say whether the blast may have been caused by a land mine planted by North Korea. The North has increased border fortifications in recent months, including mines and anti-tank barriers, as tensions between the two countries have worsened. Two of the injured officers were airlifted from the area by helicopter, while the third was taken out by land before being flown to a hospital, according to the ministry. All three are receiving treatment at a military hospital near Seoul. The DMZ stretches about 248 kilometres and is 4 kilometres wide, making it one of the world’s most heavily armed borders. An estimated 2 million land mines are scattered in and around the area, which is also protected by barbed-wire fences, tank traps and troops from both sides.



The zone was established as part of the 1953 armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. The two countries, however, have never signed a peace treaty. Concerns have grown in South Korea over increased activity by North Korean troops near the Military Demarcation Line as Pyongyang strengthens its border defenses. South Korea’s military has not officially confirmed media reports that North Korean troops crossed the demarcation line more than 20 times during front-line operations in August. In April 2025, South Korean troops fired warning shots after about 10 North Korean soldiers crossed the line in the eastern section of the DMZ. The North Korean troops withdrew after South Korea issued audio warnings and fired the shots, with no clashes reported. In June 2024, North Korean troops crossed the border three times, prompting similar warning shots.



Daisy Edgar-Jones finds herself in Elinor of ‘Sense and Sensibility’



Entertainment Desk

Daisy Edgar-Jones says she identifies strongly with Elinor Dashwood, the sensible elder sister she plays in the latest adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility*, particularly when it comes to matters of the heart.

“I lead a lot with my head and try and push aside, bury my emotion,” Edgar-Jones told the BBC, describing herself as more like Elinor than her younger and more romantic sister Marianne.

However, she said one of the pleasures of the film is watching Elinor discover and embrace a more passionate side of herself.

“And I feel like I learnt to do that too,” the 28-year-old actress said.

Best known for her breakout role opposite Paul Mescal in the hit series *Normal People*, Edgar-Jones now leads the latest screen adaptation of Austen’s classic novel. Directed by Georgia Oakley, the film follows the Dashwood sisters as they deal with love, loss and social expectations after their father’s death. Unlike some modern adaptations, the new film remains firmly rooted in the period in which Austen wrote.

Edgar-Jones said she admired the film’s traditional setting but felt its filmmaking brought a fresh quality to the story.

She stars alongside Esmé Creed-Miles, 26, who plays

Marianne. The actresses had previously worked together as teenagers on the 2018 film *Pond Life*, which helped them develop a natural on-screen sisterly bond.

Creed-Miles said they had fun working together on the earlier film, recalling that they often had sleepovers and watched *Love Island*.

Edgar-Jones said the theme of sisterhood has remained particularly meaningful to her, despite being an only child.

“I’ve heard a lot of people say that after watching the film, it either makes them want a sister or to ring up their sister and say, ‘Hey, I love you,’ and I think that’s really special,” she said.

Sense and Sensibility has been adapted for the screen several times, including the acclaimed 1995 film starring Emma Thompson and Kate Winslet. Edgar-Jones said she loves that version but believes Austen’s stories continue to offer new possibilities.

“She has an incredible way of articulating the female experience,” she said, pointing to Austen’s writing about love, romance, family relationships and social dynamics.

Edgar-Jones also believes Austen’s themes remain relevant to younger audiences. She noted that emotions surrounding love, heartbreak and first relationships have changed little in 200 years.

“We still have the same human heart as we did 200 years ago,” she said.

Creed-Miles agreed, saying the characters could help viewers feel less alone in experiences they are going through.

Edgar-Jones also addressed reports that Mescal could be considered for the role of James Bond. While she did not confirm whether he was in the running, she praised her former co-star.

“I don’t know, but I think there’s nothing Paul can’t do,” she said.

Check the copy for factual consistencyTighten the story to standard wire length

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‘Chirkut’ to release on Durga Puja

Entertainment Desk

Shamol Mawla and co-actress in a scene from movie ‘Chirkut’. The full-length feature film ‘Chirkut’ is based on a true story from the 1990s. The setting of the movie is Rajshahi University.

It features stories of youth excitement, friendship, nostalgia, love and life across the campus. It is directed by Muntashir Akib. This is the director’s first movie. Shamol Mawla, Azijun Mim, Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Sumon Patwary, Tehzib, Abdullah Al Sentu, Shaon Ashraf, Siam Nasir, Shimul, Sadi Khan, Shamim Ahsan, Mahira Hasan, Ibrahim Suján and many others have played various roles in ‘Chirkut’.

Director Muntashir Akib said, “The story of movie ‘Chirkut’ originates from a true incident that happened at Rajshahi University in the 1990s. One of the objectives of the movie is to connect the current generation of viewers with the emotions, relationships, and memories of that time.” He also said that ‘Chirkut’ will be released in theatres during the upcoming Durga Puja. In addition to directing, the story and screenplay of the film are written by him. The four songs used in the film have been sung by Rehan Rasul, Masha, Mehedi Sarkar and Snehashis Chakraborty Abhi.

Melissa Barrera reflects on Macklemore’s removal from Ed Sheeran’s tour

Entertainment Desk

Actress and singer Melissa Barrera has spoken out about Macklemore’s removal from Ed Sheeran’s “Loop Tour” over his pro-Palestine comments, reflecting on the support the rapper received and drawing parallels with her own dismissal from the “Scream” franchise.Nearly a week after Macklemore was dropped from the tour, Barrera said she was moved by the solidarity shown by Sheeran’s backing band and the supporting acts, who subsequently withdrew from the tour.Barrera said the response brought her to tears, particularly the support shown by Finneas and the other performers. Reflecting on her own experience, she noted that she had not received the same level of public support when she faced a similar situation.

In 2023, Barrera was dropped from “Scream VII” after publicly expressing support for Palestine and criticising Israel on social media. Although some of her co-stars and publicists stood by her, the actress said she felt that people were “too scared” to speak out at the time.She added that it was encouraging to see how attitudes had changed nearly three years later.

Addressing the controversy surrounding Macklemore’s departure, Barrera also questioned whether Sheeran could have taken a stronger stand against the decision.

Macklemore had previously alleged that billionaire businessman Robert Kraft, who owned one of the concert venues, had pressured other venue owners to remove him from the tour or risk losing their stadium bookings. Sheeran, meanwhile, maintained that the decision to remove Macklemore had been made by the tour promoters rather than by him. Reflecting on Sheeran’s response, Barrera wondered what might have happened had the singer refused to comply with the decision.



Rifat Chy undergoing treatment in hospital

Entertainment Desk

Actor and poet Rifat Chowdhury has been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital due to illness. He is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital’s new building. According to his family, Rifat has been suffering from weakness, excessive fatigue, shortness of breath, chest pain and insomnia for some time.

He is receiving treatment under the supervision of doctors, who are providing the necessary care for his recovery. Rifat has acted in more than 500 television dramas during his long career. He has earned praise for his performances in popular dramas including ‘House Full’, ‘Aim in Life’, ‘Patigonit’, ‘420’, ‘Sixty Nine (69)’, ‘Bonmanush’, ‘Bicycle’, ‘Carrom’ and ‘Murir Tin’. His portrayal of ‘Jatiyo Kaka’ in ‘Sixty Nine (69)’ brought him widespread recognition among television audiences. Rifat has also made a name for himself as a poet. He entered the world of poetry in 1984 with the poem ‘Alingoner Naam’.

According to reports, 29 of his books have been published so far.



AFD to host Suborno Chakraborty Tonmoy’s debut solo exhibition ‘Splendor of Green’

Entertainment Desk

Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) will host artist Suborno Chakraborty Tonmoy’s first solo exhibition, ‘Splendor of Green’, from September 22 to 29, showcasing works born from his close study of leaves, flowers and grass.

Curated by Sumon Wahed, the exhibition will open at 6 pm on September 22 at AFD’s La Galerie.

Tonmoy’s engagement with nature deepened during the COVID-19 lockdown, when the slower pace of everyday life gave him an opportunity to observe his surroundings more closely.

The diversity of plants, particularly the varied forms and characteristics of leaves, gradually became a major source of inspiration for his paintings.

His works explore these natural forms through colour, structure and layered shades, translating subtle variations observed in plants onto canvas.

Through the exhibition, he also seeks to encourage viewers to look more closely at the details of the natural environment that often go unnoticed.

A Dhaka-based contemporary painter, Tonmoy completed his BFA in 2022 and MFA in 2024 from the Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University.

His practice focuses primarily on nature, particularly plants and leaves, and includes painting, drawing and research using oil, acrylic, watercolour and pencil.

He received the Media Best Award in Watercolor at the Annual Art Exhibition of the Department of Drawing & Painting, Dhaka University, in 2023. He also received the Grand Award at the 26th Berger Young Painters’ Art Competition in 2021. Currently works as a freelance artist, Tonmoy is also a master flautist.

‘Splendor of Green’ will remain open from 3 pm to 9 pm daily through Sep 29 at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi.

Stars mourn Opratim’s brutal death

Entertainment Desk

Ishayat Shahriar Opratim (left), Siam Ahmed (top-2nd left), Tawsif Mahbub (top-3rd left), Puja Cherry (bottom-2nd left), Irfan Sajjad (bottom-3rd left).

An iPhone, some nature photos and a 13-year-old boy’s little hobby – Friday afternoon was supposed to be like any other day.

Seventh grade student Ishayat Shahriar Opratim of Border Guard Public School left home to take nature photos with his mother’s iPhone. But that trip turned out to be the last journey of his life.

Opratim’s frozen body was recovered from a forest in Lalmai Hills adjacent to Comilla University on Saturday afternoon, about 21 hours after he went missing.

The death of Opratim, the son of Dr Nahida Begum, an associate professor in the Bangla Department at Comilla University, has cast a shadow of grief over the family.

At the same time, some stars from the showbiz arena have expressed their shock, grief and anger over the incident.

Popular film actor Siam Ahmed wrote on Facebook, “I can’t stand looking at Opratim’s picture for long.

Since becoming a father, whenever I see such news about a child, my own child’s face comes to mind again and again. A child left home in the afternoon to take pictures.

That child never returned home. I don’t know if there can be any more terrifying waiting or news for a parent than this. It is not possible to express the pain of Opratim’s parents and family members at this moment in words.

My deepest condolences to them. Let the correct answer to what happened, why it happened, come to the fore through an investigation. Let the truth not be suppressed in any way. Justice must be ensured with the utmost honesty.”

Addressing Opratim, Siam also wrote, “Opratim, you were never supposed to leave like this. As a father, all I can think of yesterday is that we all have a responsibility to create a safer world for our children.”

Popular small screen actor Tawsif Mahbub also ques-



tioned people’s attitude towards mobile phones in the wake of Opratim’s death. He wrote, “We have glorified the iPhone so much that it has become more valuable than a life. The fault is ours.”

Dhallywood actress Puja Cherry Roy expressed deep grief. In a Facebook post, she wrote, “I am truly deeply saddened to hear the news of Opratim’s tragic death.

A mother’s only child, a family’s dream – will fall prematurely like this; this is unacceptable in any way. Such a death of a child leaves a deep mark of grief not only in the family but in the hearts of all of us.

My deepest condolences and prayers go out to the family of Opratim. May God give his family the strength to bear this irreparable loss.”

Demanding a fair investigation and trial of the incident, Puja also wrote, “May the truth come out through a proper investigation of this incident and may those responsible be brought to justice – this is the hope. Opratim, may you rest in peace. Endless love and prayers for you.”

TV and OTT actor Irfan Sajjad expressed his grief as well as anger over Opratim’s death. He wrote on Facebook, “Oh my child! As a Bangladeshi, the biggest dream should be to leave Bangladesh.

Those who have already left, have escaped this cursed country.” He further wrote, “Everyone dreams of a golden Bangladesh, but no one can build a minimum safe Bangladesh.

And a country where justice is not done despite direct evidence, that country will not be safe in life either. If you have the ability and the opportunity, leave this country. So that your child doesn’t have to leave home on a lazy Friday afternoon and come back a corpse.”

Showbiz stars have reacted to Opratim’s death with deep grief on one hand, while on the other hand, there have been demands to ensure a safe environment for children and a fair investigation into the incident.

Along with Opratim’s family, the general public is now waiting for an investigation to uncover the real cause of the incident and bring those responsible to justice.

Lily Collins says goodbye to ‘Emily in Paris’ series

Entertainment Desk

Netflix’s popular series ‘Emily in Paris’ is coming to an end. The shooting of the final or sixth season of the series has recently ended.

Actress Lily Collins said goodbye to the character of Emily Cooper through this.

After being involved with the character for seven long years, the actress said in an emotional message after the last day of shooting that this character changed her life.

Expressing her feelings on Instagram, Lily Collins wrote, “Emily has been an integral part of my life for so many years.

Every season she has surprised me, inspired me and faced new challenges. I will remember this chapter of my life forever.”

At the same time, the actress expressed her sincere gratitude to every member of the team and the audience, in addition to the creator of the series, Darren Star. The first season of *Emily in Paris* came to Netflix in 2020. Immediately after its release, the series created a new



craze for fashion and travel among the young generation around the world. Finally, its creator Darren Star has decided to end the story with the sixth season.

The series revolves around Emily Cooper, a young American woman who works for a marketing firm in Chicago. Emily is sent there when her company is acquired by a prestigious Parisian firm.

The story is a humorous take on how Emily adapts to a completely new culture and wins everyone’s hearts through her work.

At the end of the fifth season, Emily was in a state of flux. After breaking up with Marcelo, she returned to Paris.

However, upon hearing the news of her return, her old boyfriend, Chef Gabriel, sent her a letter inviting her to spend a vacation together on a cruise ship in Greece.

Will Emily respond to that call and go to Greece, or will a new surprise await her in Paris? The story of the sixth season will move forward with such dilemmas of love and career. The sixth season of ‘Emily in Paris’ is set to be released on Christmas Eve, December 24.



Deepika, Ranveer welcome 2nd daughter

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh has welcomed their second child, a baby girl, on the occasion of ‘Radhashtami’.

The couple announced the arrival of their daughter through a joint social media post on September 19.

The announcement featured a message reading, “Welcome baby girl, 19/9/2026”, followed by the names of their first daughter Dua, Deepika and Ranveer.

The couple accompanied the post with an evil-eye emoji.

The news comes a day after Deepika and Ranveer visited Mumbai’s Siddhivinayak Temple to seek blessings ahead of the birth of their second child.



Barcelona enter new era aiming to retain Women's Champions League crown

Sports Desk

Barcelona begin their defence of the Women's Champions League title on Wednesday as the Catalans aim to maintain their status as Europe's leading club side while beginning a new era following the departure of captain Alexia Putellas.

The two-time former Ballon d'Or winner skipped Barca to victory over OL Lyonnes in last season's final in Oslo before leaving for ambitious English Women's Super League outfit London City Lionesses.

Her departure attracted most headlines but other stars of the Barcelona side that has replaced Lyon as the Champions League's outstanding team have also left.

Defender Mapi Leon followed Putellas to London City, the club backed by billionaire American businesswoman Michele Kang.

Full-back Ona Batlle joined Arsenal and forward Salma Paralluelo signed for Lyon.

However, coach Pere Romeu signed a new contract, while his squad for this season still features six players nominated for the Ballon d'Or.

Aitana Bonmati is not nominated for the award she won in each of the last three years, but will be hoping for a big season after recovering from a broken leg.

Barcelona have been in seven of the last eight Champions League finals, winning four.

Their aim is to retain their crown, despite deciding not to pay the kind of wages being offered to players by their leading European rivals.

"Here at Barca we can be relaxed about the fact this is a place where players grow and where we have a young squad that in some ways is still full of veterans," Romeu told El Mundo Deportivo.

"I think here we have something that is difficult to get with clubs that are run differently, which is that sense of belonging that is generated and is very important for the development of the players."

On Putellas leaving, he added: "A fundamental piece of our squad has gone, but the club as a whole is way more important than any player or coach."

Barcelona begin their campaign at home to Paris FC. Later on they will notably host Arsenal in a repeat of the 2025 final.

China's Zhang beats Japan rivals to Asian Games gymnastics gold

Sports Desk

A "more mature" Zhang Boheng won the men's all-around gymnastics gold at the Asian Games on Monday, beating his Japanese rivals ahead of next month's world championships.

China's Zhang overcame an injury niggle to win gold in Nagoya ahead of Paris Olympics champion Shinnosuke Oka and reigning world champion Daiki Hashimoto.

Zhang will hope to repeat the feat at next month's world championships in Rotterdam and he said he had grown as an athlete.

"I have kept reviewing my own shortcomings," said Zhang, who finished second behind Oka at the Paris Olympic Games and again behind Hashimoto at the most recent world championships.

"Mostly it has been about adjusting the technical elements, and letting my mentality become more and more mature."

Zhang said it was "an intense competition and a very exciting one".

"For me personally the pressure was also very high, because I picked up a small injury before coming here and during the competition it did have some effect," said the 26-year-old.

"But what deserves the most credit is that I overcame the difficulty."

Oka came into the competition nursing a back injury that forced him to downgrade the difficulty of his routines.

He said his performance was "the level I am able to produce right now".

When asked how he got through his routines, he said: "Injections, going into an oxygen capsule, and then giving up the skills that hurt my back."

"The skills that hurt, and the ones that looked like they were going to hurt, I could not do this time," he added.

"This time that worked, and I got through it without the back flaring up."



North and South Korea fight out draw in niggly Asian Games clash

Sports Desk

North and South Korea drew 1-1 in the women's football at the Asian Games on Monday in a niggly meeting between neighbours who are still technically at war.

Just over 2,000 fans watched the group match at the 50,000 capacity stadium in Shizuoka which staged matches when Japan co-hosted the 2002 World Cup with South Korea.

Among the sparse crowd was a group of North Korean fans wearing red t-shirts, some with the country's flag painted on their faces.



Others held signs reading, "Let's win for our country".

North Korea, who have excelled at youth level in women's football in recent years, took the lead in the first half from close range through Chae Un Yong.

South Korea levelled after the break through Yun Su-jeong.

The two teams shared tepid high-fives at the end but did not exchange words.

South Korea had three players booked to the North's one, and there were a total of 27 fouls during the contest.

The first was after less than 30 seconds.

The neighbours remain technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean war ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

Will coaching overhaul fix Tigresses' batting woes

Sports Desk

Bangladesh women's side suffered another heavy defeat, this time against India in the Asian Games semifinal in Nisshin, Japan, on Sunday, highlighting not only the gap with the top teams but also the stagnation in women's cricket.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is contemplating changes to the coaching staff following the Asian Games, with David Hemp already set to return as head coach.

The proposed overhaul will be discussed with the incoming head coach before any decision is made.

Current head coach Sarwar Imran was appointed last year and guided Bangladesh to a convincing qualification for the T20 World Cup, where they won two matches to match their best-ever run in the tournament.

However, the team's lack of competitiveness against stronger sides has remained difficult to overlook.

Imran has one month left on his tenure, and discussions with Hemp will determine the extent of the changes.

The bigger question, however, is whether a coaching overhaul can address the batting problems currently plaguing the side.

The Tigresses were bowled out for just 81 in 15.4 overs on Sunday on a pitch that produced plenty of runs, with India posting 195 for four after opener Shefali Verma smashed a 49-ball century.

India have undergone a significant transition since 2018, and the gulf between the two sides was evident once again.

"The difference between India and us is quite big, and it's obvious," skipper Nigar Sultana Joty said at the post-match press conference.

Back in 2023, Joty had suggested after a home victory over India that the Tigresses "can now go toe to toe" with the powerhouses.

That confidence, however, appears to have faded as the gap has widened. India are not the only side against whom Bangladesh have struggled.

The Tigresses also lost to Sri Lanka in the recently concluded Asia Cup, with their batting frailties becoming increasingly apparent.

Asked whether the batting was up to the mark, Joty was blunt. "Not at all."

Braves clinch division title as Red Sox reach MLB playoffs

Sports Desk

Mike Yastrzemski smacked a game-winning three-run homer to lead Atlanta over Houston 4-2 on Sunday as the Braves clinched their seventh Major League Baseball division title in nine seasons.

Atlanta's victory also guaranteed a playoff spot for the Boston Red Sox, the sixth team to secure a post-season berth with a week remaining in the six-month campaign and six spots unclaimed.

The Braves improved to 92-64 to take their first National League East division crown since 2023.

"We've been fighting all year to get to this moment," Braves pitcher Martin Perez said.

"And we're not done yet."

Houston's loss ensured an American League wildcard playoff berth for Boston despite a 5-1 loss at Tampa Bay.

"We never stopped believing in each other," Boston outfielder Willyer Abreu said. "That's why we're here."

The Chicago Cubs, who cruised 9-1 at Cincinnati, reached the brink of a National League playoff spot but missed out when Arizona rallied to beat the visiting New York Yankees 8-4.

Entering Sunday, the Braves, Yankees, Tampa Bay, Milwaukee and the Los Angeles Dodgers had clinched playoff berths, the Dodgers taking a 13th NL West title in 14 seasons and Milwaukee capturing the NL Central crown.

Host Houston grabbed a 1-0 lead over Atlanta in the fourth inning on Jose Altuve's solo home run.

The Braves, however, answered in the sixth when Ozzie Albies singled in a run and Yastrzemski followed with a three-run homer for a 4-1 Atlanta lead.

Yainer Diaz smacked a solo homer for the Astros in the eighth but Braves left-handed relief pitcher Dylan Dodd struck out the side in the ninth to give Atlanta the triumph and start the team celebration.

"When we faced our biggest challenges, that's when we've been at our best," Braves manager Walt Weiss said.

"You've got to get in and then you take your best shot. I think we've got to keep our foot on the gas."

- "To hell with that" -



The Red Sox, 84-72, began the season 32-46 and seemed destined to miss the playoffs, but Boston responded after manager Alex Cora was fired April 25 and replaced by interim manager Chad Tracy.

"You stared impossible in the face with the position we were in and you beat it back. You said to hell with that and we're going to go to the playoffs," Tracy told his team after the bid was secured.

At Arizona, the Yankees took a 4-1 lead in the third inning on solo homers by Heliot Ramos and Spencer Jones and George Lombard's two-run homer.

The Diamondbacks seized a 6-4 lead in the fifth inning on a bases-loaded walk followed by a grand slam homer by Nolan Arenado.

Arizona's Geraldo Perdomo delivered a run-scoring triple in the seventh and scored on a Corbin Carroll single to create the final margin.

The Cubs routed the Reds as Pete Crow-Armstrong went 3-for-5 with a home run and three runs batted in.

Cubs third baseman Alex Bregman, hitting .260 with 26 home runs and 88 runs batted in, left the game in the fourth inning after being struck in the left cheek bone by a foul ball while standing in the on-deck batter's circle.

"He had a cut under his eye," Cubs manager Craig Counsell said. "He was bleeding from his nose a little bit. It's pretty swollen. It was below the eye... It's just an unfortunate accident. I'm hoping and praying he's all right."

China's Yu, 13, great for swimming says multiple Olympic medallist

Sports Desk

China's 13-year-old sensation Yu Zidi is "exciting for the swimming world" and part of the sport's trend towards younger athletes, Hong Kong's multiple Olympic medallist Siobhan Haughey said on Monday.

Yu scorched to Asian Games gold on the opening day in the pool in Tokyo, winning the women's 200m butterfly in a Games-record time of 2min 05.85sec.

It was the first major title of her young career, less than two years out from the Los Angeles Olympics.

Yu is following in the footsteps of Summer McIntosh, who made Canada's team for the Tokyo Olympics as a 14-year-old in 2021, finishing fourth in the 400m freestyle.

Haughey, a four-time Olympic medallist, said it is part of a wider trend in swimming.

"I think the general consensus is we have more and more great young swimmers swimming well," said Haughey, now a relative veteran at 28.

"When Summer first started she was also very young and swimming fast, so I think that's kind of the trend these days."

"Hopefully, swimming well that young, you can also translate to as you get older and well into your 20s and beyond, so it's exciting for the swimming world," she added.

Yu became the youngest swimming world championships medallist in history last year when she won bronze as a 12-year-old as part of China's 4x200m freestyle relay team.

She also finished just outside the medals in fourth in three world individual events.



Haughey said the evidence suggests that Yu is "definitely capable of going to the LA Olympics".

"I think she's doing well under pressure at big meets," she said.

"I think if she wants to do it, she definitely can."

Haughey became the first Hong Kong swimmer to win an Olympic medal when she picked up two silvers at the Tokyo Games.

She is looking to add to the two Asian Games golds she won in 2023 in Hangzhou this week in Tokyo.

She said watching young swimmers like Yu gives her extra motivation.

"On one hand it makes me feel I'm twice their age, but I'm still here, so that says something," she said.

"I think being an older swimmer means I have a lot more experience, and I try to use that experience to my advantage, for instance like how to handle pressure or what to expect at a big meet."

"It's so great that there are a lot of younger swimmers because you want the sport to keep moving forward and to keep evolving," she added.

Bangladesh beat South Korea in Asian Games Kabaddi opener

Sports Desk

Bangladesh women's Kabaddi team made a winning start in the kabaddi campaign at the Asian Games, beating South Korea by nail-biting 39-35 points in their Group A opener held yesterday (Monday) at Tokai Citizen Gymnasium in Nagoya, Japan.

Bangladesh stretched the first period of playing by taking a narrow 17-16 at halftime and secured a four-point victory.

Bangladesh bagged four creditable lona as the South Korea secured two, while the Koreans collected eight bonus points compared with Bangladesh's six.

Bangladesh will get little time to celebrate their win over South Korea, with their second group match against Chinese Taipei scheduled for this afternoon.



No Direct Bus Service Between Kaukhali and Barishal; Thousands of Passengers Face Hardship

Riad Mahmud Sikdar,
Kaukhali Correspondent

Thousands of passengers are facing immense hardship due to the absence of a direct bus service between Kaukhali Upazila in Pirojpur and the divisional city of Barishal. Every day, numerous people travel from Kaukhali to Barishal for official work, advanced medical treatment, higher education, and business purposes. However, the lack of direct buses forces them to switch vehicles multiple times to reach their destinations. This results in wasted time and additional travel costs.

Locals report that although the distance between Kaukhali and Barishal is relatively short, the lack of direct public transport compels passengers to first travel to Naikathi or Rajapur using small vehicles like auto-rickshaws, Mahindras, or motorcycles. From there, they must board a bus to Barishal. This process causes particular suffering for women, children, the elderly, and the sick.

Md. Shahidul, a medicine trader from Kaukhali North Bazar, states that he has to visit Barishal two or three times a week for business-related purchases and banking tasks. However, without a direct bus, he must first travel to Naikathi or Rajapur by auto-rickshaw or motorcycle and then catch a bus to Barishal. This consumes both extra time and money. He also faces added inconvenience when transferring vehicles multiple times while carrying merchandise. He urged for the immediate launch of a direct bus service between Kaukhali and Barishal. Mainul Huda, a service holder who commutes regularly, mentions that he often needs to take his elderly father to Barishal for medical treatment. The absence of a direct bus means having to switch vehicles repeatedly while transporting a sick



patient, which exacerbates the patient's physical discomfort. He believes the situation is particularly distressing for women, children, and the elderly, and that a direct bus service would significantly alleviate these problems.

Naim and Ferdousi, students from Kaukhali attending Barishal Government Brojomohan (BM) College, noted that many students from Kaukhali study at various colleges and universities in Barishal. They are forced to leave home at the crack of dawn to make it in time for morning classes and examinations.

However, the lack of direct bus services leads to significant time loss due to the need to change vehicles en route, while also driving up travel costs. They have urged the authorities to introduce regular direct bus services, particularly during the morning and afternoon hours, to accommodate students.

Local residents complain that although there are transport links from Kawkhali to destinations like Dhaka and Pirojpur, no direct public transport system connects the area to the divisional city of Barishal. Consequently, people traveling to Barishal for medical treatment, education, business, or official and private engagements face constant hardship.

Affected passengers and concerned locals believe that launching a direct bus service between Kawkhali and Barishal would greatly facilitate travel for the region's residents. It would save both time and money while alleviating the long-standing difficulties faced by patients, students, businesspeople, and professionals. They have called upon the relevant transport owners' associations and the administration to take prompt action in this regard.

Cultural competition held in Brahmanbaria marking Nazrul Year

Brahmanbaria Correspondent

A day-long cultural competition was held at Sadar Upazila Complex yesterday with the participation of primary and secondary-level students as part of the observance of 'Nazrul Year'. Sadar Upazila administration organized the competition to celebrate the birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and promote his literary and cultural works among students.

Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahmuda Jahan inaugurated the competition.

More than 200 students from different educational institutions in Sadar upazila took part in the competition. The students competed in eight events, including Hamd-Naath, Nazrul Sangeet, dance, drawing and recitation.

Sadar Upazila Agriculture Officer Shahana Begum, Additional Agriculture Officer Salma Sultana, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Zillur Rahman, Upazila Social Services Officer Nurul Mahmud Bhuiyan, Upazila Primary Education Officer Shafia Begum, Upazila Academic Supervisor Papiya Akter, district JASAS convener Enamul Haque Jewel and municipal Mohila Dal president Rimin Farhana Disha, among others, were present.



Hundreds of farmers form human chain demanding construction of underpass in Sarail

M Badal Khandakar (District Correspondent) Brahmanbaria

Local farmers of Sarail in Brahmanbaria are suffering from extreme insecurity in commuting to their crop fields due to the ongoing work to upgrade the Dhaka-Sylhet highway to six lanes. In this situation, a huge human chain was formed demanding the construction of an underpass for the safe movement of farmers in the Sarail (South) Kuttapara section of the highway. The program was held beside the highway yesterday, Monday, September 21, 2026, at 11 am, at the initiative of farmers from all walks of life in Kuttapara village.

Expressing solidarity with the human chain, Sarail Sadar Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Jabbar spoke. Besides, on behalf of local farmers and residents, Md. Emran Mia, Ahiuddin Sardar, Bari Thakur, Khorshed Mia and others spoke. Several hundred members of farming families of Kuttapara village took part in the program with banners and festoons in hand.

The speakers expressed deep anger and said that due to the ongoing work of upgrading the Dhaka-Sylhet highway to six lanes, the marginal farmers of the area have to face death constantly to cross this busiest road. On the south side of the highway, the farmers of Kuttapara village have more than 2,000 bighas of fertile crop land. For the sake of their only livelihood, farmers have to risk their lives to cross this road every day from dawn to late at night with ploughs, yokes, cows and buffaloes, seeds and fertilizers.

The farmers said that due to the high speed of vehicles on the highway, many farmers and livestock have previously lost their lives in



road accidents. At present, as the road continues to widen, crossing without any safety measures has become impossible. Construction of an underpass here for bringing the produced crops from the field to home and for grazing livestock has now become a demand of the time. From the human chain, a strong demand was made to the Project Director of the Ashuganj to Akhaura Land Port four-lane upgradation work and the senior officials of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway six-lane project to consider this life-and-death crisis of the farmers and to quickly construct a modern underpass in the Kuttapara area. Otherwise, the speakers warned of tougher agitation in the future to save the lives and livelihoods of ordinary farmers.

Rik Kundu from Kaukhali Wins Gold Medal as Top Dancer in National Competition

Kaukhali (Pirojpur) Correspondent

Rik Kundu from Kaukhali, Pirojpur, has won the gold medal for best dancer after participating in the national dance competition organized by the socio-cultural organization "Nityamay." He competed in the "General Solo Dance" category (Group 'A') and surpassed other top contenders with his exceptional dancing skills.

Rik Kundu is the son of Bithika Roy and Rajib Kundu, the proprietor of "T.K. Trading" and a prominent businessman from Kaukhali Uttar Bandar. The organizing committee presented him with the gold medal, a trophy, and a certificate during a modest ceremony held on September 18, 2026, at their office in South Kalyanpur, Dhaka. Captivated by his exquisite artistry, the audience and panel of judges selected him as the best of the best and awarded him the event's highest honor. Rik is a fourth-grade student at Kaukhali Model Government Primary School. His dance training—both at home and institutionally—was guided by instructor Debashish Sen Gupta.

This achievement by Rik Kundu has brought pride and acclaim not only to his family but also to the cultural community of the entire southern region, including Kaukhali Upazila. Journalists, cultural figures, students, teachers, and the general public of Kaukhali have extended their congratulations to Rik and his proud parents. Blessings on this achievement. May your future life be as fragrant as a freshly bloomed rose, as radiant as the full moon, and as free-flowing as a mountain spring.

Full Committee of Bangladesh Journalists Development Association Mirsarai Unit Formed

Staff Reporter

An 11-member full executive committee for the Mirsarai Upazila unit of the Bangladesh Journalists Development Association (BJDA) has been approved by its Chittagong Divisional Committee. The announcement was made in a press release signed by the President and General Secretary of the Chittagong Divisional Committee on Monday (September 21). In the newly formed com-



mittee, Jahangir Alam (Daily Bangladesh Media) has been nominated as President, while Sakib Chowdhury (Daily Sorjomin Barta) will serve as General Secretary. The other office-bearers of the committee are:

Vice-President: Abu Shahadat Nayan (Movie Bangla TV)

Joint General Secretary: Jahangir Alam (My TV)

Organizing Secretary: Babul Miah (Sangbad Diganta)

Joint Organizing Secretary: Arafat Hossain (Amar Barta)

?Publicity Secretary: Zohir Khan (ST Bangla TV)

Finance Secretary: Tanvir Hossain (Weekly Nirorbik)

Office Secretary: Sujit Banik (Prime TV)

Sports Secretary: Nurul Amin (Daily Gonokantho)

Executive Member: Md. Mehedi Hasan (ST Bangla TV)

Leadership of the BJDA Chittagong Divisional Committee expressed optimism that the newly constituted committee will play a vital role in upholding objective journalism, protecting the interests of local journalists, and fostering their overall development.

20-bed dengue ward inaugurated at RCMCH

Rangpur Correspondent

A specialized 20-bed dengue ward has been inaugurated at Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital (RCMCH) to ensure advanced and specialized medical care for dengue patients.

Rangpur Divisional Director of Health (Acting) Dr Md Wazed Ali inaugurated the ward in a colorful ceremony held on the hospital premises as the chief guest on Monday afternoon.

Managing Director of Rangpur Group Nazmul Ahsan Sarkar presided over the ceremony, moderated by its Additional Director Mirajul Muhsin.

Speaking at the inauguration, chief guest Dr Md Wazed Ali said that although dengue is a mosquito-borne disease, complications can be largely controlled if timely and proper treatment and monitoring are ensured.

The launch of this dedicated 20-bed ward for dengue patients in Rangpur will make medical care services more organized.

"This specialized ward will facilitate rapid access to treatment while ensuring necessary medical care, monitoring, and nursing services for patients," he said.

Nazmul Ahsan Sarkar said that ensuring healthcare for the public is one of their key responsibilities.

Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital, a sister concern of Rangpur Group, is working with the aim of ensuring that financial constraints do not become a barrier to any patient's treatment.

A separate 20-bed ward has been opened for dengue patients so that they receive prompt and advanced medical care as needed.



Grand Reception for Meritorious Students at Sarail Pilot Girls' High School

Taslima Khandaker Nushrat (Sarail Upazila)

A formal reception was accorded to the GPA-5 achievers who secured outstanding results in the SSC examination at Sarail Pilot Girls' High School, one of the leading female educational institutions in Sarail Upazila of Brahmanbaria. Yesterday, 21 September 2026, Monday, honorary mementos were handed over to the meritorious students in a colorful program on the school premises. This glorious reception ceremony was organized under the initiative of the voluntary, social and humanitarian organization 'Positive Sarail' and under the joint management of Sarail Pilot Girls' High School. The program organized to recognize the merit and hard work of the meritorious students created a festive atmosphere on the school premises since morning.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Mir Kamruzzaman Kabir, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Sarail. As the chief guest, Alhaj Md. Anwar Hossain, Headmaster of Sarail Pilot Girls' High School and distinguished education enthusiast, delivered a motivational speech for the students. The event was also attended as invited guests by officials of the local administration, police officers on duty at

Sarail Police Station, leaders of the Positive Sarail organization and other dignitaries of the area.

In their speeches, the speakers extended heartfelt congratulations to the meritorious students and called upon them to dedicate themselves to the welfare of the country and the nation in the coming days. Praising the glorious role of Sarail Pilot Girls' High School in expanding female education, the speakers said that proper evaluation and encouragement of merit will make the students' future journey smoother and more dynamic. Such continuous education-friendly initiatives of the 'Positive Sarail' organization are being praised by all quarters.

After the discussion meeting, the guests present on the stage handed over special honorary crests and medals engraved with the monograms of 'Positive Sarail' and the school to all the meritorious female students who obtained GPA-5. The meritorious students expressed their excitement after receiving the honors and expressed their determination to uphold the reputation of the school through even better results in the future. A large number of students, teachers and guardians were present at the event.



2-day preparatory workshop on BMDA's 'Barind' Project held

Rahsgagi Correspondent

A two-day-long Barind Project Readiness Workshop has started in Rajshahi, focusing on sustainable agriculture, water management and climate-resilient development in the Barind region.

The workshop locally arranged by Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) began yesterday at Hotel Grand RiverView in the city.

Organized by the Sustainable Agriculture Foundation Bangladesh (SAFB), representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and relevant development partners are participating in the workshop. The workshop is discussing the project's preparation and implementation strategy regarding agricultural production in the Barind region. Some other key-issues related to surface and groundwater management, irrigation, climate resilience and sustainable agricultural development were also discussed. Present at the workshop were Director of Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) Gautam Chandra, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist of ADB Shingo Kimura, Principal Economist Dr. Takashi Yamano and IWM Team Leader Dr. Anil Kumar Das. BMDA Superintending Engineers Abdul Latif, Zinnurain Khan and Samser Ali, Executive Engineers Harun-or-Rashid, Tarikul Islam, AKM Obaidullah, Syed Zillul Bari and Kazi Ashekur Rahman and Monitoring Officer Ashrafur Islam were also present.

Death Claim Cheques Distributed by National Life Insurance in Jaintapur

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

A cheque distribution ceremony for death claims of National Life Insurance PLC (Janabima), along with a doa and milad mahfil, was held in Jaintapur, Sylhet.

The event was organized on Monday (September 21) at noon at the office of the Jaintapur Truck Drivers' Workers Sub-Committee.

The programme was chaired by Md. Nasir Uddin, Head of the Jaintapur Zone of National Life Insurance PLC. Fakhru Islam, Chairman of Jaintapur Union Parishad, attended the event as the chief guest.

Among others present were Jaintapur Union Parishad member and President of the Upazila Muktiyoddha Dal Harun-ur Rashid Sarkar; former President of Jaintapur Press Club Nurul Islam; reserved ward member Khorsheda Begum; social worker and proposed Jaintapur municipality councillor candidate Delwar Hossain; Vice-President of the Jaintapur Truck Drivers' Workers Sub-Committee Arab Ali; President of Jaintapur Human Rights Organization Abul Khayer; Assistant General Manager of Janabima Arif Ahmed; Branch Manager Rozina Akter; Bishnu Pada Das; Desk Officer Shafiqul Rahman; student leader Zubayer Ahmed,

among others.

Speakers at the event said that life insurance plays an important role in ensuring financial security and contributing to the development



of individuals and society. As part of its social responsibility, National Life Insurance PLC (Janabima) has paid the death claim benefits. They expressed their gratitude to the company for providing the claim cheques on time. At the ceremony, a cheque worth Tk 248,400 was handed over to the family of deceased truck worker Jamal Uddin. In addition, claim cheques totaling Tk 611,911 were distributed among 11 customers, including 10 other customers from Jaintapur.

Later, a special doa and munajat was held seeking forgiveness for the deceased and peace and well-being for their bereaved family members.