

No school should be without toilets

It is hard to believe that students of Latachapli Government Primary School in Kuakata, Patuakhali are attending classes in a four-storey building which does not have a single toilet. For the 419 students of the school, the only option is an old, dilapidated building nearby, where three toilets are unusable and the remaining ones are reportedly so filthy and foul-smelling that the children tend to avoid them. As a result, those who need to use a toilet during school hours often have to go home to do so, missing one or two classes. This is unacceptable for any school, especially a government-run institution.

By neglecting the provision of this basic facility, authorities are exposing students and teachers to serious health risks. According to child health specialists, retaining urine for long periods can increase the risk of urinary infections, while unhygienic toilets can expose children to various infections and diseases. Younger children may also experience embarrassment and psychological distress when they cannot access a usable toilet. Moreover, there is no separate toilet for female teachers, despite eight of the

can also put their health at risk. Unfortunately, this newspaper has previously reported on other schools facing similar problems. What is particularly absurd in this case is that the school building was constructed without any washroom facilities. While the Local Government Engineering Department supervised the construction and approved the design, the responsibility for building wash blocks lies with the Department of Public Health Engineering, which has failed to do its job. The question is: how was the school building approved for use in such a design? This is a clear example of poor planning in a country where many development projects are carried out without proper assessment, often leaving them ineffective. We urge authorities to provide adequate and functional toilets at Latachapli Government Primary School and other schools facing similar problems to achieve a proper learning environment. The government must also ensure that all new school buildings include adequate toilet facilities from the design stage, while existing schools should be regularly inspected for any sanitation problems and provided with proper facilities where necessary.

Deputy Speaker

tions, adding that the foundation for future friendship between the two countries was laid during then Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's visit to China in 1980. Recalling Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's recent visit to China, the outgoing ambassador said the visit would further expand areas of cooperation between Bangladesh and China. He said the Bangladesh-China Parliamentary Friendship Group could play an important role in further strengthening parliamentary relations between the two countries. Both sides stressed increasing bilateral visits at the parliamentary level, exchanging experiences and holding discussions on various issues, alongside strengthening people-to-people contacts and cooperation. The meeting also discussed the expansion and modernisation of facilities at Mongla Port and the Teesta River project. Yao Wen expressed gratitude to the Deputy Speaker and the people of Bangladesh for the cooperation and cordiality he received during his tenure in Bangladesh. He expressed hope that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and China would become stronger in the future. At the end of the meeting, the Deputy Speaker wished Yao Wen success and wellbeing in his future professional and personal life. China's Deputy Ambassador to Bangladesh and senior officials concerned were present at the meeting.

Anti-Polythene Drive in

District Office, conducted the prosecution during the operation. Accountant Tofayel Ahmed Majumdar and Sample Collector Md. Mobarak Hossain of the DoE district office were also present during the drive. Members of the Kotwali Model Police Station assisted the authorities in conducting the operation. Environmental activists and members of civil society have welcomed the administration's initiative, stressing the need for regular enforcement against the use and marketing of banned polythene. They said polythene poses a serious threat to the environment as it can reduce soil quality and contribute to water pollution. When discarded polythene accumulates in drains, canals, water bodies and sewage systems, it obstructs the normal flow of water and can contribute to waterlogging, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. They also emphasized that simply conducting occasional drives may not be sufficient to eliminate the use of banned polythene. According to them, sustained monitoring and regular enforcement are necessary to prevent the illegal sale and distribution of polythene shopping bags. Environmental stakeholders have called for greater public awareness alongside law enforcement, urging consumers and businesses to shift toward environmentally friendly alternatives. "Say No to Polythene, Protect the Environment" The message from environmental campaigners remains clear: "Let us reject polythene. Let us protect the environment." The Department of Environment, Cumilla District Office, said such operations will continue as part of ongoing efforts to protect the environment and ensure compliance with environmental laws.

50 Gold Bars Recovered

involved in the plan to smuggle them out of the airport, and

Managing Bangladesh's latest fuel price shock

Md. Neyamul Hossain

ride-sharing vehicles, and various watercraft. However, transport fares should not rise as quickly as energy prices since fuel makes up only one part of operating costs. Vehicle financing, labour, maintenance, tolls, and depreciation also affect transport costs and fares. Even families that do not buy fuel directly are affected as energy is needed to move essential goods from producers to markets. This raises transport costs and increases prices for these commodities. Low-income families feel the price hikes

o align domestic prices with the international market, the government introduced automatic fuel price determination method in 2024. In principle, such mechanisms can limit the government's subsidy burden, reduce BPC's losses, and support regular energy imports. However, the government should clarify the uniform Tk 20 price hike application because import costs, uses, and social costs differ for diesel, petrol, octane, and kerosene. Therefore, a detailed calculation of the latest prices should be published for transparency. In any case, Bangladesh is experiencing a particularly challenging energy situation. The Commodity Markets Outlook (April 2026) of the World Bank predicted a 24-percent surge in global energy prices this year. Overall commodity prices are also expected to rise by 16 percent globally. The government has attributed the fuel-price increase to the Middle East conflict, which reportedly more than doubled international petroleum prices and raised freight costs. Delayed domestic adjustment allegedly led to losses for BPC of Tk 22,875.66 crore in March-August.

most keenly as they have to spend more on daily essentials. This leads many to cut back on nutritious food, healthcare, or children's education. The agriculture sector will feel the pressure of the new diesel price in terms of irrigation, land preparation, fishing, and transport. Small farmers do not receive higher prices when costs rise, thus reducing their profits, while consumers simultaneously pay more because of higher transport and marketing costs. Hence, small farmers should be provided targeted subsidies. Post fuel price hikes, industries face higher logistics and backup costs as unreliable electricity and gas supplies often lead to dependence on diesel generators. Export industries cannot easily raise prices due to competition and pre-negotiated prices, so higher energy and transport costs may hurt their profits, investments, jobs, and competitiveness. Small and medium enterprises are the most vulnerable groups as they have lower working capital and weaker bargaining power. These enterprises often use older and less energy-efficient machinery as well. For many, it could be difficult to continue production or maintain the same working hours, while others might pass the increased costs to consumers as higher product prices. At the macroeconomic level, higher fuel prices will create

direct (fuel and transport costs) and indirect inflationary pressure. Indirect effects of the price hike will be felt across agriculture, manufacturing, and distribution sectors. If workers demand higher wages to cover living costs and businesses then raise prices to pass it off to consumers and offset higher costs, a second round of inflation may emerge. On the other hand, if import costs increase, the balance of trade, foreign exchange reserves, and the exchange rate will be under pressure. However, if fuel prices remain at this level for a long time, BPC's losses and the government's subsidy liabilities will increase. Large subsidies could reduce the government's fiscal space to increase allocations for health, education, social protection, and infrastructure. Ultimately, blanket fuel subsidies will benefit high-income groups more than ordinary people. In order to effectively respond to the current situation, firstly, the government should publish the benchmark international price, exchange rate, freight and insurance costs, taxes, distribution margins, and averaging period used to determine the retail prices for fuel. The pricing formula should be independently reviewed from time to time and applied symmetrically. If prices decline on the international market and import costs fall, domestic prices should be reduced promptly. Second, transport fares should be recalculated through a transparent costing exercise. The fare increase rate should not exceed the rate of increase in energy prices. Monitoring of food and other essentials markets should also be strengthened to prevent prices from rising illogically using the energy price hike as an excuse. Third, subsidies should be targeted. For low-income households, temporary cash and food support should be expanded. Small farmers should be given seasonal irrigation or fuel assistance through digital farmer-registration systems. All support should have clear eligibility criteria, budgetary limits, and expiry dates. Fourth, the government needs to enhance its import and risk management strategies. The BPC should balance long-term contracts with immediate energy purchases. Import sources should be diversified, and Bangladesh must keep sufficient stocks of essential fuels on hand. Fifth, the country should implement temporary demand management strategies. A recent International Energy Agency (IEA) report suggests enhancing public transport, promoting car-sharing, optimising freight logistics, encouraging remote work when suitable, and reducing non-essential fuel use. Ultimately, Bangladesh needs to invest in dependable electricity, solar irrigation, renewable energy, energy-efficient industries, public transportation, railways, and water freight. While the recent fuel price hike may reflect international costs, there is a need for transparency, targeted protections, and energy diversification to prevent these costs from unfairly affecting poor households, farmers, and small businesses.

whether an organized smuggling ring is linked to the incident. The CIID stated that intelligence surveillance and operations will continue in order to identify and bring to justice the rings involved in gold smuggling.

Met office forecasts

recorded at 37.5 degrees Celsius in Sreemangal, while yesterday's minimum temperature was 22.5 degrees Celsius in Narayanganj. In the last 24 hours (till 06 am yesterday), the highest 30 millimetre rainfall occurred in Mongla. The sun sets at 5:55 pm yesterday and rises at 5:48 am tomorrow in Dhaka.

Awareness Meeting Held in

and children, dowry, and human trafficking. The meeting took place on Tuesday, September 22, at 11:30 AM on the grounds of Sherpur Shahidia Alia (Kamil) Madrasa, presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Saiduzzaman Himu. Moderated by Mahmudullah Kafi, a physical education teacher at Sherpur Shahidia Alia (Kamil) Madrasa, the meeting featured speeches from various dignitaries. Speakers included former Sherpur Municipality Mayor Jane Alam Khoka; Sherpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) SM Moinuddin; Upazila Women Affairs Officer Rebeka Sultana; Upazila BNP Organizing Secretary Shafiqul Islam Shafiq; Municipal BNP President Swadhin Kumar Kundu and General Secretary Firroz Ahmed Jewel; Social Services Officer Naim Hasan; Sherpur Upazila Mohila Dal President Nasrin Akter Puti; Sherpur Shahidia Alia (Kamil) Madrasa President Ali Hasan and Principal Maulana Hafizur Rahman; journalist Iftekhar Alam Farhad; and students Israt Jahan and Ruhul Amin Sagar. A student of the institution, Aswad, recited from the Holy Quran. Government officials, political leaders, teachers, students, guardians, journalists, and members of civil society participated in the event. Speakers at the awareness meeting emphasized that guardians must become conscious of the need to prevent child marriage and violence against women and children, as well as the importance of drug control. They also urged the youth to come forward to build a drug-free society. They noted that while the administration remains vigilant, societal change is impossible without public cooperation.

Govt. decides to adjust

market, the need to conserve foreign currency, the risk of fuel smuggling to neighbouring countries, and the requirement for equitable budget distribution across sectors like healthcare and social safety net programmes (such as the family card scheme). Dr Zahed made the remarks at the weekly press briefing held at Press Information Department (PID) conference room here this afternoon. "Reducing subsidies in the energy sector is a highly complex issue. However, the state cannot dedicate all its resources to keeping just one sector entirely comfortable," he said. He said maintaining economic balance in a country with limited means is a challenging task. So, the adviser said, alongside ensuring the equitable distribution of limited resources, the government must also consider rising fuel price and the need to conserve foreign currency reserves. Regarding the comparison of fuel prices with neighbouring countries, he noted: "If fuel prices are higher in neighbouring countries, it creates a significant risk of fuel being smuggled across the border. "Price comparisons are drawn to highlight the need to prevent such smuggling and to contextualise the international situation." But, he said, the government is also realising the people's purchasing

power. To address this, a balance is being created by increasing the healthcare budget, including the establishment of specialised hospitals at the divisional level, and ensuring equitable budget allocation for various social safety net programmes. Outlining the government's policy stance on tackling inflation caused by fuel price hikes, he said, "When inflation rises, the government's primary objective is to ensure that the daily essential needs of the commoners are met. To this end, the government is expanding the scope of the Open Market Sale (OMS) and TCB's food assistance programmes." In addition, Dr Zahed said, there are plans to increase the number of 'family cards'— currently issued to 41 lakh families — in the upcoming fiscal year, which will help people with fixed incomes. When asked if this decision was linked to conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the adviser clarified, "This is not being done due to any IMF condition. The government is making these economic decisions based on its own priorities, taking into account public social welfare, foreign reserve savings, and the country's financial capacity." About investment and employment, Dr Zahed said, "Local investment will rise once the temporary fuel crisis is resolved. Family cards and government assistance will generate market demand. At the same time, this will play a significant role in creating employment opportunities for the youth and the general people." Responding to another question, the information adviser said during the tenure of the fallen government, a culture of using the police force to oppress ordinary citizens was established. "We want to move away from that stance and see the police become a force truly dedicated to serving the people. Although there is currently some lack of morale among police personnel at the field level, normal policing operations will quickly resume if the general people stand by them," he said. Syed Abdal Ahmad, Principal Information Officer, and Dr Md Alam Mostafa, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, were present at the briefing.

Humane Initiative by Army

medical assistants during the campaign. "Praising the effort, a local public representative said, "This noble initiative by the Bangladesh Army is highly commendable. In particular, involving locally trained young women in healthcare delivery allows people from all walks of life—both hill and Bengali communities—to access primary healthcare right at their doorstep." "Beneficiaries and local civil society representatives expressed deep gratitude to the Bangladesh Army and the Sindukchhari Zone for providing free treatment and essential medicines. "A responsible officer of the Sindukchhari Zone stated that this regular initiative by the army aims to guarantee healthcare for the marginal population in the hill region. As part of this ongoing commitment, a free eye campaign in collaboration with Chittagong Lions Hospital will be held at the same venue soon, followed by a larger medical campaign. He reaffirmed that the military's humane efforts will continue in order to foster peace, harmony, and public welfare in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Protest Rally in Rangpur

strongly criticized the hike in fuel oil prices made without any prior announcement. They stated that raising the price by Tk 20 per liter domestically—at a time when fuel oil prices are falling in the global market—is completely unacceptable. They noted that this decision would cause the prices of trans-

AFMC plans academic, infrastructure expansion

Staff correspondent

The 19th College Council meeting of Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) was held here yesterday with Chief of Army Staff and College Council Chairman General Waker-Uz-Zaman in the chair.

The meeting discussed and adopted a range of initiatives to modernise medical education, enhance academic excellence and align the institution's standards with international benchmarks, according to a press release issued here by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate. The agenda included a review of recent professional examination results, academic development plans, budget and financial management, and admission of cadets to the 29th batch for the 2026-27 academic session. The meeting also discussed construction of an extended academic building and a women's dormitory, expansion of renewable energy use under the national rooftop solar

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President stresses practical job-oriented education

Staff Correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday stressed the need to prioritise technology, engineering and technical education to equip young people with skills suited to employment opportunities at home and abroad. He said this when a delegation led by Vice-Chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) Prof. Abul Hasnat Md. Shamim paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban this noon. During the meeting, the PUST vice-chancellor apprised the President of the university's overall activities, President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam told . "The quality of education must be improved in line with the rapidly changing world, and students of the country must move forward," the President said. "Our country must gradually get rid of the education system that creates unemployment and does not provide students for employment," he added.

During the meeting, the PUST vice-chancellor formally invited the President to attend the university's upcoming convocation as Chancellor. The President accepted the invitation and assured that he would attend the convocation. The President's Military Secretary, Secretary and Press Secretary, as well as the university's Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Treasurer, were present.

Jatri Kalyan proposes 8-paisa hike in intercity bus fares, 10-paisa for city services

Staff correspondent

Jatri Kalyan Samity has proposed increasing bus fares by 8 paisa per kilometre on intercity routes and 10 paisa per kilometre for city services, amid rising fuel prices. It also proposed increasing launch fares by 5 paisa per nautical mile.

In a statement sent to the media on Tuesday, the association alleged that government ministries and agencies concerned are holding a series of closed-door meetings with bus and launch owners to revise fares, excluding representatives of passengers, the affected party. It also alleged that attempts are being made to give bus and launch owners an undue advantage from the increase in fuel prices, while the fare revision process is being kept opaque instead of ensuring transparency in the public interest. The association said fare increases for buses and launches following

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Bangladesh lags global trends in value-added apparel exports



Staff correspondent

Bangladesh's apparel export basket remains heavily skewed toward basic items while significantly lagging behind global market trends in value-added, advanced garment categories, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). Citing figures from EPB and the International Trade Centre (ITC) Trade Map, the report revealed that Bangladesh exported \$38.825 billion worth of apparel in calendar year 2025 (CY2025) out of total global exports reach-

ing \$426.00 billion. A breakdown by product categories shows that basic garments—comprising bottomwear, T-shirts, sweaters, underwear, babies' garments, and small accessories—accounted for 76.94 percent of Bangladesh's total apparel exports, compared to 61.58 percent of total world trade in basic items. Bottomwear alone constituted 33.68 percent of Bangladesh's export basket, compared to 21.68 percent globally. T-shirts accounted for 18.64 percent of Bangladesh's shipments against 10.09 percent worldwide. Conversely, small accessories represented the widest structural gap in basic items, making up only 0.35 percent of Bangladesh's exports versus 7.52 percent globally. In semi-basic categories—specifically shirts and blouses—Bangladesh held a 10.33 percent share of its export basket, higher than the

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PM to present Bangladesh's vision, people's aspirations at UNGA

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will present Bangladesh's vision for the future, national interests and aspirations of its people at the global forum of the United Nations General Assembly, with a focus on ensuring inclusive development,

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Farewell Reception for Pirojpur Police Superintendent on Transfer

G.M. Adol Pirojpur Correspondent.

A farewell reception was accorded to Pirojpur Police Superintendent and Vice-President of the Officers Club, Pirojpur, Mohammad Manzur Ahmed Siddiqui, on the occasion of his transfer. The reception was held at the Shaheed Abdur Razzaq-Saif Mizan Memorial Conference Hall at the District Commissioner's Office in Pirojpur. Pirojpur Deputy Commissioner and District

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Chittagong District Police Take Proactive Steps to Curb Social Media Rumors

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Chittagong District Police have adopted a proactive strategy to identify and prevent rumors on social media before they spread, shifting away from reacting only after misinformation goes viral. To this end, strict directives have been issued to boost the activity of the cyber monitoring team and establish an integrated mechanism for rapid fact-checking and official news dissemination. The directives were given on Tuesday during an online review meeting titled "Actions to be Taken by the Cyber Team to Prevent Rumors on Social Media," chaired by Superintendent of Police

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Make weapons, if there's a murder I will handle it. Audio-video of UP chairman goes viral in Faridpur

Biplob Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A video of a controversial statement instructing supporters to make weapons and take responsibility for crimes like murder has gone viral on social

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Foreign Secretary Siam to move to Delhi soon as new Bangladesh envoy

Staff correspondent

Asad Alam Siam, the current Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, will soon move to New Delhi as the new Bangladesh High Commissioner to India. A copy of the "agreement" (an official approval by the host country) has already been handed over to Bangladesh, a senior official told UNB on Tuesday. The Foreign Secretary is now in New York accompanying Prime Minister Tarique Rahman as a member of the Bangladesh delegation. The government is scheduled to appoint Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, the immediate past Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York, as the next Foreign Secretary. Foreign Secretary Siam will take up his responsibilities soon as Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India, a posting widely seen as one of the country's most important diplomatic assignments, officials said. Bangladesh's current High Commissioner to India, M Riaz Hamidullah, will take up his new assignment as

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Allegations of Irregularities and Excessive Fees in Class XI Admission at Ishwarganj Government Degree College



Ishwarganj (Mymensingh) Correspondent

Allegations have surfaced regarding the collection of excessive fees for Class XI admission at Ishwarganj Government Degree College in Mymensingh. A field visit to the college revealed that students enrolling for the 2026 HSC first-year session are being issued receipts for Tk 3,130. An additional Tk 300 is being charged for a 30-page booklet containing information and guidelines. When Abdul Hannan, the Vice-Principal and head of the admission committee, was asked about the Tk 3,130 admission fee and the additional charges, he could not specify the breakdown of the costs. Later, Principal Rafiqul Islam Khan explained that although the fee schedule signed by him on September 2, 2026, for the 2026-27 academic session stipulated a total of Tk 2,850 (including admission and other fees), a lump sum of Tk

3,130 is being collected at the Agrani Bank Ishwarganj branch without itemizing the specific charges on the receipt. Furthermore, an additional Tk 300 is collected when students submit the receipt to the office to obtain the admission form. Consequently, while the college-mandated fee is Tk 2,850, the actual amount collected is Tk 3,430—an excess of Tk 580 per student. The Vice-Principal and head of the admission committee stated that there had been a calculation error which would be rectified later. Regarding the extra Tk 300, he explained that it was charged for the information and guidelines booklet, a practice common to all colleges. Principal Rafiqul Islam Khan stated that while the fee schedule for the 2026-27 academic session set the total at Tk 2,850, he was unaware that a higher amount was being collected. He added that if such an overcharge had occurred, the money would be refunded to the students. Commenting on the matter, Muhammad Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Director (College Branch) of the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Mymensingh Region, stated that there is no provision for collecting any fees other than those authorized by the principal

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Three Food Businesses Fined Tk 55,000 for Unhygienic Food Preparation in Bagmara

M A Khayer Emon, Comilla District Correspondent.

Three food businesses in Bagmara Bazar of Lalmai upazila in Cumilla were fined a total of Tk 55,000 during a mobile court operation on Monday for preparing food and confectionery items in unhygienic conditions and operating without the required approval from the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). The mobile court conducted the drive on Monday (September 21) at noon under the leadership of Shahin Akter Shifa, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate of Lalmai Upazila. Officials from the Cumilla regional office of BSTI and members of the police were present during the operation. During the drive, Talukdar Sweets and Bakery, located beside the Bagmara-Bhushchi Road, was fined Tk 25,000 for preparing confectionery products in an unhygienic environment and for not having the required BSTI approval. Another confectionery business, Al Mira Sweets and Bakery, was also fined Tk 25,000 for similar

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ESTD-2008

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি শুক্রবার বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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

সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

০১৭০২-৫৫৮৭৫৯
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ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

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

Allegation of Harassment Through False Case Against Joynal Abdin in Mirsharai Claims of Intimidating Witnesses and Attempted Abduction, Press Conference Held Demanding Fair Investigation and Justice

Oli Ullah Nijami Special Correspondent.Mirsarai

In Mirsharai, Chattogram, an allegation has been raised that a man named Joynal Abdin is being harassed with a false case, and the witnesses of the case are being intimidated and an attempt was made to abduct them. Raising these allegations, victim Joynal Abdin held a press conference on Tuesday demanding a fair investigation, implementation of the court's order, and legal action. In the press conference, Joynal Abdin alleged that the opponent is his own younger brother Alauddin. He claims that after he filed a case against Alauddin, a counter false case was filed against him to escape from that case. Joynal Abdin said that the responsibility for investigating that case came to SI Ibrahim of Mirsharai Police Station. Regarding the investigation, yesterday evening at around 5 pm, he went to Mirsharai Police Station with two witnesses. Later, while coming out of the police station, Alauddin and several others abused his witnesses in filthy language and intimidated them, he alleged. He also claimed in the press conference that at one point an attempt was made to abduct his witnesses. He said that

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Filling Station Owner Shah Alam Assaults Customer in Dimla, Nilphamari, Video Goes Viral

Mohinul Islam Sujan, Crime Reporter

Two individuals, including a pharmaceutical company representative, were injured after being struck by a metal angle bar wielded by a filling station owner in Dimla Upazila, Nilphamari. Among the injured, a young man named Mahbubur Rahman (28) has been admitted to the Dimla Upazila Health Complex in serious condition. A video of the incident circulated on social media and quickly went viral. The incident occurred around 2:00 AM on Sunday (September 20) at Alam Filling Station, located in the Joumotir Choupathi

area of the Upazila headquarters. The video shows Shah Alam, the owner of Alam Filling Station, keeping the station closed and refusing to dispense fuel to waiting customers, despite having fuel available. An altercation ensued when customers demanded fuel. At one point, Alam brandished a metal angle bar and gestured threateningly at the waiting customers. When the customers moved towards him, he struck them with the metal bar. Eyewitnesses reported that as tensions escalated, police arrived at the scene; observing the situation spiraling out of control, they temporarily

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Three Retiring Police Personnel Given Floral Farewell in Chandina

OC drives them home in a flower-decorated vehicle after a long career in service

M A Khayer Emon, Cumilla District Correspondent

Three police personnel of Chandina Police Station in Cumilla were given a warm and emotional farewell on Tuesday (September 22) as they retired from their long careers in the Bangladesh Police.

The retiring personnel are Constable Nazrul Islam, Nurul Islam and Abdul Quddus Mia.

The farewell reception was organised by the Chandina Police Station family in recognition of their long-standing service, dedication and commitment to duty.

During the programme, colleagues recalled various memories from their professional lives and expressed gratitude for their sincere and responsible service. They also wished the retiring personnel good health, happiness and prosperity in their post-retirement lives.

Members of the Chandina Police Station family said the contributions and dedicated service of the three retiring personnel would be remembered with respect. They expressed their gratitude for their years of service and wished them a peaceful and fulfilling life after retirement.

The most touching moment came at the end of the farewell programme when Chandina Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Nuruzzaman personally drove the three retired police personnel to their respective homes in a vehicle decorated with flowers.

The gesture created an emotional atmosphere among the police personnel and colleagues present at the farewell programme, marking a memorable end to the three officers' long years of service.

AFMC plans academic, infrastruc

programme, establishment of a dedicated training hospital and an increase in cadet intake to meet future requirements.Senior officials from the Directorate General of Medical Services, AFMC and Bangladesh University of Professionals, along with representatives of the defence, finance, education and health ministries and the three services, attended the meeting.AFMC began its academic journey on June 20, 1999, with 56 medical cadets under the affiliation of Dhaka University, the ISPR said.

After the meeting, the army chief visited the AFMC's 'Clinical Skills and Simulation Laboratory' and laid the foundation stone at a designated site for relocating and expanding the facility into a more modern laboratory.

The initiatives are expected to strengthen the college's education, training, research and infrastructure, contributing to the development of skilled, ethical and compassionate doctors for the armed forces and the country, the ISPR added.

Bangladesh lags global trends

global share of 7.38 percent. However, in advanced categories such as outerwear, dresses, technical wear, sportswear, and suits, Bangladesh accounted for just 9.35 percent of its total apparel exports against a global market share of 30.46 percent.The sharpest contrast was observed in outerwear, which is the largest global category at 13.45 percent of world trade, but represents only 3.83 percent of Bangladesh's export basket—making it one of the country's smallest categories despite being the world's largest.The report also highlighted a data reconciliation issue, noting that a remaining 3.38 percent (\$1.313 billion) of Bangladesh's export total does not reconcile to any HS6 product line due to a known EPB gap between 2-digit and 6-digit totals. This discrepancy is notably larger than the world's 0.59 percent rounding gap.

Analyzing the structural composition, the report emphasised that Bangladesh remains overweight in basic categories while being underweight in every advanced category, some by three times or more.

Future growth for the nation's garment sector is more likely to stem from closing the gap in advanced garments rather than expanding basic product lines, the compilation concluded, the data compiled by Bangladesh Apparel Voice (BAV).

Chittagong District Police Take

(SP) Md. Masud Alam. Senior police officials and members of the district cyber monitoring team attended the meeting.

During the session, SP Masud Alam highlighted that vested interest groups might attempt to disrupt communal harmony and destabilize law and order ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja by sharing archived, misleading, or fabricated photos, videos, and information. In light of these concerns, the police chief emphasized round-the-clock, stringent monitoring of the digital space.

Police officials present stressed the immediate verification of the authenticity, source, and context of any content circulating online. Concurrently, instructions were issued to swiftly release accurate and objective facts through mainstream news media and official police platforms to counter misleading narratives.Additionally, Chittagong District Police urged responsible citizens to exercise caution while using social media platforms and refrain from sharing any unverified information or rumors without proper fact-checking.

Jatri Kalyan proposes 8-paisa

a rise in fuel prices were understandable.However, it alleged that the authorities concerned repeatedly held closed-door meetings with transport owners over fare revisions and kept the process away from the media.It further alleged that although fare revisions were effectively decided by the government and transport owners' associations, authorities presented them to the media as decisions reached through consultations with all stakeholders.The association said representatives of the country's largest stakeholder: passengers, were not consulted in the fare-setting process. It also alleged that there was no transparency regarding the extent to which operators' costs had increased or how much of a fare hike would be required to offset the additional operating costs.

Farewell Reception for Pirojpur

Magistrate Abu Sayeed who is also the President of the Officers Club

presided over the event .At the reception, speakers recalled various initiatives and contributions of Police Superintendent Mohammad Manzur Ahmed Siddiqui during his tenure in Pirojpur.They wished him success at his new place of posting and prayed for his continued success, prosperity and excellence in his future career.Officials from the district administration and police administration, along with members of the Officers Club Pirojpur were present at the farewell.

PM to present

said PMO Spokesperson Mahdi Amin."Carrying the patriotism, emotions, sentiments and aspirations of the people, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will present before the global community what Bangladesh's vision for the future should be, how the country's interests can be safeguarded and how inclusive development can be ensured," he said.

Mahdi Amin made the remarks at a press conference in the lobby of the Hyatt Grand Central New York hotel at 9:00pm local time yesterday after the premier arrived in New York to attend the UN General Assembly.

He said the prime minister has arrived in New York on a historic visit as the head of a representative government elected by the people's vote after a long time.

Referring to the historical context, he said, "Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and Begum Khaleda Zia had presented Bangladesh's position, vision and plans before the global community. As part of that historical continuity, their son, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, will likewise uphold the spirit of patriotism and present Bangladesh's interests and rights on the global stage."

Mahdi Amin said the prime minister will deliver his address at the UN General Assembly on Thursday.

Describing the prime minister's visit as a very brief one, the spokesperson said he was moving away from the usual practice of lengthy foreign visits and would stay in New York for only a short period.

"Excluding the two days spent on travel, he will stay in New York for only four working days and will attend a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings," he said.

Regarding the size of the delegation, Mahdi Amin said the prime minister had completely broken away from the traditional practice and arrived with a small delegation for the brief visit.

"Officially, there are only 35 people here. Besides them, there are only essential media, security and personal staff. Prime Minister's wife Dr Zubaida Rahman is also accompanying him," he said.

Informing that the prime minister's official engagements will begin Tuesday, he said he would attend the opening session at the UN Headquarters at 9:00am, where heads of state and government of different countries will be present.

Earlier in the morning, he will attend a "Welcome Breakfast Reception" hosted at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General. PM's Press Secretary AAM Saleh Shibly, Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Ruman and Bangladesh's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations A K M Wahiduzzaman were also present at the press conference.

Foreign Secretary

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in Geneva next month.Siam has completed one year in office, having assumed the post on June 20, 2025.A career diplomat, Ambassador Siam joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1995.Throughout his distinguished diplomatic career, he has served extensively both at home and abroad.Prior to his current appointment, he served as Bangladesh's Ambassador to the United States, with concurrent accreditation to Guyana, and as Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).From 2023 to 2024, Ambassador Siam served as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Austria, with concurrent accreditation to Hungary and Slovenia, and as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna and the OPEC Fund.Before serving in Austria, Ambassador Siam was Bangladesh's Ambassador to the Philippines from 2017 to 2021, with concurrent accreditation to Palau, and as Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).Earlier in his career, he served as the first Consul General at the Bangladesh Consulate General in Milan, Italy; as Assistant High Commissioner at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Manchester, UK; and as a junior diplomat at the Bangladesh Embassies in Jakarta and Bangkok.

In addition to his overseas assignments, he held several important positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka.He served as Inspector General of Missions (IGM) at the ministry and as Rector of the Foreign Service Academy.

He also served as Chief of Protocol and Director General of the Europe and EU Wing. As Director, he served in the offices of the Foreign Adviser and the Foreign Secretary.Ambassador Noman Chowdhury joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1998.Prior to his current posting, he served as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Nepal from November 2020 to December 2024.During his diplomatic career spanning more than two decades, he has served in various capacities at Bangladesh missions abroad, including the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York, the Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York, and the Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad. At the headquarters, he served in the United Nations, Economic Affairs, Administration, Protocol, External Publicity and Southeast Asia Wings, as well as at the Foreign Service Academy.

Allegations of Irregularities

(covering admission and internal charges), and collecting money without issuing a proper receipt constitutes an irregularity.

Three Food Businesses Fined

violations, including preparing food products in an unhygienic environment and operating without the necessary BSTI approval.

Meanwhile, New Azmir Hotel was fined Tk 5,000 for preparing food in an unhygienic environment.

The authorities inspected the food preparation areas and identified violations related to hygiene and regulatory compliance during the operation.

Shahin Akter Shifa, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate, said the administration would continue such drives in the interest of protecting public health.

She urged food business owners to maintain hygienic conditions while preparing and selling food and to ensure that all necessary licences and regulatory approvals are obtained from the relevant authorities.

The administration also warned that action would be taken against businesses found violating food safety and regulatory requirements in the future.

Officials said such mobile court operations are aimed at ensuring food safety, protecting consumers and encouraging businesses to comply with government regulations.

Allegation of Harassment Through

he and his witnesses are in a state of insecurity due to this incident.

When asked about the allegation over mobile phone, SI Ibrahim of Mirsara Police Station told reporters that he was praying when Alauddin was abusing. He said he does not know anything about abduction or scuffle. He also said he is not aware of whether there is any arrest warrant against Alauddin.

Meanwhile, Joyнал Abdin claimed that he filed a case in court against Alauddin for cutting down his hilly trees worth 7 lakh taka, case No. CR 457/25.

According to him, the PBI investigated the case and presented information and evidence to the court.

Later, the court issued an arrest warrant against Alauddin, he claimed.

However, he also alleged that he has not been arrested yet.

In the press conference Joyнал Abdin said, "I don't want any revenge, I want proper application of law and justice.

Let there be an impartial investigation of the case filed against me and proper implementation of the court's order."

He further said that those who have allegedly intimidated or attempted to abduct the witnesses of his case should also be investigated and necessary legal action will be taken through law.

Through the press conference, Joyнал Abdin demanded from the law enforcement agencies and the concerned authorities to investigate the



Govt steps up efforts to modernise shipping sector

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh is pursuing a broad modernisation of its shipping sector, combining new deep-sea and container terminals with dredging, expanded port capacity, digitalisation and improved inland waterways to strengthen the country's trade infrastructure.

According to the FY2026-27 budget document, the government has adopted a series of initiatives to increase cargo and container-handling capacity, improve vessel-handling efficiency, expand dredging activities and increase port-yard capacity.

The broader plan also covers development of sea and land ports, modernisation of river ports and launch terminals, maintenance of inland waterways and strengthening of safety and institutional capacity.

Around 95 percent of Bangladesh's total import and export activities are conducted through Chattogram and Mongla ports, making their capacity and efficiency particularly important for the country's trade and economy.

Chattogram faces growing pressure Chattogram Port, the country's principal maritime gateway, has already experienced a sharp increase in cargo and container handling over the years.

According to figures presented by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Parliament in July, the port handled 138.152 million tonnes of cargo and 3,409 million TEUs of containers in 2025, compared with 45.396 million tonnes and 1.343 million TEUs respectively in 2010.Container handling increased 4.07 percent, cargo handling 11.43 percent and ship handling 10.5 percent in 2025 compared with the previous year, he said. The port operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the government is taking a number of measures to increase its capacity and efficiency. These include the operation of the Patenga Container Terminal, development of the Laldia Container Terminal, regular capital and maintenance dredging, procurement of new cargo and container-handling equipment and digitalisation of port services, according to the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament.The government is also taking measures to ease container congestion by improving yard management and speeding up cargo clearance.

Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam told Parliament in July that around 80 percent of container unloading and delivery operations at Chattogram Port had already been digitalised, with work underway to cover the remaining 20 percent. The government is encouraging delivery of import containers through private inland container depots and off-docks, while more than 10,000 TEUs of long-staying containers inside the port are planned to be auctioned through customs to free up yard space.

Bay Terminal to accommodate larger vesselsThe planned Chattogram Bay Terminal is expected to become one of the most important components of the country's maritime expansion.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said the terminal would allow large mother vessels to berth directly at Chattogram Port, reducing transshipment costs and accelerating import and export activities.

At present, many large vessels cannot enter Chattogram because of navigational limitations.Once completed, the two facilities are expected to receive vessels with drafts of 12 to 14 metres and reduce vessel waiting time through direct berthing, the minister said. Laldia adds new capacity The Laldia Container Terminal is another major component of the planned expansion of Chattogram Port.

Construction of the terminal, one of Bangladesh's largest public-private partnership investments involving more than US\$550 million, formally began in August.

The terminal is being developed with Danish cooperation and is expected to introduce modern equipment and technology into port operations.

Under the concession agreement, the project covers three years of construction and 30 years of operation, with a provision for a further 15-year extension, Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam said in Parliament.

The government sees the terminal as part of its effort to increase capacity and bring international expertise and modern operational practices into the country's port sector. Matarbari to open deep-sea accessThe Matarbari Deep Seaport in Cox's Bazar represents another major shift in Bangladesh's maritime infrastructure.The under-construction port is expected to begin operations by 2029, according to the Shipping Minister.

It will have a navigational channel about 16 metres deep and will be capable of accommodating container vessels carrying around 8,200 EUs or cargo ships of up to 100,000 deadweight tonnes. Such vessels are nearly four times larger than those currently handled at Chattogram Port, according to the minister.The facility is expected to reduce Bangladesh's dependence on foreign transshipment hubs such as Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang by allowing large mother vessels to call directly at a Bangladeshi port.The government expects this to reduce shipping time and transshipment-related logistics costs while improving the country's competitiveness in international trade. Matarbari could also provide opportunities for regional transit and trade, potentially strengthening Bangladesh's position as a maritime hub in South Asia.

Mongla emerging as second gatewayMongla Port is also undergoing major expansion to increase its role in Bangladesh's maritime trade.The project

complaints impartially to unearth the real incident, implement the court's order, and take legal action against the real culprits.

Filling Station Owner Shah

suspended all operations and fuel sales at the filling station to restore order. Earlier that night, following the government's announcement of revised fuel prices, long lines of vehicles including motorcycles and private cars had formed at M/S Alam Filling Station. However, the pump had been kept closed since 10:30 PM. When owner Shah Alam arrived after midnight and began configuring the system for the new, higher prices, waiting customers protested and demanded fuel at the previous rates. The situation turned violent when Alam threatened the crowd with the metal angle bar and subsequently assaulted customers who approached him.

Shah Alam, the owner of Alam Filling Station, stated, "Our employees were the ones who were attacked first." Currently, I have a stock of approximately 11,000 liters of diesel, 10,497 liters of petrol, and 10,380 liters of octane, all purchased at previous rates. Fuel sales at the filling station had been temporarily suspended due to a fault in the electricity connection.

Dibakar Adhikari, Police Inspector (Investigation) of Dimla Police Station, stated that all operations at the filling station have been temporarily suspended until further notice to prevent untoward incidents and to ensure a proper investigation.

Make weapons, if there's

media in Salta, Faridpur. The person giving the statement is Rofikul Islam, also known as Rofik Mollah, the chairman of the Jadonandi Union Parishad (UP) in the upazila.

Recently, at a meeting held in Ujirpur Bazar of the upazila, Rofik was heard telling his supporters to make weapons and that he would personally handle any 'murder' that occurs. Since the video spread on Facebook, there has been intense criticism and panic among the general public throughout the upazila.However, Chairman Rofikul Islam has completely denied the allegations against him. He claims that the

video is being circulated after being technically edited. He alleges that a political opponent is conducting this propaganda to tarnish his reputation ahead of the upcoming elections. Explaining the incident, he said, "People from the opposing side beat up a van driver from my party and snatched away the van. I have not taken the law into my own hands but have sought the assistance of law enforcement agencies and am trying to keep the area calm." Law enforcement agencies and the local administration are taking the matter seriously.The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Salta Police Station, Md. Bablu Rahman Khan, stated that they will verify the authenticity of the video and investigate whether the chairman has made such statements recently.On the other hand, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Salta, Dabir Uddin, mentioned that discussions are being held with higher authorities after viewing the video circulated on social media. If the allegations are found to be true, necessary legal action will be taken, including sending a show-cause notice to the accused chairman.

PM joins high-level

the opening remarks.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaun Kobir and Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Irene Khan were seated beside Tarique Rahman, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, Prime Minister's Adviser Mahdi Amin and Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam were seated behind him.

Tarique Rahman is leading a 35-member delegation to the UNGA. The high-level General Debate of the 81st UNGA began on Tuesday, with US President Donald Trump scheduled to address the General Assembly on the first day. Tarique Rahman is scheduled to address the General Assembly on September 24, his first address to the world body as prime minister. He is expected to deliver his speech in Bangla. Alongside the UNGA sessions, the Prime Minister is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings and high-level engagements with heads of government of several countries and leaders of international organisations during his brief visit to New York.



Trump, Xi seek stability as AI, trade and Iran fuel US-China tensions



International Desk

US President Donald Trump is set to host Chinese President Xi Jinping in Washington this week as tensions between the world’s two largest economies continue to grow over trade, technology and artificial intelligence.

Although neither side is expected to reach a major breakthrough, Trump and Xi are likely to maintain a cordial tone during their third meeting since Trump returned to the White House, seeking to prevent further deterioration in already fragile bilateral relations.

The two countries remain locked in competition over AI and trade while also seeking greater leverage on sensitive geopolitical issues, including Iran and Taiwan.

“The fact that they are meeting, and there’s dialogue occurring and building that relationship, is probably as important as outcomes from the meeting,” said Sen. Steve Daines, a Montana Republican who advises Trump on China and recently visited the country ahead of the summit.

Cui Tiankai, a former Chinese ambassador to the US, recently said at a Beijing forum that disagreements between the two countries are inevitable but stressed the importance of maintaining overall stability.

Trade tensions have eased, but rivalry remains

Xi’s visit to Washington, beginning Wednesday, will be his first in a decade. The meeting comes after Washington and Beijing stepped back from last year’s intense trade confrontation, when both sides imposed extremely high tariffs that threatened to disrupt the global economy.

China also restricted exports of critical minerals that are essential to products ranging from electric vehicles to military aircraft.

For Washington, the challenge extends beyond trade. The US is seeking to preserve its technological edge as part of efforts to maintain national security and its global position. China, meanwhile, has expanded its economic, technological and military capabilities and is working to strengthen its role in the international system.

Evan Medeiros, a senior adviser at The Asia Group, said the stability sought by both governments is driven by their intense strategic competition.

Da Wei, director of the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University, said the two countries appeared to be moving toward a “new normal” of broader stability despite measures such as blacklisting companies and restricting high-tech trade.

He said the two leaders now need to produce agreements that can be implemented quickly by their respective governments.

AI emerges as a major area of rivalry

Artificial intelligence has become one of the most important areas of competition between Washington and Beijing, with neither side showing much willingness to slow technological development despite concerns from technology executives about the potential dangers of advanced AI.

“Whoever wins AI wins,” Trump has repeatedly said.

On Monday, Trump said on social media that the US remained ahead of China in AI and argued against restricting the technology, comparing its potential impact to that of the Industrial Revolution and the internet.

China is equally determined to remain competitive. Chen Yixin, head of China’s Ministry of State Security, recently warned that advanced AI capabilities in the hands of foreign or hostile forces could pose a direct threat to the ruling

Communist Party.

The US has imposed restrictions on exports of advanced AI chips to China and accused Chinese developers of extensively using American AI models to reproduce their capabilities.

Beijing has defended the practice, known as distillation, saying it is common throughout the industry, including among US companies.

Chinese officials have also accused Washington of seeking to dominate the AI sector. China is additionally concerned about US efforts to establish international AI partnerships that exclude Beijing.

In response, it has been seeking support from developing countries for broader global rules governing AI.

Despite the rivalry, Washington and Beijing are exploring limited cooperation.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday, following talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in New York, that Washington had proposed a system for notifying each other about AI-related incidents that could pose national security risks.

Bessent said greater transparency between the world’s two leading AI powers would be important.

Targeted economic measures replace broad tariff escalation

Although both governments have avoided broad new punitive measures that could undermine their trade truce, they continue to target specific companies and products.

Mira Rapp-Hooper, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution’s Center for Asia Policy Studies, said both countries appeared to be testing the limits of competition while trying to keep relations between their leaders on a more stable track.

Washington has recently taken action against Chinese telecommunications and surveillance equipment, companies accused of using forced labor in Xinjiang, and Chinese robotics and drone manufacturers.

The Pentagon has also excluded major Chinese companies, including Alibaba, BYD and Baidu, from US defense contracts.

Beijing has responded with export restrictions on drones and related technologies and has blacklisted six US companies over their involvement in measures related to Xinjiang.

Iran, Taiwan and tariffs remain contentious

Trade remains a potential source of renewed tension. After the US Supreme Court struck down Trump’s tariffs on trading partners this year, the administration has explored alternative mechanisms for imposing duties.

In July, the White House introduced a 12.5% tariff on imports from 60 trading partners, including China, citing inadequate efforts to prevent imports linked to forced labor. Washington is also planning an additional 7.5% tariff on Chinese goods, accusing China of producing more goods than its domestic market can absorb.

Analysts say current tariff levels appear manageable for both sides, but a significant increase could reignite the trade dispute.

Iran is another point of disagreement. The Trump administration has sought to isolate Tehran economically, while Beijing has maintained that it has the right to continue trading with Iran.

So far, Washington has taken limited action against China over its economic ties with Tehran, in part to avoid complicating the Trump-Xi summit.

China is Iran’s largest oil customer and biggest trading partner and has been developing alternative payment mechanisms that reduce its dependence on the US-led financial system, according to Alicia Garcia Herrero, an Asia-Pacific economist at French investment bank Natixis.

Taiwan remains another major source of friction. Beijing claims the self-governing island as part of China, while Washington is legally required to provide Taiwan with sufficient weapons and technology for its self-defense.

Trump suspended a major arms package for Taiwan after his May visit to Beijing. Analysts say Xi is likely to press Trump to further delay weapons sales, potentially raising questions in Taiwan about the long-term strength of US support.

Houthis say Saudi Arabia conducts deadly strike on key port city

International Desk

Yemen’s Houthis said Saudi Arabia carried out a deadly strike on a key port city on Tuesday, over a week into the Houthi offensive that has seen them seize control of a strait that is crucial to global energy flows.

G7 nations called on the Houthis meanwhile to halt cross-border strikes on Saudi Arabia, which backs Yemen’s internationally recognised government.

The Houthis’ takeover of the country’s Red Sea coast in a dramatic offensive that has left hundreds of people on both sides dead, has also threatened global trade and pushed up energy prices.

Gains made by the Iran-backed Houthis have cemented the hold Tehran and its allies have over two key waterways -- the Bab al-Mandab and the Strait of Hormuz -- which top oil and gas exporters, including Saudi Arabia, rely on, and which are key to global shipping generally.

Saudi Arabia has sought to contain the Houthis’ advance by carrying out scores of airstrikes on areas under their control, with the Houthi-affiliated Saba news agency reporting six civilians including two children killed in the port city of Mocha.

But the strikes have so far failed to contain the Houthis, who at the weekend carried out an attack targeting the Saudi capital, Riyadh, for the first time in years.

As violence has escalated, thousands of families have been forced from their homes, many of them for a second or third time.

“I hope I can find a house to live in with my children. We’re exhausted by the heat, the dust and the humiliation,” Arwa, a mother of four children, told AFP at a camp for displaced people in the Yemeni city of Aden.

“I hope the situation improves and we can return to our home and our families.”

According to the International Organization for Migration, nearly 130,000 people have been displaced across seven governorates in Yemen as a result of the violence.

The Middle East war began in February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, and it has seen the Islamic republic retaliate with attacks around the region and by mobilising its allies.

While the Yemen civil war predates the regional conflict, it has become its most active front in recent days.

South Korea's Lee to call for phased denuclearization of North Korea at UN

International Desk

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said he will emphasize the need for a practical, step-by-step approach to denuclearizing North Korea at this week’s UN General Assembly, saying both Seoul and Washington remain willing to resume dialogue with Pyongyang.

"To change the direction of a moving vehicle, it must be brought to a halt first," Lee said in written responses to questions from The Associated Press before leaving for New York on Monday.

"A phased approach of stop, reduction and dismantlement is a practical way of effectively resolving the North Korean nuclear issue," he said.

Lee’s proposal comes as North Korea is stepping up weapons testing despite US President Donald Trump’s decision to scale back a major military exercise with South Korea in what was seen as a conciliatory gesture toward North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who has viewed such drills as rehearsals for invasion.

Lee advocates phased denuclearization

North Korea’s expanding nuclear program has raised questions over whether denuclearization can be achieved in a single step and prompted calls for a phased process under which Pyongyang would receive corresponding economic and political benefits.

Trump said last month that North Korea possesses 57 nuclear weapons, while some experts estimate that the country has more than 100 warheads.

"Given the extent to which North Korea’s nuclear and missile capabilities have advanced, it is not a realistic solution to wait until complete denuclearization can be achieved all at once," Lee said.

"This is because, in the interim, North Korea’s nuclear capabilities will continue to advance, escalating the threat," he said.

During the annual UN gathering, Lee said he would pursue "a phased and pragmatic solution to the North Korean nuclear issue" and build on his vision of promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

He pointed to his recent proposal for talks among the countries concerned to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, saying such discussions could also provide an opportunity to explore ways to restrain North Korea’s nuclear program.

However, there are concerns that a phased approach could ultimately allow North Korea to refuse to completely abandon its nuclear arsenal after securing concessions such as sanctions relief in exchange for partially reducing its capabilities.

To guard against such an outcome, Lee called for comprehensive dialogue to establish a framework that benefits South Korea, the United States and North Korea.

He also stressed the importance of convincing North Korea that "moving toward stable and lasting peace is a realistic and feasible path to a secure and prosperous future."

Seoul, Washington seek resumption of talks

Despite the approaches being considered by the United States, South Korea and their partners, it remains uncertain whether North Korea will return to negotiations anytime soon.

When Trump last month scaled back the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise with South Korea, citing his "very good relationship" with Kim, North Korea rejected the gesture, saying that reducing the drills would not change what it considers their provocative nature.

Since then, North Korea has conducted three rounds of weapons launches and issued numerous statements criticizing what it described as US hostility. Experts say Pyongyang is likely seeking larger concessions from Washington.

Lee, who hopes renewed Trump-Kim diplomacy could also lead to the reopening of inter-Korean dialogue, described Trump’s decision as "a deliberate step to send a clear message that the United States has no hostile intent toward North Korea."



He said both South Korea and the United States "remain open to engaging in dialogue with North Korea without preconditions."

"What is needed now is a political decision at the leaders' level. The two leaders should build trust and work together to identify a common ground, face-to-face," Lee said.

Lee seeks stronger US ties

Trump’s announcement on social media about reducing the military exercise came without prior consultations with South Korea and referred to what he called Lee’s refusal to join the United States in the "denuclearization" of Iran.

The move raised concerns about the strength of the South Korea-US alliance.

Lee acknowledged that Trump’s decision came "somewhat unexpectedly." However, he said he preferred to focus on the ultimate objective behind it, noting that Trump had expressed his commitment to creating conditions for dialogue and that he shared the goal of reducing confrontation on the Korean Peninsula.

Lee said the strategic interests of South Korea and the United States are closely linked across a wide range of areas and that he plans to build a more mutually beneficial partnership during the remainder of Trump’s term.

As an example, he pointed to planned cooperation in shipbuilding, saying it would not only help revive US shipbuilding and strengthen its naval capabilities but also create new growth opportunities for South Korean companies.

Lee said Friday that he would not allow South Korea’s military to become involved in the US-Iran conflict.

He said his government was considering expanding the operations of a South Korean naval unit deployed in the Gulf of Aden to protect South Korean vessels and oil shipping routes.

Lee was expected to meet Trump on the sidelines of the UN gathering.

Lee calls for UN reforms

Lee said the UN-centered multilateral system faces serious challenges, including growing geopolitical conflicts.

He said the current multilateral system has failed to keep pace with common challenges such as the climate crisis and the unintended consequences of the AI revolution.

Calling for reforms at the UN, Lee said duplication and inefficiency across the organization must be addressed.

He also said greater authority should be given to personnel working in the field so that crises can be addressed more quickly and effectively.

During the UN General Assembly, Lee said he would also present South Korea’s efforts to ensure that more people benefit from advances in artificial intelligence and urge other countries to join the initiative.

Lee cautious on Kim’s daughter

Asked about the prominent teenage daughter of 42-year-old North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Lee said his government has taken note of "her rising status" and is keeping all possibilities open regarding her future role.

"However, I believe we have to be careful about expressing a definite view at this stage," Lee said. Lee’s comments differ from repeated assessments by South Korea’s intelligence agency, which has described Kim’s daughter as his likely successor.

Some experts have challenged that assessment, pointing to North Korea’s male-dominated power structure.

German leader faces tough road ahead after election defeats, no sign of leadership challenge

International Desk

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz reaffirmed Monday that he would remain in office after his party suffered two more regional election defeats and, for the first time, lost its representation in a state legislature, in a humiliating setback that could make it harder for him to pursue his reform agenda.

Shortly after polls closed Sunday, the unpopular Merz said he intended to remain leader of both Germany and his center-right party and pledged to continue pushing reforms aimed at strengthening Europe’s largest economy.

But final results released hours later highlighted the scale of what Merz himself described as a "disaster" in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, an eastern state on the Baltic Sea coast.

His center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) received just under the 5% threshold required to retain seats in the state parliament, marking the first time this has happened in the 77-year history of modern Germany’s federal republic. The CDU lost more than half of its support, while the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) emerged as the strongest party.

In Sunday’s other election, the CDU fell to second place in Berlin, behind the hard-left Left Party, which is in a strong position to lead the next city government. However, depending on the outcome of coalition negotiations, Merz’s party could still retain control of city hall.

Despite days of speculation over Merz’s political future, there were no prominent public calls for his resignation Monday and no indication of a leadership challenge. Merz said no one had raised any "personnel questions" at party leadership meetings on Sunday or Monday.

"It is the historic task of the (governing) coalition here in Berlin and the political center as a whole to make our country fit for the coming years," Merz said. "Extremists suggest that there are easy solutions. But everyone who has ever governed knows there are no easy solutions," he said.

At the same time, Merz acknowledged that the CDU needs to strengthen its political profile. He said the party "no longer has satisfactory answers to too many questions, and we will and must change that."

Far-right party makes further gains



Neither of the two states that held elections Sunday is considered a major political heavyweight.

The CDU’s victory in Berlin in 2023 was its only election win there in the past 25 years, while the capital has traditionally leaned to the left. The party was already relatively weak in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

However, the latest results add to the political difficulties facing Merz following the CDU’s stinging defeat by the far-right, anti-immigration AfD two weeks ago in Saxony-Anhalt, another region of the former communist east.

That defeat weakened Merz’s authority and triggered speculation that he could eventually be replaced.

Although the AfD emerged as the strongest party in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the center-left Social Democrats, the junior partner in Merz’s national governing coalition, finished relatively close behind.

Their campaign focused heavily on state Governor Manuela Schwesig as a defender against the far right. That polarization helped squeeze other mainstream parties, including the CDU.

A left-leaning three-party coalition led by Schwesig would hold a majority in the new state legislature.

Dispute over Germany’s reform plans

Schwesig and other figures in the governing parties have questioned parts of the federal government’s reform agenda, which is intended to address Germany’s chronically sluggish economy.

The proposed reforms include potentially painful changes to the pension and healthcare systems. One particularly controversial proposal would scrap a rule allowing people who have paid pension contributions for 45 years to retire early without suffering a financial penalty. The proposal has faced strong criticism. The Social Democrats’ national leaders said Monday that they remain committed to the coalition, but made clear that they want at least some changes to the government’s plans.

Vice Chancellor Lars Klingbeil, who is also finance minister, said that "saying we will ignore what voters told us in three state elections won’t work." "We need reforms, but these reforms must be fair and they need support in the population," he said.

The party’s other co-leader, Labor Minister Bärbel Bas, said the reform plans need a "reality check" as well as a "fairness check."

However, she said she was optimistic that solutions could be found on pension reform, which is the most controversial of the government’s plans.

Over 217,608 cannabis plants destroyed in southeastern Türkiye anti-drug drive

International Desk

Authorities in southeastern Türkiye have destroyed 217,608 cannabis and skunk plants across 99 illegal cultivation areas in Diyarbakir province, the Interior Ministry announced Monday.

In a post on social media platform X, the ministry said that the seized plants could have yielded approximately 5 tons of cannabis powder.

The operation was conducted across the Lice and Kulp districts as part of a government action plan targeting illegal cannabis cultivation. A total of 64 operational teams comprising 570 personnel from local gendarmerie forces participated in the drive, utilizing remote sensing systems to detect the cultivation sites.



The drive was executed in coordination with the Narcotics Crimes Department of the Gendarmerie General Command alongside the Lice and Kulp Chief Public Prosecutors’ Offices.

The Interior Ministry affirmed that ongoing efforts targeting street-level drug dealers, drug manufacturers and illegal drug cultivation activities will continue.



Deepa Khandakar replaces Sumaiya Shimu



Entertainment Desk

After a long break, popular TV actress Sumaiya Shimu was supposed to return to the serial with Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz's 'Firey Ashar Golpo'. Shimu was excited about the drama series.

She said that she was missing acting and was very happy to be back in front of the camera. However, it was suddenly revealed that Sumaiya Shimu would not be in the serial.

Shimu was supposed to play the role of 'Rukaiya' in the story of 'Firey Ashar Golpo'. She said about the character, "A story and character like returning after a break in the serial."

However, Shimu did not get to play 'Rukaiya' on screen.

Deepa Khandakar is playing this role instead of Sumaiya Shimu. Deepa was already associated with this series. She was supposed to play the role of 'Mariam'. Rosey Siddiqui has recently been added to that role. The director and production company Cinemawala has not yet officially announced the change in the cast of the series 'Firey Ashar Golpo'.

However, all the photos of Sumaiya Shimu's photo-shoot have been removed from the company's Facebook page. Rosey Siddiqui has been newly introduced as 'Mariam'. When Sumaiya Shimu was contacted to find out the reason for her withdrawal from the series, there was no response. Even after contacting the director Raz,

there was no answer.

It is learned that Shimu has decided to withdraw from the series due to illness. She is on rest on the advice of a doctor due to eye problems.

Zahid Hasan and Tanjim Saiyara Totini have returned to the drama series after a long time with a story of their comeback despite Sumaiya Shimu not being able to act. Shahiduzzaman Selim, Khairul Basar, Monira Mithu, Faizul Yamin, Mahmudul Islam Mithu, Mukit Zakaria, Ejazul Islam, Raju and others are also acting in the series.

The series 'Firey Ashar Golpo' will start airing on the Cinemawala YouTube channel from October 7. It will be shown every Wednesday and Thursday at 12 noon. Shooting is currently in full swing.

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 Medicine Unit of 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.

Hanuman Ansh continues strong box office run after 46 days

Entertainment Desk

Hanuman Ansh, directed by Vishal Chaturvedi, has continued its strong run at the box office, showing little sign of slowing down even 46 days after its release.

The film, which opened with a collection of Rs 10 lakh, has earned Rs 276 crore in net collections in India during its first 46 days.

Breaking down the numbers According to Sacnilk, Hanuman Ansh earned a net Rs 4.15 crore on Day 46 from 7,629 shows.

With this, the film's total gross collection in India has reached Rs 325.95 crore, while its net collection stands at Rs 276.03 crore.

The film also earned Rs 0.50 crore overseas on Day 46, taking its total overseas gross collection to Rs 26.50 crore.

As a result, Hanuman Ansh has now recorded a worldwide gross collection of Rs 352.45 crore.

Box office performance in the initial days Sacnilk data shows that the film earned Rs 1.08 crore during its first week. Its second-week collection was only Rs 40 lakh, leaving the film with a total of Rs 1.48



crore after 14 days.

The film's fortunes then changed significantly.

It earned Rs 10.4 crore in its third week, with Day 17 alone contributing Rs 2.2 crore and Day 19 adding another Rs 2.35 crore.

The fourth week saw an even sharper rise in collections. The film earned Rs 6.25 crore on Day 22, followed by Rs 9.25 crore on Day 23 and Rs 12.75 crore on Day 24.

Notably, Hanuman Ansh earned more on Day 24 alone than it had collected during its entire first two weeks combined.

Mim completes work on film 'Jibon Opera'

Entertainment Desk

Although there has been no official announcement about the National Film Award-winning actress Bidya Sinha Mim's new movie.

But it is known that she has already finished working on a new movie titled 'Jibon Opera', directed by Alvi Ahmed. Regarding talking about the film, Mim told this correspondent, "I have never done any work under the direction of Alvi Bhai before.

This is the first time I have acted in a movie under his direction.

The film has already been completed. I can't really say anything else about the movie.

The film team will announce everything to the media when the time comes.

But all I want to say is that I am very optimistic about the movie. Now we just have to wait."

Mim won the National Film Award for her performance in the late Khalid Mahmood Mithu's film 'Jonakir Alo'.

The most commercially successful film of her career was Raihan Rafi's 'Poran', in which she co-starred with Sariful Razz and Yash Rohan.

The last released movie starring Mim was Saif Chandon's 'Malik'. Arifin Shuvoo was co-star of Mim in this movie.

Mim's first performance was in renowned novelist late Humayun Ahmed's film 'Amar Achhe Jol'.

She came into the spotlight on the small screen by acting in Mizanur Rahman Aryan's 'Trump Card'.

Mim's first story book titled 'Sraboner Brishtite Bheja' was published at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in 2012.

In 2013, her novel book, 'Purnota', was published at the book fair. Mim works as a brand ambassador for more than 10 multinational companies.



Rafa's 1st solo concert on Oct 2

Entertainment Desk

Raif Al Hasan has been spreading his fascination with songs, guitars, and drums for two decades. He is known to everyone as 'Rafa'.

Although he has played in several bands, he is best known as a member of bands 'Aurthohin' and 'Cryptic Fate'. A few years ago, he formed his own band called 'Avoid Rafa'.

Rafa has been performing regularly on the country's stage with the band. This time, he is appearing in a solo concert for the first time.

First solo concert of 'Avoid Rafa', 'Eto Boka Keno Tumi', will be held at the capital's Hotel Intercontinental on October 2.

Rafa will sing his popular songs, including 'Cholo Arekbar Uri', 'Tumi Dakalei Firbo', and 'Ami Akash Pathabo'. In between songs, he will talk about his various experiences in music.

Taylor Swift wins MTV's new artist director award

Entertainment Desk

Taylor Swift is set to become the first recipient of the Artist-Director Award at the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs), a newly introduced honour recognising musicians for their contributions to music video direction and visual storytelling.



CBS and MTV announced the award on September 21, saying it recognises artists who have pushed creative boundaries and developed a distinctive directorial style through their work behind the camera.

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The 14-time Grammy winner has received seven nominations for Best Direction at the VMAs, winning the award four times. Her directorial work includes music videos for 'The Fate of Ophelia', 'Opalite' and "Anti-Hero".

The ceremony, hosted by Snoop Dogg, will be broadcast live from Los Angeles on September 27 on CBS and MTV, with streaming available on Paramount+ in the United States. International audiences will be able to watch the event on MTV and Paramount+ the following day. Beyond her achievements in music video direction, Swift has won the Grammy Award for Album of the Year four times.

Her latest album, "The Life of a Showgirl", also set a new first-week sales record in the modern era, according to Billboard, citing figures from music data tracking company Luminate.

Alexandra Taylor exits 'Bigg Boss Bangla'



Entertainment Desk

Alexandra Taylor left the house in the third week of 'Bigg

Boss Bangla'. She had to leave the show after getting a cactus in a special game, not by the audience's vote. This week, Sayak Chakraborty, Dipendu Biswas, Srijala Guha, Durnibar Saha, Alexandra Taylor, Monami Ghosh and Niranjana Mondal were on the elimination list.

According to the rules, two of them had to leave. On this day, Durnibar Saha and Srijala Guha went to the 'safe zone' first. Then, 'Dada' organized a special game with Monami Ghosh, Sayak Chakraborty, Niranjana Mondal, Dipendu Biswas and Alexandra.

In the game, roses and cactus were placed on the plates. However, they were covered.

When the contestants removed the covers of their plates, it was seen that although everyone had roses on their plates, Alexandra had a cactus on her plate. This confirmed her departure.

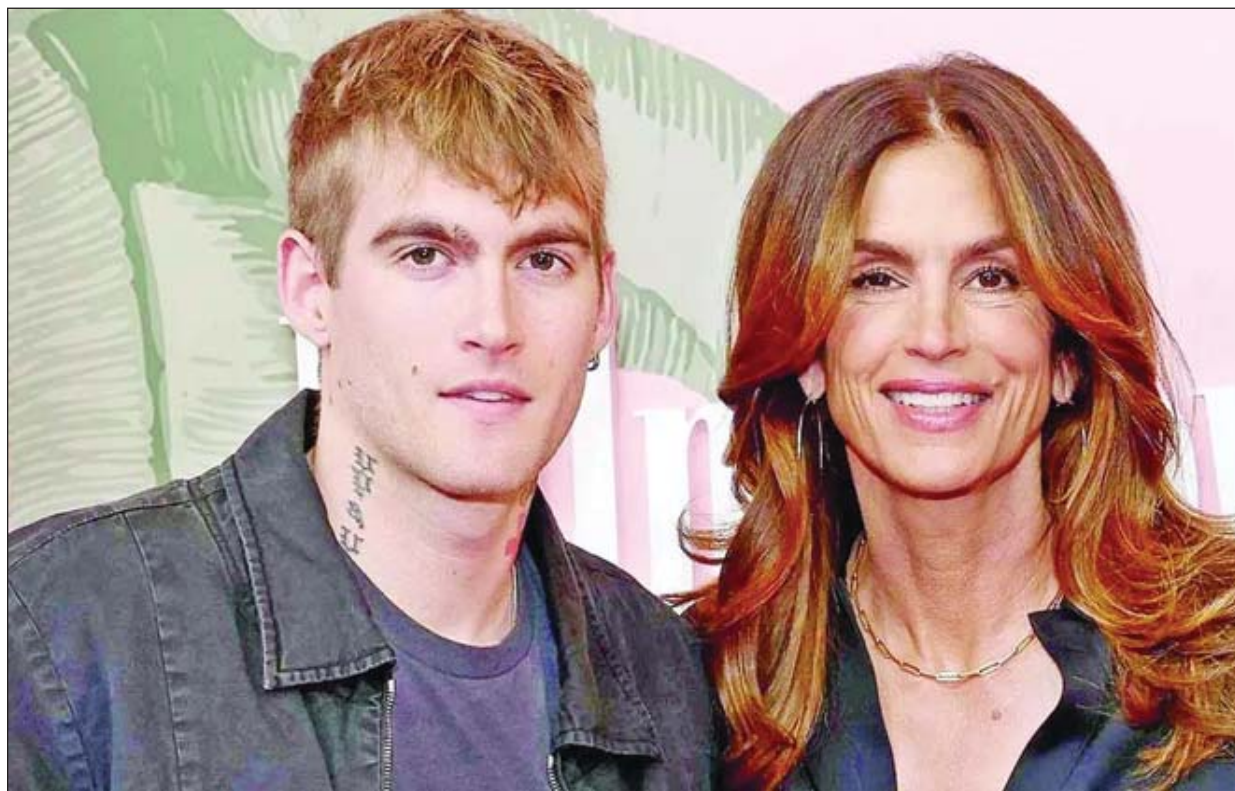
The atmosphere of 'Bigg Boss Bangla' became emotional when Alexandra left the house.

Jhelum, Niranjana and Sohini were devastated by her departure. Jhelum especially hugged Alexandra and burst into tears. However, Alexandra is not the only member to leave the house this time.

One more member among Monami Ghosh, Dipendu Biswas, Sayak Chakraborty and Niranjana Mondal will have to leave the house. His name has not been announced yet.

Earlier, actor Anindya Sengupta was eliminated in the first week of 'Bigg Boss Bangla'. Joyita Chatterjee left in the second week.

It remains to be seen who will leave the 'Bigg Boss' house after Alexandra in the third week.



Cindy Crawford's son Presley dies in rehab

Entertainment Desk

The world of fashion and entertainment has been struck by grief. Rising model Presley Gerber, the eldest son of world-famous supermodel Cindy Crawford and businessman Rande Gerber, has passed away at the age of just 27.

The Los Angeles Medical Examiner's Office confirmed

that he died while undergoing treatment at a rehabilitation centre in Los Angeles.

After this incident, Presley's family said in a message to the media outlet 'People', "It is our heartfelt request that everyone maintain their personal privacy during such a difficult and painful time for the family."

However, the specific cause of Presley's death has not yet been made public.



Zidane gets down to work as France start new era

Sports Desk

Zinedine Zidane spent years patiently waiting in the wings for his chance to manage France and on Friday the successor to Didier Deschamps as coach of Les Bleus will lead the side out for the first time in a UEFA Nations League tie in Turkey. Now 54, Zidane is widely recognised as one of the all-time great French players, alongside Michel Platini. Deschamps was the captain of the first France team to win the World Cup, as hosts in 1998, and of the side that won Euro 2000. But Zidane was the inspiration in those sides, a majestic playmaker with balletic ball control as well as a wicked side to his game. He bowed out of international football as a player 20 years ago with his infamous headbutt on Marco Materazzi in extra time of the World Cup final in Berlin which France lost on penalties to Italy. That game was the 108th and last time that Zidane, the Marseille-born son of Algerian immigrants, played for France. But he left his home country to move abroad aged just 24, when he quit Bordeaux for Juventus. Zidane never returned, spending five years in Italy before the finest days of his playing career came at Real Madrid. He then enjoyed two separate spells coaching the Spanish giants, winning the Champions League three years running between 2016 and 2018. His second stint in charge at the Bernabeu ended in 2021, and ever since he has simply been biding his time, preparing for the call to come. "I have been waiting four or five years for this day. I am filled with emotion, I am really excited. I am happy. This is huge for me," Zidane said at his unveiling in Paris in late July, as a new era started for France following the 14-year reign of Deschamps. "Welcome home," Kylian Mbappe posted on Instagram upon Zidane's appointment. - Attacking promise - On Friday he announced his first squad, and there were several new faces amid expectations that his team will be more attack-minded than France were for the majority of the

Deschamps era, at least up until the recent World Cup. "You will get to see how I see football. Playing good football is what gets me going. There will always be a balance to the side, but I want to see us play and I think we have the team to do that," he said. After years of favouring substance over style, leading to some criticism but also a World Cup triumph in 2018, Deschamps realised he had the players to play more on the front foot at this year's tournament in North America. France were the favourites only to end up losing to Spain in the semi-finals, but captain Mbappe was the tournament's top scorer with 10 goals while Michael Olise was outstanding. Last year's Ballon d'Or Ousmane Dembele shone intermittently. That trio are all present in Zidane's squad, with the new coach confirming Mbappe as captain. Injured Arsenal defender William Saliba and Aurelien Tchouameni of Real Madrid are notable absentees, while there are several new faces. Centre-back Jeremy Jacquet was called up as a reward for an impressive start to the season at Liverpool, while midfielder Lucas Da Cunha of Como is an intriguing addition and Esteban Lepaul of Rennes deserved his chance after top-scoring in Ligue 1 last season. Zidane's assistant will be David Bettoni, who worked with him at Real. Fabien Barthez, who won the World Cup with Zidane, will be the goalkeeping coach. The first major objective for the new manager will be Euro 2028 in the UK and Ireland, before the World Cup in Morocco, Spain and Portugal in 2030. Deschamps has set the bar high in terms of expectations, with France getting to at least the semi-finals in five of the last six major tournaments. First up, though, is the Nations League, which gives Zidane some tough tests to begin but without the pressure of the Euros or World Cup. Les Bleus face Turkey and Belgium away before Zidane makes his home bow at the Stade de France on October 2 against Italy, an occasion that will stir memories of Materazzi and 2006.

CL cricketers undergo first phase of fitness test

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) today conducted first phase of the fitness test ahead of the National Cricket League (NCL) red-ball tournament at the National Stadium in Dhaka today. The fitness test for players from four teams - Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Mymensingh - was held as preparations continued for the NCL, which is scheduled to begin on October 3. The second phase of the fitness test will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at the same venue. The players were required to complete a 1600-meter run at the athletics track of the National Stadium. Pacers were given 7 minutes to complete the task while the batters were asked to finish the job in 7.20 minutes. While most the players were close to the benchmark set for them, a few cricketers failed to overcome the hurdles.

Swimming prodigy Yu, 13, says 'interviews way harder than racing'

Sports Desk

year-old Chinese swimmer Yu Zidi has taken the Asian Games by storm, but when it comes to the intense interest in her, she said: "Interviews are way harder than the race." Yu smashed the Games record in winning the women's 200m butterfly on Sunday in Tokyo and then repeated the feat in Monday's 200m individual medley. The schoolgirl's 2min 06.10sec in scorching to victory in the medley was the fastest time in the world this year. She was only 0.40sec off the world record held by Canada's Summer McIntosh. Yu has been the talk of swimming since becoming the youngest medallist in world championships history last year with bronze for China's relay team aged just 12. She is shaping up to be a major medal threat at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. But out of the pool she openly admits to struggling with what to say in front of large numbers of Chinese and international reporters eager to hear from her. Yu, who turns 14 next month, has tried to shy away from speaking to journalists following her latest eye-popping triumphs. When eventually coaxed into giving some remarks, she has done so hesitantly.



"How do I answer this question? Can you teach me? You just want me to say what I feel?" she said to reporters in Chinese this week. "I don't feel anything in particular. I run through the technical details the coach told me once in my head. "In the last 50 metres you can't save energy, you have to give it everything, not think about anything, close your eyes and hang on, that's it." Under World Aquatics rules, the minimum age for major international championships is 14 but exceptions can be made for younger swimmers if, like Yu, they are fast enough. Some in the swimming world have questioned the mental and physical impact of high-level training and competing at such a young age. Yu has admitted to struggling to balance her school work with her status as the brightest young talent in swimming. As well as international news headlines, her two golds so far this week at the Asian Games have caused a sensation back home. Her back story, such as being spotted by chance by a swimming coach at a water park, and her struggle with interviews, have gone viral. Asked if answering questions was the hardest part, she replied with a giggle: "Every time I just want to float off somewhere else."



England paceman Wood retires from international cricket

Sports Desk

England fast bowler Mark Wood announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday, saying he had "lost the battle" after a career repeatedly disrupted by injuries. The 36-year-old, one of the quickest bowlers to play for England, took 253 wickets in 146 international matches across all formats, including 119 wickets at 30.79 in his 38 Tests. Wood, who made his England debut in 2015, played a key role in the team's 50-over World Cup triumph in 2019. He was also in the England squad that won the T20 World Cup in 2022, although injury ruled him out of the semi-final and the final. Wood last played for England in an eight-wicket defeat by Australia in the first Test of the 2025/26 Ashes series -- his first Test for 15 months -- but his comeback lasted just 11 overs. Swelling in his knee forced him out of the second Test, and he was subsequently ruled out of the rest of the series. "Although this may not come as a surprise given the past year, it just feels like a natural time at the end of my contract," Wood said in a statement on social media. "I've always tried to be resilient and come back from injury to prove people wrong and show everyone what I can do. Unfortunately, this time I lost the battle. "On medical advice, Test cricket and 50-over cricket are not possible, so the England dream has slowly been ground out of me over the last year. "Playing for England has been the greatest honour I could have ever wished for and a dream come true." England managing director Rob Key said: "It's been a privilege to watch the latter part of a great career. "To have been a point of difference in Ashes series wins, a World Cup, and to have thrilled crowds every time he got the ball in his hand is something very few players achieve."

Six-year-old Chinese girl sets world record with Rubik's Cube

Sports Desk

A six-year-old Chinese girl has set a new women's world record for solving a 3x3 Rubik's Cube in just over four seconds, state media reported. Young speedcuber Lian Yunzhi broke the women's 3x3 average world record twice this month at two World Cube Association certified competitions in Wuhan and Guangzhou, according to state broadcaster CCTV on Monday. She posted averages of 4.52 and 4.27 seconds, after solving the Rubik's Cube five times. Lian, who is from Chengdu, is "the first female speedcuber to average under 4.5 seconds", CCTV added. A video CCTV posted showed the small girl wearing a red gingham bow on her head as she deftly turned and twisted a Rubik's Cube. After solving the puzzle she places the cube on the table, claps her hands and pumps a fist into the air. Nicknamed "Zhizhi", Lian was first introduced to the Rubik's Cube after being enrolled into a class as a child -- one of various extracurriculars alongside dance and music lessons, her mother Lin Yangxi, told



local media outlets. Lin "gradually realised" that cubing was an "excellent activity for fostering a child's comprehensive abilities" and shifted her focus towards it, she told Chengdu's Red Star News. Her daughter has now mastered over 1,300 Rubik's Cube solving algorithms, practising daily for two to three hours, Lin said. Photos from Red Star News showed Lian's trophies displayed on a shelf in her home. "Solving a Rubik's Cube improves focus, memory, logical thinking, spatial awareness, and helps develop a healthy mindset toward winning and losing," Lin said. "It's not just about blindly memorising formulas, but using logical reasoning to find optimal solutions," she added.

Bangladesh suffer another defeat in Asian Games hockey

Sports Desk

Bangladesh men's hockey team suffered their second consecutive defeat in the 20th Asian Games hockey losing to host Japan by 6-1 goals in their second group A encounter held today (Tuesday) at Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium in Kakamigahara, Japan. Japan dominated throughout the proceeding giving no room to Bangladesh and notched the victory. Khaled Rakin scored the only goal for Bangladesh in the 44th minute. Earlier, Bangladesh began their Asian Games campaign losing to South Korea by 5-0 goals in their opening group match. Bangladesh will play their remaining group matches against Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India on Sept 24, 26 and 28 respectively at the same venue.

Turkish Airlines marks 15 years with Dhaka marathon

Sports Desk

Turkish Airlines has marked 15 years of operations in Bangladesh by supporting an international half marathon in Dhaka, bringing together around 5,000 runners from home and abroad. The "Turkish Airlines Active Pulse International Half Marathon 2026" was held at Hatirjheel in the capital, celebrating sports, healthy lifestyles and the power of connectivity, according to an airline press release issued today. The event held special significance for the Turkish flag carrier as it commemorates 15 years of connecting Bangladesh with Türkiye and destinations across its extensive global network. Turkish Airlines served as the title sponsor of the event, which drew runners and supporters from different communities and highlighted the growing popularity of running and healthy lifestyles in Bangladesh. "As we celebrate 15 years of Turkish Airlines' presence in Dhaka, we are delighted to mark this important milestone together with the people of Bangladesh through an event that reflects the values of movement, determination and connection," Turkish Airlines Dhaka General Manager Islam Gire said. He said sport has a unique ability to bring people together, much as aviation connects people, cultures and destinations around the world. Turkish Airlines currently operates seven weekly flights between Dhaka and Istanbul, providing onward connectivity for Bangladeshi passengers to destinations across its global network.

Messi unveils special Argentina No. 10 jersey ahead of Oct 6 farewell match



Sports Desk

Lionel Messi has unveiled the special No. 10 shirt he will wear for his final appearance with Argentina, giving fans a first glimpse of the jersey that will mark the end of his international career. The Argentina captain posted a video on Instagram on Monday showing him take down his familiar World Cup shirt from a wall display and replace it with the commemorative jersey. Tap here to add The Daily Star as a trusted source google-preferred-source-badge The 39-year-old will wear the shirt for the first and only time on October 6, when Argentina face Benin at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires. Argentina have two other friendlies during the international window, against Bolivia in Cordoba on September 30 and Burkina Faso at the Monumental on October 3, but Messi is set to feature only in the farewell match. The AFA have also invited Argentina's entire 2022 World Cup-winning squad and their families to the Monumental, turning Messi's final appearance into a reunion with the teammates who helped him lift the trophy he had chased for so long. Messi announced his international retirement on August 31. He leaves Argentina as their record scorer, with 125 goals in 207 appearances, and as a World Cup and two-time Copa America winner. Now, there is just one more game -- and one more No. 10 shirt -- for Argentina's beloved captain.



Former India paceman Zaheer Khan named Chennai coach in IPL

Sports Desk

Former India quick Zaheer Khan has been named head coach of the Chennai Super Kings ahead of the 2027 edition of the Indian Premier League, the franchise announced. World Cup-winner Zaheer, a left-arm pace spearhead who played 309 internationals for India, succeeds Stephen Fleming, a former New Zealand skipper. Fleming parted ways with five-time champions Chennai earlier this year after 18 years as coach of one of the most successful IPL franchises. Zaheer, 47, featured in 100 IPL matches and followed that with coaching roles, including director of cricket operations at the Mumbai Indians. "It's an honour to be a part of one of the most successful teams in the history of the IPL," Zaheer was quoted as saying in a statement by the franchise on Monday. "As a cricketer, I have faced CSK on the field and have thoroughly enjoyed the contests... I can't wait to join the legacy franchise with such a rich history." Former India skipper M.S. Dhoni has been the face of Chennai since IPL's inception in 2008.

La Liga president hits out at Real Madrid refereeing 'conspiracy' claims

Sports Desk

La Liga president Javier Tebas hit out on Tuesday at what he deemed accusations of a refereeing "conspiracy" by Real Madrid following their derby loss to Atletico Madrid. Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho brought two printed screen-shots of what he thought were red-card tackles committed by Atletico players to his post-match press conference following Sunday's 2-1 defeat. Tebas responded to a pro-Real article on social media with a lengthy riposte.

Afghan cyclist who disguised herself as man wins Asian Games silver

Sports Desk

An Afghan cyclist who disguised herself as a man to pursue her sporting dreams won an Asian Games silver medal on Tuesday, hoping it inspires other women in a country where Taliban authorities have sharply curtailed their freedoms. Italy-based Fariba Hashimi powered home second in the women's road race near Nagoya in Japan, calling the triumph "something special". "I can't explain my feelings now," said the 23-year-old, before reflecting on how she was attacked with stones and trained disguised as a man when she started out in the sport as a teenager along with sister Yulduz, who is also now a pro cyclist. "I was born inside a country where the women who dream are getting attacked, and I'm really happy that I have fought against that," she said. "I hope that the next generation will come here and represent their country without any fear." The Taliban authorities returned to power in 2021 and have since imposed a series of rules limiting women's access to education and public life, including sport. "They took away our freedom, they took away everything from us," said Hashimi, who hails from Faryab province in



northern Afghanistan and left the country after the Taliban authorities took over. "This silver medal can show a lot of resilience from Afghan women, and I'm really happy. "I'm not alone, I know that behind me millions of women, from many countries, have the same dream and they are standing with me." After fleeing Afghanistan with the help of Italian former world champion Alessandra Cappellotto, Hashimi relocated to Italy, where she now lives and trains. She and her sister competed at the Paris Olympics two years ago, and the 2028 Los Angeles Games are now looming into view. "I never want to give up and hopefully we can see (what can happen) again in Los Angeles," she said. Hashimi reserved a special thanks for the Japanese team for playing a part in her silver medal. "I'm here without a mechanic, without any preparation. We brought one guy with us from the national federation, and he just drove the car," she said. "We were fixing the bike ourselves. I was the mechanic for myself. I was washing the bike myself. "Thank you to the Japanese team. They were really, really nice to me, fixed my bike."



Wide spread of corruption and irregularities in primary schools in Kalapara



Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

The government's compulsory primary education program in Kalapara of Patuakhali is in a bad state. Despite the government's multidimensional allocation of funds to improve the quality of primary education, providing stipends to students, children are dropping out of schools. Lack of supervision in schools due to shortage of manpower in education office, shortage of teachers, lack of coaching of teachers, loss of government allocation, inefficient school management committee as the underlying reasons, but the concerned authorities have not taken any visible steps to ensure quality education environment in schools, the parents and locals have complained. On Tuesday, it was found that the Biburn national flag was flying on the flag stand at Badurtali (1) Government Primary School No. 151 in Patuakhali's Kalapara Municipal Suburb. The school building has not been touched by development for a long time. No government grant or development allocation has reached here. Students are playing sports during class. The head teacher's room is empty. He met at Milna School. An assistant teacher named Zakir was seen in the teacher's auditorium, and three female assistant teachers were seen teaching the classroom with a few first-shift students. However, most of the students were found to be indifferent. Although there were

teacher posts are vacant, 42 assistant teacher posts are vacant. There are 5 vacancies in the education office itself. Rasulpur Government Primary School Assistant Teacher Md. Arifur Rahman, assistant teacher of Charchandupara Government Primary School Nahid Akhter Sumi and Mimi Rakhine, assistant teacher of Magherpara Government Primary School have been permanently suspended from service. A departmental case has been filed against the assistant teacher of Ibtaria Government Primary School, Mahmud Alam Palash, for unauthorized absence from work. In addition, the teacher of Latachapl Government Primary School was accused of criminal cases. Zakir Hossain, Taherpur Government Primary School teacher Emma Owen, Abul Hossain and Sultanganj Government Primary School teacher Atiqur Rahman Khalil have been suspended. Kalapara Upazila Primary Education Officer Mosa Sahida Begum said that the issue of manpower shortage in the office and shortage of teachers in schools has been informed to the higher authorities. Besides, applications have been taken from assistant teachers for the vacant post of head teacher, which is under process. He is working to ensure the learning environment in primary schools, to ensure hundred percent attendance of teachers and students in the classroom.

One held with 14,000 yaba tablets in Bogura

Bogura Correspondent

Members of Special Response Battalion (SRB-12) arrested a suspected drug trader with 14,000 yaba tablets from a passenger bus in Sadar upazila here early this morning. The arrested person was identified as Md Farhad Hossain, 29, son of Md Harez Ali of Sonapur village under Panchbibbi Police Station in Joypurhat district. The SRB-12 team conducted the drive on a highway near Kartoa Pump, adjacent to Matidali Airport intersection, around 2.40am. According to a press release signed by SRB-12 Bogura Company Commander Squadron Leader Firoz Ahmed, the law enforcers received confidential information that a person was carrying a large quantity of yaba tablets on a passenger bus travelling from Dhaka to Joypurhat for sale. Acting on the information, an operation team immediately set up a check-post on the highway and searched the bus. The team subsequently arrested Farhad Hossain and recovered 14,000 yaba tablets from his possession. The arrested man was handed over to Bogura Sadar Police Station for taking legal action, the press release said.

"400 years of history is weeping... Bariura's Hatirpul is now a 'Mazar'!"

M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent) Brahmanbaria

Beside the Dhaka-Sylhet highway, in Bariura village of Sarail upazila, stands a silent witness of time. Its lime-brick-and-mortar walls still carry the fragrance of the Mughal era. Locals know it as 'Hatirpul'. But today, there is a black stain on the chest of that heritage. Some people have turned this historic bridge into 'Bariura Hatirphul Mazar'. Every day, people rushing in from far and wide are making vows here, leaving money, tying cloths. Yet under this bridge there is no grave, no memory of any saint. There is only 400 years of neglect and the pain of losing history. The year 1650. Dewan Shahbaz Khan of Sarail. His court was in Shahbazpur. He built a road - 'Jangal' - to go from Sarail to Shahbazpur. This bridge was born on that road.

In those days, Dewans used to travel on elephant-back. After the fatigue of the journey, they would rest with their elephants at the foot of this bridge. From that memory, it got the name 'Hatirpul'. Built brick by brick, bound with lime and mortar, this bridge was not just a path. It was a symbol of a civilization. In 2019, the Department of Archaeology of Bangladesh recognized it as an "antiquity" and has kept it protected.

But with time, are we forgetting our own roots? In the last few years, suddenly the word "Mazar" has been added to the name of this bridge. It is being publicized as "Pakhi Baba's Mazar".



An old worshipper says in tears, "Father, this is a bridge from our grandfathers' time. No one is buried here. Why do people do these things..."

Archaeologists are disappointed. They say, "On one hand we are preserving it, on the other hand history is being erased. This is not a mazar. This is our pride, our Mughal heritage."

There is only one question - who will save Bariura's Hatirpul?

If the administration, public representatives and conscious citizens do not come forward now, then one day this 400-year-old bridge will find its place in history books only as a 'mazar'. The real story will be lost in darkness.

In the soil of Sarail there is also the Arifail Shahi Mosque, the well of Shahbazpur. If we all together develop this heritage as a tourist spot, then history will survive and people will also benefit.

Let's not give vow money - let's respect history. Let Hatirpul live not as a mazar, but as heritage.

Sources: Department of Archaeology of Bangladesh, Sarail Upazila Information Portal, memoirs of local elders.

Joyful Rally in Jaflong to Congratulate Newly Formed Sylhet District Jubo Dal Committee



Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-gowainghat Sylhet

A joyful rally and street meeting were held in Jaflong of Gowainghat upazila, Sylhet, to congratulate the newly formed committee of Sylhet District Jubo Dal. The rally was held this afternoon in Jaflong, Gowainghat. Led by Md. Sohail Ahmed, Joint General Secretary of Sylhet District Chhatra Dal and aspirant for the post of General

Secretary of Gowainghat Upazila Jubo Dal, the procession marched through various roads of Jaflong before concluding with a street meeting. The street meeting was chaired by Md. Masudul Alam Rana, General Secretary of Purba Jaflong Union BNP, and moderated by Jubo Dal leader Rahim Uddin. Former President of Purba Jaflong Union Jubo Dal, Shahab Uddin, addressed the gathering as the chief guest. The speakers congratulated the newly formed leaders of the Sylhet District Jubo Dal committee. They also called upon party activists to work together to further strengthen and organize the Jubo Dal. Leaders and activists from BNP, Jubo Dal, and its affiliated and associate organizations were present at the event.

Four food businesses fined Tk 87,000 in Ctg Chattogram Correspondent

The Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) has fined four food businesses a total of Tk 87,000 for violating food safety standards in Pahartali area of Chattogram. The penalties were imposed during a drive conducted on Tuesday under the supervision of DNCRP Chattogram Deputy Director Fayez Ullah. Loknath Food Products was fined Tk 50,000 for using degraded oil to prepare food in an unhygienic environment. M/S Kawsar Enterprise at Pahartali Market was fined Tk 4,000 for selling unsafe keora water, while Feni Store was fined Tk 3,000 for selling Kashmiri chilli powder containing prohibited colourants.

Convicted Lifetime Prisoner Arrested in Robbery Case in Zakiganj

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-9) has arrested Abdul Ahad, a fugitive and warrant-listed accused who was sentenced to life imprisonment in a robbery case filed with Zakiganj Police Station in Sylhet.

According to RAB-9, acting on a tip-off, an operation was conducted at around 8:55 pm on September 21, 2026, in the Dorgaon Chararpar Pargana Bazar area under Shahparan (Rah.) Police Station in Sylhet. During the operation, Abdul Ahad (40), a warrant-listed



fugitive sentenced to life imprisonment in Zakiganj Police Station Case No. 06, G.R. No. 06/13, dated January 17, 2013, under Section 395 of the Penal Code, 1860, was arrested. The arrested Abdul Ahad is the son of Abdul Malik of Chanpur village under Zakiganj Police Station.

RAB-9 said that the arrested accused was handed over to Zakiganj Police Station in Sylhet for further legal action.

RAB-9 also said that its intelligence activities and operations will continue to maintain law and order in the country.

Dinajpur schoolgirl rescued in Mymensingh, alleged abductor held

Rangpur Correspondent

A 13-year-old schoolgirl allegedly abducted from Dinajpur was rescued and the main suspect arrested in Mymensingh on Sunday, the Special Response Battalion (SRB)-13 said today. The arrestee is Md Shahin Alam, 21, son of Md Aminul Islam Lahu of Paschim Saintara (Dabirer Bazar) village under Chirirbandar Police Station in Dinajpur. According to a press release, the girl is a seventh-grade student at a local high school in the area.

Police said Shahin had allegedly been harassing the girl by repeatedly proposing to her while she travelled to and from school.

On August 25, while the girl was returning home from school, Shahin and his associates allegedly lured her with a promise of marriage and forcibly took her to an unknown location in an auto-rickshaw. Her father subsequently filed an abduction case with Chirirbandar Police Station on September 7. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of SRB-13's Dinajpur Camp and SRB-11's Mymensingh Camp arrested Shahin and rescued the girl from the Amtali Sarkar Bari area under Bhaluka Police Station around 9pm on Sunday. The girl and the accused were later handed over to Chirirbandar Police Station for further legal action.



Prayer meeting and condolence meeting in memory of late Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman

Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

A prayer meeting and condolence meeting was held in memory of late Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman, treasurer of Amtali Press Club and executive director of Khalifa Foundation. This prayer meeting and condolence meeting was organized by Amtali Press Club at Amtali Dakbungalo Hallroom at 4 pm on Monday. Amtali Press Club President Md. Rezaul Karim presided over the program and Press Club General Secretary Moniruzzaman Sumon moderated the program. The program began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Press Club member Safayet Al Mamun recited the Quran.

The condolence meeting was attended by former Amtoli Upazila BNP President Jalal Uddin Fakir, former General Secretary Zahirul Islam VP Mamun, former Member Secretary Tuhin Mridha, BNP leaders Maqbul Ahmed Khan, Jalal Ahmed Khan, Tariqul Islam Tarzan, Main Uddin Mamun, former President of Amtoli Press Club Shahabuddin Panna, Md. Zakir Hossain, former General Secretary Hayatuzzaman Miraj, MA Sayeed Khokon, SM Nasir Mahmud, Senior Vice President Md. Jasim Uddin Howlader, Member Khaled Mosharrarf Soheli, Joint Secretary Mohsin Matubbar and Abdur Rahman Saleh, among others, who spoke

about the active life and social service activities of the late Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman.

The speakers said that Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman was a dedicated organizer, social worker and journalist-friendly person. His various activities for the welfare of the people and his sincere relationship with his colleagues will make him memorable to everyone. The void created in the social and journalistic arena of Amtoli by his death will not be easily filled.

Also present at the condolence meeting were former president of Amtoli Press Club AKM Khairul Bashar Bulbul, Dewan Kabir, BNP leader Mahbub Alam Sikder, lecturer of Amtoli Women's College Kamruzzaman Shanu, members of the Press Club Zahidul Russel, Saiful Islam, Gazi Abdul Qayyum, Al Mamun and the deceased's son Shakib, as well as people from different classes and professions.

The speakers prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul of the late Gazi Md. Matiar Rahman and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family.

Later, special prayers and munajat were held to pray for the eternal peace of the deceased's soul. Amtali Press Club member Safayet Al Mamun led the prayers and munajat. The program ended with the munajat.



22 Cans of Indian Beer Recovered, Warranted Accused Arrested in Separate Drives in Brahmanpara

M. A. Khayer Emon, Comilla Correspondent

Police have recovered 22 cans of Indian beer and arrested a warrant-listed accused in two separate special drives in Brahmanpara upazila of Cumilla.

According to police sources, a team of Brahmanpara Police conducted a special operation at around 7:30pm on Monday, September 21, under the leadership of Sub-Inspector (Unarmed) Rupam Kumar Sarker and Assistant Sub-Inspector (Unarmed) Md Saiful Alam Siddiqui.

During the operation, police recovered 22 cans of Indian beer from inside muddy water at the southwestern corner of a paddy field belonging to one Mominul Haque. The field is located beside the road from Harimangal towards Cumilla under Shashidal Union No. 4 of the upazila.

However, no one was arrested in connection with the recovery of the beer during the operation, police said.

In a separate drive on Tuesday, September 22, Assistant Sub-Inspector (Unarmed) Md Nur Al-Hasan, accompanied by a police team, arrested Shakil Mia, an accused wanted in a GR warrant case.

The arrested man is a resident of Uttarpara area under Shashidal Union of Brahmanpara and the son of Md Gias Uddin. Police said Shakil Mia was arrested in accordance with an arrest warrant issued by the court. Following his arrest, he was sent to the concerned court for further legal proceedings. Brahmanpara Police said they have intensified operations against drug-related activities as well as against accused persons wanted in different cases and under court-issued warrants. The police also said that such operations will continue across the upazila as part of their ongoing efforts to curb the illegal trade and transportation of drugs and to ensure the enforcement of court orders.

Abducted schoolgirl rescued, 5 kidnappers held in Rangpur

Rangpur Correspondent

The Special Response Battalion (SRB)-13 arrested five suspected abductors and rescued the victim schoolgirl from Barobeel Adarshapara village under Gangachara model police station of Rangpur on Monday.

The arrestees are Md Rajuk Islam Mim, 21, Md Rabiul Islam, 55, and his wife Moyna Begum alias Ruby, 45, and their son Roz Islam, 16, and Airin Akter, 56, of the Uttam Baniapara area under Hajirhat police station of Rangpur, said a press release. Citing the statement of the related case filed by the victim's father, the release the arrested youth Md Rajuk Islam Mim had been harassing the victim while she commuted to and from school by repeatedly proposing a romantic relationship. The victim rejected these proposals and informed her family about the harassment and improper advances. Under these circumstances, while the victim was traveling from her home to her maternal grandfather's house, four to five people forcibly abducted her in a white microbus to an unknown location at 11:30 am on September 16, 2026.

Later, the victim's father filed a kidnapping case with the Tajhat police station of Rangpur Sadar Company conducted a raid in Barobeel Adarshapara village and arrested the five suspects and rescued the kidnapped schoolgirl at 7 pm on Monday.

The rescued victim schoolgirl and the arrested accused persons have been handed over to the Tajhat police station for further legal proceedings.

Preparatory meeting held in Kushtia for Lalon Shah's 136th death anniversary

Kushtia Correspondent

A preparatory meeting was held here today to ensure the smooth and peaceful observance of the 136th death anniversary of Baul maestro Fakir Lalon Shah at Cheuriya in Kumarkhali upazila of the district.

The meeting was held at 10 am at the conference room of deputy administration, with Deputy Commissioner Touhid Bin Hasan in the chair. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Mizanur Rahman conducted the meeting.

The meeting discussed overall preparations for Lalon Shah's death anniversary programme, law and order, security of visitors, facilities for devotees and followers, traffic movement and overall management of the venue.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Touhid Bin Hasan said Lalon



Shah is not only a cultural icon of Kushtia but also an important part of the cultural heritage of Bengal and the Bengali people.

"Devotees and visitors from different parts of the country and abroad come to Cheuriya to attend the death anniversary programme. Necessary preparations will be taken with due importance to ensure their

security and hassle-free participation in the event," he said.

He called upon all concerned departments to work in coordination to maintain discipline at the venue, ensure security and keep the movement of visitors smooth.

Former Kushtia-2 lawmaker and freedom fighter Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi said Lalon Shah's philosophy has spread messages of humanity and communal harmony among people at home and abroad.