

Act before anthrax spreads further

It is worrying that anthrax has reportedly infected a considerable number of people and an undetermined number of animals in the northern parts of the country. According to a report by this daily, at least 53 people have received treatment for symptoms related to the disease over the past month. Notably, 16 of them have fully recovered already.

Unlike for humans, anthrax in animals can only be cured if treated with antibiotics at a very early stage of the infection.The anthrax cases in the northern districts this year appear to have originated from cattle raised in Gaibandha’s Sundarganj upazila and neighbouring Pirgacha upazila.

Sundarganj upazila has around 2.54 lakh cattle, and following a localised outbreak last year, the government vaccinated around 19,000 cattle—merely 7.5 percent of the cattle population in the upazila. Official guidelines require 100 percent livestock vaccination within a 3-km radius of an affected zone, so why has less than 10 percent of the cattle been vaccinated so far? This is particularly concerning given that anthrax can spread through goats, sheep, and buffaloes; so only vaccinating cattle alone may not be enough. According to the Sundarganj Upazila Livestock Officer, some 11,000 vaccines remain in stock, and a requisition for an additional 15,000 has been submitted. Why are available vaccines sitting unused as infections spread, and why is the additional requisition so far below the requirement? Any oversight on the part of relevant authorities should be investigated.The local administration has so far begun conducting awareness campaigns in the high-risk areas. We urge the administration to ramp up these efforts, alongside expanding the vaccination drive. We would also caution against reactive measures that could result in the senseless culling of livestock, particularly when timely treatment can cure anthrax in animals.

PM returns home from

pride, confidence and dignity.

A major part of his diplomatic programme was a series of meetings with the heads of state and government of seven countries - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, Haitian Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime, Bhutanese Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul.

The meetings focused on strengthening bilateral relations, expanding trade and investment, increasing economic and business cooperation and exchanging views on regional and international issues.

In his meeting with Erdogan, Tarique Rahman discussed expanding Bangladesh-Turkiye trade and investment and diversifying economic cooperation.

With Shehbaz Sharif, he discussed bilateral relations, regional and international issues and potential areas of cooperation, while his meeting with Plenkovic focused on trade and investment, economic partnership, skilled manpower, education and technology and cooperation at multilateral forums.The Prime Minister also discussed bilateral relations and avenues for greater cooperation with Pezeshkian, Fils-Aime, Tobgay and Charnvirakul.

He separately met Maldives Vice-President Uz Hussain Mohamed Latheef, Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud and Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard.The meetings with the Middle Eastern leaders and ministers covered protecting the interests of Bangladeshi workers, increasing manpower exports, energy security, mineral-sector cooperation and investment in Bangladesh.The centrepiece of the visit was Tarique Rahman's maiden address to the UNGA General Debate on September 24, where he reaffirmed Bangladesh's support for global peace and humanity and called for conflicts to be resolved through dialogue, diplomacy and mutual cooperation.He outlined the government's 3-R strategy of Recovery, Restoration and Reconstruction and pledged to build a prosperous, self-reliant and welfare-oriented democratic Bangladesh through political and economic empowerment of the people and equal opportunities for all. He also spoke of creating employment, developing skilled human resources and transforming Bangladesh into a manufacturing hub.

The Rohingya crisis featured prominently in his UNGA address and other engagements. The Prime Minister said safe and dignified repatriation to Myanmar is the only solution to the prolonged crisis and called for stronger international support to create conditions conducive to their voluntary return.He discussed the issue with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Julie Bishop and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih.

At a Bangladesh-hosted high-level Rohingya event, he called for five urgent measures to address the crisis, including stronger international efforts for safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation.

In his meeting with Guterres, the UN chief expressed gratitude for Bangladesh's role in sheltering the Rohingyas and contributing troops to UN peacekeeping operations, while praising Bangladesh's role in climate resilience and multilateral affairs.

At high-level meetings on sea-level rise and climate action and just transition, the Prime Minister called for faster and deeper global emission cuts, predictable and accessible adaptation finance, wider access to climate-smart technologies and stronger international cooperation to address climate-induced displacement and damage.At a Bangladesh-Sweden-UNFPA high-level event on midwifery, the Prime Minister outlined his vision of a "Healthy Bangladesh", placing primary healthcare at the centre of health reform. He said the government plans to recruit 100,000 additional health workers, including 80,000 women, and 25,000 professional midwives, while developing an integrated digital health system.

The visit also featured extensive economic diplomacy. At a breakfast meeting with Wall Street representatives hosted by

Rethinking how the logistics sector absorbs diesel price hikes

Md. Neyamul Hossain

The latest hike in fuel prices has already begun rippling through the logistics chain. Soon after the government raised the prices of all four major petroleum products, including diesel, by Tk 20 a litre on September 20, owners of 21 private inland container depots (ICDs) responded by raising six container-handling charges by 9.85 percent. Berth operators have sought revisions to contract rates, while lighter-vessel owners and road transport operators are mulling or already executing similar adjustments. Exporters are rightly worried that rising logistics costs could weaken their competitiveness.

Diesel is a major input for trucks, prime movers, container-handling equipment, and inland vessels, so operators cannot be expected to absorb higher fuel costs indefinitely. But should every increase in fuel prices automatically trigger a fresh round of percentage-based tariff increases across the logistics chain? Shouldn't we instead adopt a transparent, proportionate cost adjustment formula linking each tariff change to the actual fuel component of the service being provided? The debate over the fuel price hike has been intense and even polarising. Some argue for price stability through government subsidies; others say Bangladesh cannot indefinitely shield consumers from rising international energy costs. Governments have choices, but none is cost-free. Subsidies can cushion consumers from sudden price shocks, but they also put pressure on the budget and foreign-exchange reserves. Passing higher costs on to consumers reduces those burdens, but it can, in turn, raise transport and production costs and add to inflation.

Fuel price hikes can't mean a free-for-all on transport fares. This article, however, is not about the fuel price increase itself. Suffice it to say that countries use different combinations of taxation, subsidies, smoothing, and market-linked pricing when making such decisions. India, for example, reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 a litre amid the latest international price surge. Bangladesh has taken a different approach and raised diesel price to Tk 135, just five months after the last increase. But whatever policy is adopted, a question more relevant to the logistics sector is: how should a Tk 20-a-litre diesel price increase translate into a container-handling charge, trucking rate, or lighter-vessel freight rate? That relationship should not be arbitrary.

Recent domestic fare decisions illustrate the point. After September 20, official bus fares rose by roughly 7 percent per kilometre, while passenger water-transport fares rose by 7.54

percent. Different services have different cost structures and different levels of fuel exposure; any change in fuel prices does not have to translate one-for-one into the full-service tariff. The same principle should apply to the logistics sector. The latest 17.4 percent hike in diesel prices has been followed by a 9.85 percent increase in six ICD charges covering empty-container transportation, lift-on/lift-off, export goods stuffing and handling, VGM (Verified Gross Mass), and import goods delivery. Some activities are highly fuel-intensive. Others combine fuel with labour, land, equipment depreciation, maintenance, finance, electricity and administrative overhead. This is where the formula needs to be clear. If fuel represents 30 percent of the total cost of a service, a 17.4 percent increase in diesel prices would, all else being equal, raise the total service cost by about 5.2 percent. If fuel represents 55 percent, the effect would be about 9.6 percent. The exact coefficient will differ by service, but the principle is the same: only the fuel-sensitive portion should move with the fuel price.

There is also an interesting consistency in the ICD cost adjustments. In April, a 15 percent diesel price increase was followed by an 8.5 percent increase in the same six categories of charges. This time, a 17.4 percent diesel price increase has been followed by a 9.85 percent adjustment in charges. That does not establish what coefficient is being used by the Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA) to determine these adjustments, but if a methodology exists, publishing it would strengthen confidence. International logistics markets have long faced this problem. In the United States, freight carriers commonly use fuel surcharges linked to published diesel-price benchmarks. The US Energy Information Administration publishes weekly retail diesel prices that are used in many fuel-pricing formulas. The government does not prescribe one surcharge; the important point is that the fuel component can be linked to an observable benchmark. Or take France. Its transport law provides for road-freight prices to be revised according to changes in propulsion-energy costs. Where a contract does not identify the energy component, the calculation can refer to published fuel prices and cost shares. The relevant energy charge must

and conserving fry to protect fisheries resources. According to them, if active participation of local people can be ensured along with government initiatives, the production of indigenous fish in the water bodies of Mirsarai will increase significantly.

Concerned people also think that through regular release of fry in various water bodies of the upazila, there will be a positive impact on the development of fisheries resources, creation of employment and meeting the nutritional needs of the local people.

Allegation of Threatening

take initiative to settle the matter legally through the court. On the other hand, Aparna's family alleges that Chhoton has an extramarital affair with a woman from Cox's Bazar. They also claim that he has been told that he will be given 10 lakh taka and 10 decimals of land for the purpose of marrying that woman. However, the independent veracity of these allegations could not be verified immediately.

Aparna Chakraborty said, "My husband told me that if my family can write five lakh taka and five decimals of land in his name, he will live with me. Otherwise, it will not be possible to continue the family."

Several local residents also spoke of various complaints about Chhoton's behavior. However, these allegations also could not be independently verified.

When contacted over telephone with Chhoton, who is staying in Malaysia, he told reporters that he is not obliged to talk to journalists about this matter.

As a result, his detailed statement could not be obtained. The incident of marital discord with a one-month-old child has caused concern among locals. The victim's family demands that the matter be considered from a humanitarian point of view and legal action be taken through proper investigation.

9 more children die with

have died from suspected measles since March 15.No one died from confirmed measles in the past 24 hours. Since March 15, a total of 101 children have died from confirmed measles.

9 Arrested in Rangpur

the past 48 hours. Acting Deputy Commander Major Kawsar Badhan disclosed this information at a press conference held at the SRB-13 Headquarters on Saturday (September 26) afternoon.

He said that during an operation over the past 48 hours, a youth named Amit Ghosh, accused in the murder case of Abdur Rahman, owner of an auto-rickshaw garage in Rangpur, was arrested. In addition, two people named Sohul Mondal and Helal Islam, residents of Bishwanathpur, were arrested in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha on allegations of fraud by identifying themselves as government officials.

The SRB official said that firearms and ammunition, including locally made and foreign pistols, were recovered in Gangachara; the main accused in rape cases in Pirganj of Rangpur and Ghoraghat of Dinajpur were arrested; two drug dealers were arrested with drugs in Thakurgaon; and a convict sentenced to life imprisonment in a case of violence against women and children was arrested. Besides, a convict sentenced in a drug case in Kurigram was also arrested. The SRB handed over the accused to the respective police stations for taking further legal action.

Major Kawsar Badhan further said that such operations by the SRB will continue to eliminate terrorism, drugs and various types of criminal activities in Rangpur Division.

Bangladesh embarks on

Saturday while speaking as the chief guest at the biennial convention of the American Association of Bangladeshi Engineers and Architects (AABEA) in Detroit, Michigan, said a press release today.Titumir said the strategy focuses on investment, production, employment and increased public investment in education and healthcare.

He said Bangladesh aimed to emerge as a competitive manufacturing hub through industrial diversification, higher productivity and technological advancement.He urged Bangladeshi-American engineers, scientists and technology entrepreneurs to act as a gateway to the US innovation ecosystem by connecting Bangladesh with leading universities, research laboratories, technology companies and investors.The adviser also called upon diaspora professionals to mentor

also appear on the invoice.

The same logic appears in international contracting. World Bank standard bidding documents provide price-adjustment formulas that separate a fixed portion from variable cost elements, with coefficients representing the estimated share of each element.

The lesson is simple: a volatile input does not require the whole tariff to be reopened. Bangladesh does not need one identical formula for trucks, ICDs, lighter vessels, and port contractors. It needs common principles: a base fuel price, a service-specific fuel share, a recognised benchmark, defined review intervals, and automatic adjustment in both directions. When the diesel price rises, the fuel-sensitive component should rise. When the diesel price falls, it should fall. The symmetry is needed, particularly when global diesel markets may remain volatile for some time yet.

Long-term port contracts need similar safeguards. Berth operators have pointed out that diesel was Tk 80 when some contracts were bid in 2022 and is now Tk 135. Expecting contractors to absorb such a change indefinitely may be unrealistic, but repeated renegotiation is also undesirable. Future port and logistics tenders should, therefore, include predetermined escalation and de-escalation clauses for major volatile inputs. We should also be concerned about the risk of accumulation. The same container can encounter a trucker, an ICD, a terminal operator, a lighter vessel, a warehouse, and perhaps another road journey.

If each participant applies a broad percentage increase to its entire tariff, rather than adjusting only the fuel-sensitive component, the original energy shock can be amplified as it moves through the supply chain. The objective here is not to prevent logistics operators from recovering genuine additional costs. Sustainable logistics does require financially viable providers. The objective should be to ensure those costs are recovered transparently, proportionately, and predictably.

We cannot control the Strait of Hormuz or geopolitical conflicts, but we can control how an external energy shock is transmitted through our domestic logistics system. The latest fuel price increase should become an opportunity to replace case-by-case negotiations with a predetermined, rules-based mechanism. When diesel prices rise, logistics charges may have to rise, too. But they should rise by formula, not by reaction.

young engineers, facilitate technology transfer, establish research partnerships and connect Bangladeshi startups with global capital and markets. Your knowledge, credibility, experience and professional networks are themselves a form of investment in Bangladesh," he said, proposing a sustained platform to link diaspora expertise with Bangladesh's universities, industries and entrepreneurs.

"Let us transform individual Bangladeshi success in America into collective opportunity for Bangladesh," he added. AABEA President Engineer Monir Zaman presided over the convention, which was attended by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanagh and Bangladeshi-American professionals from across the United States.

Award Ceremony Held

Association of the World Literature Centre Mobile Library programme, which is being implemented under the "Nationwide Mobile Library Project (3rd Revised)" by the Department of Public Libraries under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.Lecturer Debnath Mondal of the Department of Political Science at Begum Shamsuddin Talukdar Degree College, homeopathic doctor Gazi Benazir Ahmed, Junior Librarian of Pirojpur Government Public Library Nazmun Nahar, and many others attended the programme.The event became meaningful and engaging through insightful discussions by the speakers.Speaking at the event, Gazi Khairul Alam said, "There is no age limit for reading books from the mobile library. We all need to work together to increase the number of library members by embracing book reading as a movement."

Discussant Debnath Mondal said, "I cannot live without books. You should also develop such a habit."

In the presence of readers, volunteers and well wishers, the programme became lively through recitations, dance, discussions and musical performances.

Finally, the programme concluded with the distribution of prizes among the winners of various cultural competitions organized for readers at different spots throughout the month.

The Sarail Hound Dog is not just

Greyhound, hunting dogs from the Arab region, and local wild dogs. During British rule, this distinct Bangladeshi breed was created by crossbreeding the Greyhounds of the English rulers with the wild dogs of the jungles of Tripura.

The most popular folklore about it is

About "200 years ago, the zamindar of Sarail, Dewan Mostafa Ali" brought a Greyhound dog from an English citizen in exchange for "an elephant". While hunting, the dog got lost in the jungle and returned after 6 months in a pregnant condition. Its puppies looked different from other dogs, much like a tiger. It is believed that this special breed originated as a result of mating with a tiger in the jungle.

Basically, the Dewan family of "Isa Khan of the Baro Bhuiyans" started the tradition of raising this dog. They used to raise this dog for hunting and home security.

Characteristics and Heritage:

Male dogs are 25-28 inches tall, weighing 23-33 kg, female dogs are 23-26 inches tall, weighing 18-28 kg.

It can run at a speed of about 55 kilometers per hour. Average lifespan is 8-14 years.

Long, slim build, strong chest, erect ears and tiger-like body color.

The most glorious history of this dog is in the Liberation War. The Sarail Greyhound "Field Marshal", pet of General M A G Osmani, the Commander-in-Chief of the Mukti Bahini, once saved him from an attack by Pakistani commandos. Although the dog was sent away in an injured condition, after 4 years it found its master - which is still legendary.

Once upon a time, this dog was in almost every house in Sarail, for security and to chase away jackals. Now it is on the verge of extinction. Only a handful of families, such as two brothers Tapan Lal Rabidas and Jatan Lal Rabidas of Chauraguda village of Noagaon Union of Sarail Upazila, still maintain this tradition from generation to generation.

Although The National Society for the Sarail Hound of Bangladesh was established in 2006, the Bangladesh Kennel Club has not yet officially recognized it.

The Sarail Hound is not just a dog, it is a witness to the heroism, zamindari heritage and liberation war of the Titas-washed region.

Foreign aid disbursement drops sharply to \$295m in July-August

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh's foreign project aid disbursement dropped sharply by more than 60 percent year-on-year to \$294.56 million in the first two months of the current fiscal year, according to provisional data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD). According to the ERD's Foreign Assistance Monthly Report for FY2026-27, Bangladesh received \$294.56 million in project assistance disbursement during July-August, down from \$750.07 million in the corresponding period of FY2025-26. The latest disbursement comprised \$291.37 million in loans and \$3.19 million in grants, compared with \$746.16 million in loans and \$3.91 million in grants a year earlier. Among the major development partners, the Asian Development Bank disbursed \$128.72 million during the two-month period, followed by the International



Development Association (IDA) with \$73.96 million. Japan disbursed \$39.04 million, while India provided \$30.30 million and Russia \$20.65 million. Other development partners accounted for \$1.89 million. Meanwhile, foreign assistance commitments during the period stood at \$240.39 million, slightly lower than \$243.81 million in July-August of the previous fiscal year. The latest commitments consisted of \$143.28 million in loans and \$97.11 million in grants. A major portion of the commitment,

\$236.88 million, came from development partners categorised Other than ADB, IDA, AIIB, India, China, and Russia, while Japan committed \$3.51 million. Besides, external debt servicing rose by nearly 4.8 percent year-on-year, with the country paying \$698.92 million during July-August 2026. The amount was \$667.11 million in the corresponding period of FY2025-26, showing an increase of \$31.81 million.

Of the total debt servicing in July-August, Bangladesh paid \$516.04 million in principal and \$182.88 million in interest. In the same period last fiscal year, principal repayment stood at \$488.79 million and interest payment at \$178.32 million. In taka terms, the total debt servicing increased to Tk 8,626.25 crore in July-August from Tk 8,130.87 crore in the same period of FY2025-26, an increase of Tk 495.38 crore. Principal repayment

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ADB approves \$100m loan to expand affordable housing finance in Bangladesh

Staff correspondent

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million concessional loan to expand access to affordable and resilient housing finance for low- and middle-income borrowers in Bangladesh, with a particular focus on women. Under the Inclusive Affordable Housing Finance Project, financing will be channelled through the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and eligible microfinance institutions (MFIs) to provide long-term, collateral-free microfinance loans to help families construct, repair and upgrade their homes, according to a press release.

The project aims to address the shortage of safe and affordable housing and limited access to housing finance among households with informal sources of income that are not typically served by conventional mortgage

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Salman Muqtadir's studio attacked over land dispute, 3 held: Home Minister

Staff correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed today said three people were arrested in connection with the vandalism at content creator and influencer Salman Muqtadir's studio as an initial investigation indicates the attack was carried out over a piece of land dispute.

Speaking to newsmen at the Secretariat, the home minister said the incident took place in Manikdi Nampura area under Cantonment Police Station, where two parties have been involved in a dispute over around 35 kathas of land. The studio of Muqtadir was set up on the



disputed land. Ahmed said, one of the parties is a developer, identified as New Guinea Properties, while the other side has a linkage to a senior retired military officer. According to our preliminary report, the minister said that

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Hefazat forms committee to unite seven Islamic parties

Staff correspondent

A liaison committee has been formed to coordinate efforts to build unity among seven Qawmi-based Islamic parties, with Hefazat-e-Islam Secretary General Allama Sajidur Rahman named as its convener.

The decision to form the committee was taken at a meeting between Hefazat leaders and representatives of the seven parties at Al-Jamiatul Islamia Azizul

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No Recommendation Will Work if Anyone Is Caught with Drugs: Pirojpur Police Superintendent

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

Pirojpur's newly appointed Police Superintendent Muhammad Talebur Rahman has said that no recommendation or influence will work if anyone is arrested with drugs. Regardless of who is involved in the drug trade, no one will be given any concession. Drug dealers will be brought under the law. Anyone involved

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A headless unidentified body recovered from the Bhairab River in Fakirhat

S A Kalam Fakirhat Bagerhat

Police have recovered a floating unidentified body without a head from the Bhairab River in Fakirhat, Bagerhat. The approximate age of the recovered body is around 40 years. The body was recovered from the Mansa area of the upazila. According to the police, on Sunday (September 27) at around 5 PM, passersby saw the headless body floating in the Bhairab River. They later informed the police station. The Fakirhat Model Police arrived at the scene and recovered the body from the river.

Eyewitnesses reported that the body floated from the Rupsha area and arrived in the Fakirhat area with the tide. After the news of the floating body spread, numerous people gathered on both sides of the Bhairab River from the surrounding area. The officer-in-charge

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9 arrested over vandalism, looting at Radda health centre; Shah Ali OC withdrawn

Staff correspondent

Police have arrested nine people and recovered two truckloads of looted goods in connection with the vandalism and looting at the Radda MCH-FP Centre in the capital's Mirpur area.

Besides, Officer-in-Charge of Shah Ali Police Station Jahangir Alam was withdrawn and attached to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Headquarters on Saturday night over the incident.

DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media and Public Relations) Akhtar Hossain confirmed the developments, saying the OC was withdrawn for administrative reasons. According to police, a team from Shah Ali Police Station conducted raids in various areas and arrested nine people in connection with the incident. 9 arrested over vandalism, looting at Radda health centre; Shah Ali OC withdrawn. Police also recovered two truckloads of medical equipment and other materials looted from the healthcare facility. However, the names of the arrestees were not released immediately. Earlier, late Thursday night, a masked

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Bhashantek Jubo League leader Anik arrested by DB



Staff Reporter, Dhaka

The Dhaka Metropolitan Detective Branch (DB) of Police has arrested Shah Alam Anik, the Vice-President of the Bhashantek Thana unit of Jubo League. He was arrested from the Cantonment area on Sunday (September 27). DB sources revealed that Shah Alam Anik had close ties with Shahadat, a notorious top criminal from Mirpur. Investigations indicated that Anik acted as an agent for Shahadat and Ibrahim. DB stated that preliminary investigations have substantiated allegations regarding his involvement in underground criminal activities.

Shafiqur Rahman, the chief (Additional Commissioner) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Detective Police, confirmed Anik's arrest. He said, "We detained him a short while ago and have taken him into our custody. There are numerous allegations against him. We are currently interrogating him."

Shah Alam Anik's father is Abu Sayeed. His ancestral home is in Narsingdi, and he resided in the Parbat Senpara area of ??Mirpur,

tion regarding his specific involvement in this incident.

Local sources stated that Anik was known in the area as a henchman for Mainul Hossain Nikhil, the General Secretary of the Awami League's central Jubo League, and Ilias Molla, the local Member of Parliament for Mirpur. He faces allegations of involvement in various criminal activities across the Mirpur, Bhashantek, Kafrul, Pallabi, and Cantonment areas during the tenure of the Awami League government. Sources also indicated that multiple cases have been filed against him, including charges related to criminal activities.

Additionally, there are allegations that Anik was at the forefront of efforts to suppress the student-led mass uprising. Sources further claim that he maintained regular contact with Awami League leaders residing abroad. Following the fall of the Awami League government, allegations surfaced regarding his involvement in organizing and conducting the activities of a banned political party. According to

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Momin Mosque: A Heritage Landmark of Pirojpur District

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

Many of us love travelling abroad, but perhaps we do not always realize that Bangladesh itself is home to numerous remarkable architectural treasures worth exploring. One such extraordinary example of Muslim

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Patuakhali-4 Constituency MP in Kalapara Alhaj ABM Mosharrar Hossain urged the lawyers to work sincerely on behalf of the candidates

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

Chowki Adalat Lawyers Association leaders and newly appointed law officers exchanged floral greetings with local MP Alhaj ABM Mosharrar Hossain MP in Kalapara of Patuakhali. On Sunday at 9:30

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ESTD-2008

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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



NCP Holds Consultation Meeting to Form Sitakunda Upazila Convening Committee

Participants call for a competent and acceptable leadership to strengthen the party's organisational activities in Sitakunda

Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

A consultation meeting was held in Sitakunda to discuss the formation of the Upazila Convening Committee of the National Citizen Party (NCP).

The meeting was held on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at Rajbari Restaurant in Sitakunda Municipality, with participation from local supporters, organisers and people from different professional backgrounds.

NCP Chattogram North District Member Secretary Abdul Karim (Tipu) attended the meeting as the chief guest, while Chattogram North District Organising Secretary Tanzid Rahman was present as a special guest. The meeting was presided over by Chattogram North District Joint Convener Advocate Anwarul Alam (Khokon).

The programme began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Imran Khan. In his address, chief guest Abdul Karim (Tipu) raised questions about why ordinary people would join the NCP and what political orientation the party follows. He said people may choose to

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13-Year-Old Girl Allegedly Raped in Cumilla, After Online Romance

TikTok acquaintance turns into Imo relationship, youth accused of luring girl to remote hilly area with promise of wedding invitation

M A Khayer Emon, Cumilla Correspondent

A 13-year-old girl from Dhaka was allegedly raped and physically assaulted after travelling to Cumilla following an online relationship with a young man she reportedly met through TikTok and later communicated with on Imo. The girl was allegedly lured to Cumilla with an invitation to a wedding and later taken to an isolated area at the foothills of Mainamati, where she was allegedly raped and assaulted. Police subsequently rescued her after receiving a call to the national emergency service 999 and arrested the accused, identified as Rajib Ahmed.

Rajib, son of Azgar Ali of Mirpur Uttarpara village under Mainamati Union in Burichang upazila of Cumilla, recently completed his Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination. According to police and the victim's family, Rajib became acquainted with the girl through TikTok and later developed a relationship with her through Imo. On Friday (September 25), he allegedly asked her to

come to Cumilla, saying that she was being invited to a wedding.

The girl reportedly got off a bus in the Cumilla Cantonment area at around 9:00pm, where Rajib received her. They later had a meal together at a hotel.

At around 1:00am, Rajib allegedly took her towards the hilly area near Mainamati Government Primary School, reportedly on the pretext of taking her home. The girl alleged that she was taken to an isolated place, where she was raped several times and physically assaulted until around 3:00am. She was allegedly left injured at the spot as Rajib fled the area.

Police said they received a call through the national emergency service 999 and subsequently rescued the girl from an area near Mainamati Government

Primary School in the early hours of Saturday. Inspector Surajit Barua of the Devpur Police Outpost said police immediately responded to the emergency call and rescued the girl. As her physical condition had deteriorated, she was provided with

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Foreign aid disbursement

rose to Tk 6,368.85 crore from Tk5,957.50 crore, while interest payments increased to Tk2,257.40 crore from Tk2,173.37 crore.The higher debt-servicing requirement came at a time when the flow of foreign project assistance declined significantly. The figures cover the July-August period of FY2026-27 and are provisional, according to the ERD’s Foreign Aid Budget and Accounts (FABA) wing.

ADB approves \$100m loan to

lenders.By 2031, the project is expected to have provided loans to at least 40,000 households, including at least 32,000 women and at least 24,000 borrowers residing in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

It will promote financial and land literacy, as well as housing rights awareness, while enhancing housing security for women through strict documentation of borrowers’ spousal residency arrangements.

To strengthen resilience and ensure long-term expansion of housing microfinance nationwide, the project will integrate design, construction, and shock protection measures to make houses better withstand flooding, cyclones, extreme heat, and other impacts of disasters and extreme weather events.The project will help boost the country’s housing finance ecosystem and attract greater private sector participation by strengthening the capacity of PKSF and MFIs through improved data and risk management systems, hazard-risk screening, portfolio monitoring, and digital reporting.The financing includes \$40 million from ADB’s climate adaptation financing and is supported by an additional \$600,000 in technical assistance grants.“Housing is a critical foundation for dignity, opportunity, and resilience,” said ADB Country Director for Bangladesh Qingfeng Zhang.

“By helping low- and middle-income families, especially women, invest in safer and more resilient homes, this project will contribute to Bangladesh’s broader goals of reducing poverty, strengthening social protection, enhancing human development, and fostering more inclusive and sustainable economic growth,” he said.

Salman Muqtadir's studio

a number of people went to occupy the land at night on behalf of the retired officer and vandalised several structures erected on the premises.

One of the structures damaged in the incident was a tin-shed studio belonging to Salman Muqtadir, where content creation activities were carried out, he said.

Police responded after receiving a call through the national emergency service 999, he said. Three people have so far been arrested, while police have recovered evidence from the scene, including spent bullet casings and locally made weapons.

The home minister said a detailed investigation into the incident is underway and that legal proceedings are in progress over the issue.Asked about allegation that the attack was linked to extortion, Ahmed said the allegations were not supported by a specific complaint so far.He continued that Muqtadir had been a victim of the vandalism, but no case had yet been filed by him as he (Muktadir) specifically said that no one had demanded money from him.

"If he files a specific case, we can investigate it," the home minister said. The minister said an initial investigation had been conducted into the studio attack, but a more detailed investigation would be required to establish the full circumstances surrounding the incident. He said further information would be disclosed as the investigation and legal proceedings progress.

Hefazat forms

Uloom Babunagar Madrasa in Fatikchhari, Chattogram, today. Tap here to add The Daily Star as a trusted source google-preferred-source-badgeHefazat Ameer Allama Muhibbullah Babunagari chaired the meeting, which began at 11am. Five representatives from each of the seven parties, along with senior Hefazat leaders, attended. The seven parties are Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khilafat Majlis, Khilafat Majlis, Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan, Islami Oikya Jote and Bangladesh Nezam-e-Islam Party.

The meeting discussed draft proposals submitted by the parties on how they could work together under a common platform. As the proposals contained differences on several issues, the participants assigned the liaison committee the task of resolving them.The committee will hold its first meeting in Dhaka on October 22 to work out a final framework for the proposed unity, Hefazat-e-Islam Joint Secretary General Maulana Azizul Haque Islamabadi said.He said the parties currently have different political positions. Some are aligned with the BNP, some with the Jamaat-e-Islami-led alliance, while others are pursuing their activities independently.

“Hefazat, as an umbrella organisation, wants to create unity among them so that they can jointly resist activities they consider contrary to Islamic values,” he added.The committee, headed by convener Sajidur Rahman, will comprise two other senior Hefazat leaders and three representatives from each of the seven parties. Maulana Azizul Haque Islamabadi said the seven parties were positive about working together, while Hefazat was seeking to bring them under greater coordination.

No Recommendation Will

in carrying illegal weapons, terrorism, or other criminal activities will also be brought to justice,” he said.He further said that the current government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, and the police are firmly committed to implementing the policy.The Police Superintendent also said that steps will be taken to address traffic congestion in Pirojpur town. In addition, measures will be taken to prevent eve-teasing, juvenile gangs, theft, snatching, and the open sale and distribution of drugs.He made the remarks at an exchange meeting with journalists working in the district, held at the Police Superintendent’s office at around 11:00 am on Sunday.Additional Superintendent of Police, Sadar Circle, Nasrin Jahan, Pirojpur Press Club President S.M. Rezaul Islam Shamim, former presidents Mahmud Hossain and Moniruzzaman Nasim Ali, Press Club Joint General Secretary Ziaul Haque, Pirojpur Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md. Shariful Islam, Journalists’ Union President Md. Nasir Uddin, General Secretary Md. Naim Talukder and Press Club Office Secretary Md. Tamim Sardar, among others addressed the meeting.Journalists working for various print and electronic media outlets in the district were also present at the meeting.

Momin Mosque: A Heritage

architecture is the Momin Mosque, locally known as the Wooden Mosque.The historic mosque is located in Udaytara Burirchar village of Mathbaria Upazila in Pirojpur district. On April 17, 2003, the Department of Archaeology of the Government of Bangladesh declared the mosque a protected archaeological heritage site. The wooden mosque has also been featured with illustrations in a 400-page book published by UNESCO on notable mosques around the world. It is regarded as a remarkable example of South Asian wooden Muslim architecture, renowned for its artistic craftsmanship and distinctive beauty.Built entirely of wood more than a century ago, the mosque features exquisite Islamic calligraphy carved into wooden surfaces. These intricate carvings have elevated the mosque’s artistic appeal, making it a unique architectural masterpiece. For this reason, it is also popularly known among locals as the Wooden Mosque.

The mosque was constructed in 1913 by Moulvi Momin Uddin Akon, inspired by a desire to preserve Muslim heritage and religious traditions during the period of British India. Momin Uddin personally supervised the entire construction process. It

is reported that the construction cost approximately Tk 15,000–20,000 at that time.Inspired by the design of a wooden mosque in Kashmir, Momin Uddin decided to build the mosque according to his own design. He brought shal, teak and ironwood from Assam, Tripura and Kashmir for its construction.The chief craftsman was

Sri Har Kumar from the Daihari Union area of Swarupkathi in Pirojpur. Under his leadership, 22 craftsmen began construction in 1913, and the work was completed in 1920.The mosque is adorned throughout with elaborate designs and intricate woodwork. Instead of using iron nails in the construction of the wooden structure, wooden pegs were used to join different parts together.

The mosque measures approximately 24 feet in length and 18 feet in width. To ensure adequate ventilation and create an attractive interior, another gable-roofed tin structure was built over the middle portion of the wooden platform.There are two windows each on the northern and southern sides and four windows each on the eastern and western sides. On the eastern side, the mosque has a single entrance featuring an intricately decorated doorway supported by two wooden pillars. Arabic calligraphy is carved into the wood above the entrance. The distinctive use of calligraphy throughout the structure has transformed the mosque into a unique example of traditional Islamic artistry According to local residents, some restoration work was carried out in 2008 and 2021 under the supervision of the Khulna Museum. However, they believe the work was not sufficient to ensure the long-term preservation of the historic structure.They said that, to preserve the mosque for future generations, a protective roof should be constructed over it without altering its original wooden structure. Such a measure could help protect the historic woodwork from rain, storms and other weather-related damage.At present, a temporary shelter made of bamboo and corrugated tin has been erected in front of the mosque to accommodate worshippers because of the limited space inside. Local residents say the temporary structure obstructs the view of the historic mosque from the front and diminishes its architectural beauty.They also pointed out that an appropriate roof or artistic permanent shelter in front of the mosque would provide worshippers with protection from rain and excessive heat while preserving the visual appeal of the historic structure.According to locals, the mosque is relatively small, so only a limited number of people can offer prayers inside at one time. Since there is currently no permanent shelter outside, worshippers often face difficulties during adverse weather. They believe that placing the mosque within a carefully designed permanent roof or a strong, aesthetically pleasing shelter could provide additional space for worshippers while helping preserve the historic wooden structure and its architectural beauty.The century-old Momin Mosque therefore stands not only as a place of worship but also as an important testament to Bangladesh's rich architectural and cultural heritage. Proper conservation and sensitive restoration could help ensure that this remarkable wooden masterpiece remains intact for generations to come.

Bhashantek Jubo League

sources, Anik was directly implicated in incidents involving the detonation of crude bombs and the torching of buses in the Mirpur, Pallabi, Bhashantek, and Kafrul areas. He is also alleged to have played a role in executing directives received from abroad within the country.

Earlier, on Friday night, Motahar Hossain Khan Sufal— younger brother of Central Jubo League General Secretary Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil—was arrested in the capital’s Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area. Sources claim that Sufal and Anik were jointly involved in various activities aimed at inciting unrest in Dhaka.

9 arrested over vandalism, looting

group of around 250 people vandalised the 50-year-old healthcare centre in Mirpur-1 and looted medical equipment, medicines, official records and cash before illegally occupying the premises. Following the incident, a case was filed with Shah Ali Police Station.

A headless unidentified

(OC) of Fakirhat Model Police, Mo: Rajiullah Khan, said that an unidentified headless body has been recovered from the Bhairab River. It is estimated that the body is 3/4 days old. Decomposition has begun. The naval police, PBI, and CID have been informed. Once they arrive, the process of identifying the body will begin. Additionally, after the preliminary inquest report, the body will be sent for autopsy to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital.

Patuakhali-4 Constituency MP in

am, the lawyer leaders greeted the MP in the guest hall of the MP’s residence.

ABM Mosharraf Hossain MP said while urging the lawyers to work sincerely on behalf of the candidates for justice, that along with the Senior Judicial Magistrate Court and the Assistant Judge Court, a new Joint District Judge and Joint District and Sessions Judge Court has been established here. Besides, construction of new court building is in progress. It will be implemented soon. Upazila BNP Senior Vice-President Mizanur Rahman Tutu Biswas, Zafruzzaman Khokon, Jahangir Talukdar, Upazila BNP Secretary and Additional Public Prosecutor of Chowki Court Advocate Hafizur Rahman Chunna, Senior Assistant Judge Court Assistant Public Prosecutor (AGP) and Upazila BNP Organizing Secretary Advocate Khandkar Nasir Uddin were present on the occasion, among others. BNP President Gazi Md. Farooq, Editor Musa Tawheed Nannu Munsii, Organizing Secretary Kamruzzaman Kajal Talukdar, Senior Assistant Judge Court Assistant Public Prosecutor (AGP) and Mohipur Thana BNP Editor Advocate Shahjahan Parvez, Senior Judicial Magistrate Court Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) and Upazila BNP Legal Secretary Advocate Khandkar Shahab Uddin, Sr. Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) of Judicial Magistrate Court and Joint Convener of Upazila Jubodjal, Nilganj Union BNP Secretary Advocate Md. Abul Hossain etc.

NCP Holds Consultation

associate with or support the NCP because of expectations for new leadership and political reforms beyond traditional political practices. He also described the party’s politics as “Bangladesh-oriented.”

A number of young people, senior citizens and new organisers from different professions in Sitakunda took part in the consultation meeting. Participants shared their views on the party’s future programmes, organisational activities and the selection of capable leadership.

Speakers at the meeting called for the formation of the Sitakunda Upazila NCP Convening Committee based on competence, public acceptance and organisational capability. They said an appropriate leadership structure was necessary to further organise and strengthen the party’s activities in Sitakunda. The Chattogram North District leaders present at the meeting assured the participants that the Sitakunda Upazila Convening Committee would be formed within a short period. Participants expressed hope that the formation of a competent and acceptable committee would contribute to strengthening and expanding the NCP’s organisational activities in Sitakunda.

The National Citizen Party is a relatively new political organisation that describes its political project as being led by students and citizens and focused on grassroots-level expansion and democratic reconstruction.

13-Year-Old Girl Allegedly

initial medical treatment. Police identified the accused with the help of photographs and a mobile phone number found with

the victim, the police official said.

Later, police launched an operation to arrest Rajib. Burichang Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Lutfur Rahman confirmed on Saturday night that Rajib Ahmed had been arrested in connection with the allegation. Legal proceedings, including filing of a case, are underway, police said.

Upcoming Ministe

footballer, humble and gentle in nature. The boy, who is 5 feet 11 inches tall, has appeared for his Intermediate final exam in 2026 and the result is yet to be published.Talking to Uzair, it is known that he wants to become a star footballer of Bangladesh and wants to brighten the flag of Bangladesh in the world arena.When asked, you play in the central back position, he replies, a team has eleven players, the most valuable position is the central back position, because when the opposite side attacks with the ball with four or five people, the responsibility of stopping these four or five people is the central back's. Uzair Hossain Sajib takes that difficult responsibility on the field.When asked how many goals you have conceded in all the teams you have played for so far, he said that I have tried my best, the possibility of conceding such goals is very low. Among all the games I have played since my childhood, I have been playing football since I was 8 years old, I don't think I have lost very few matches.

So his family and the local people all want, he is a child of a poor family, that the government should pay attention to him and if he gets good training, he will do something for the country.

All measures taken

the parliamentary election would function in the same manner for the Thakurgaon-1 by-election.Adequate law enforcement personnel will also be deployed to maintain law and order during voting, he said.

The deadline for submitting nomination papers for the by-election ends today. Voting is scheduled for October 29, according to the election schedule.The EC declared the Thakurgaon-1 parliamentary seat vacant on August 22 following Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir's swearing-in as president.The nominations will be scrutinised on September 29. Candidates can appeal against the scrutiny decisions from September 30 to October 4, with the Election Commission scheduled to dispose of the appeals on October 6.

Candidates can withdraw their nominations until October 7, while electoral symbols will be allocated on October 8.

Embankment Collapse

Upon receiving news of the collapse on Friday afternoon, officials visited the site.

Regarding this matter, the Additional Chief Engineer of the Rangpur Division of the WDB, the Supervising Engineer and the Executive Engineer of Kurigram District visited the affected areas. They inspected the damaged areas and said that work would be started soon.

Local residents said that due to the collapse, concrete blocks and geo-bags from the embankment are falling into the river. They said that if measures are not taken quickly to prevent the erosion, houses and cultivated lands along the riverbank may all be washed away into the river.

Regarding this matter, Kurigram District Water Development Board Executive Engineer Rakibul Hasan said that cracks and collapses have appeared at four locations along a section of approximately 600 meters. The situation is being assessed to determine the extent of the damaged areas. An application has been submitted to the higher authorities for permission to carry out repair work. Once permission is received, the work will be started quickly. For the time being, measures will be taken to prevent erosion by placing sand-filled geo-bags.

Dhaka-Delhi ties “organic”, conversation must continue: Riaz Hamidullah

Staff correspondent

Outgoing Bangladesh High Commissioner to India M Riaz Hamidullah has described the relationship between Bangladesh and India as “organic” and rooted in mutual interdependence and shared interests.“Very simple - this is a relationship which, on several occasions, I’ve said is organic ... of mutual interdependence. It’s a relationship which is in shared interests,” he said.Hamidullah, who assumed charge as Bangladesh High Commissioner to India on April 7, 2025, is set to leave New Delhi early next month to take up his new assignment as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations inThe diplomat said differences in views, perspectives and approaches are natural in any close relationship particularly between two countries that share an intimate geography.“But with those, we must remain engaged; carry on conversation, as we need to unpack the interaction between people far more than it is today,” he told Indian media ANI in an interview.He said people-to-people engagement should go beyond conventional exchanges, noting that broader interaction could reach millions of people and help strengthen understanding between the two countries.Unattended Space

“That’s an unattended space that remains,” he said, referring to the need for greater engagement at the people-to-people level.While communication between ministries and governments remains important, Hamidullah said he sees a much larger space that can be addressed through broader social and educational engagement.“For example, among students, school-going children and universities,” the envoy said, adding that greater engagement in these areas could reach “millions” of people and make a “distinct difference” to the relationship between the two countries.Reflecting on his recent experiences in India, Hamidullah, in a post on his verified X account, spoke about a visit during which an interaction with students at Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar left a lasting impression on him.He visited the school after arriving in Srinagar on September 3, saying he was particularly struck by its inclusive and scholastic environment and the energy of its more than 5,000 students.DPS Srinagar was founded in 2003 by Vijay K Dhar under the D P Dhar Memorial Trust. The Dhar family has longstanding links with Bangladesh, including through the late D P Dhar, who played a significant role in the formation and early years of Bangladesh.Hamidullah said his interaction with students at the school offered him a different perspective on how young people view issues such as borders and identity.A Class XII student, RJ Fatima, introduced herself to him as a radio jockey and invited him to the school’s digital radio station, which, he said, has been operating since 2019.“She just asked me and got me into her radio studio, and we got into conversation,” Hamidullah recalled. What surprised him most, he said, was Fatima’s question: “How do you look at borders?”“Imagine, sitting in Srinagar, a girl asking this,” he said, adding that he took the question in “absolute candour” and responded to her openly.People-to-People TiesIndian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi recently called for keeping trade, cultural exchanges and people-to-people connectivity between Bangladesh and India moving forward, saying such issues should not be held back by political developments.Talking to reporters after a cultural programme in Dhaka earlier this month, he said the two countries would continue discussing various issues, but matters such as the Maitree Express, the Ganges Water Treaty, trade and cultural exchanges should not be allowed to get stuck.“These are the things of ordinary people,” said the High Commissioner, highlighting the importance of keeping people at the centre.The High Commissioner said trade restrictions on both

sides have to be eased. Otherwise, he noted, people will suffer.e said there is no need to rush and the political process will take its own course. But the work that concerns ordinary people must continue, Trivedi said.India on Tuesday reiterated that it wants to take its relationship with Bangladesh forward in a positive, constructive and forward-looking manner and expressed its willingness to discuss all bilateral issues between the two countries.“India desires a positive, constructive, and forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh,” Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said while responding to a question about bilateral ties during a media briefing in New Delhi.Jaiswal said India is ready to discuss all bilateral issues with Bangladesh through the existing structured mechanisms.

Our intent is to take this relationship forward in a positive direction, in a constructive direction, in a forward-looking manner,” he said.Celebrating Bangladesh’s National Fish vibrant ‘Ilish Fest’ celebrating Bangladesh’s national fish, hilsa, was held at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi on Saturday.The event, held at the ‘Maitri’ Auditorium of the High Commission, brought together prominent Indian politicians, diplomats, civil society representatives, academics, journalists and cultural personalities.During the festival, prominent Indian personalities unveiled the book A Fish Called Ilish, published in Dhaka.The event centred on hilsa, which is deeply rooted in Bengali heritage, culture and culinary traditions. It also provided an opportunity to showcase Bangladesh’s rich cultural heritage and hospitality, with guests enjoying a variety of hilsa dishes alongside traditional Bangladeshi cuisine.The guests appreciated not only the distinct taste of Bangladeshi hilsa but also the emotions, traditions and cultural values associated with the fish.Former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and noted journalist M J Akbar, former diplomat and politician Mani Shankar Aiyar, human rights activist and social thinker Syeda Hameed, former Indian ambassador Ronen Sen, eminent sociologist Ashis Nandy and other distinguished personalities attended the programme.The guests praised the taste of Bangladeshi hilsa and the overall organisation of the festival.The event also highlighted Bangladesh’s heritage, culture and hospitality, while guests expressed hope that such initiatives would contribute to further strengthening the friendly ties between the peoples of Bangladesh and India.Speaking after the book launch, Bangladesh High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah said hilsa is closely linked to Bangladesh’s identity and the fish is deeply intertwined with the country’s social and economic fabric. he High Commissioner also noted that Bangladesh has five hilsa sanctuaries and that the government has taken various initiatives to increase hilsa breeding and production. These efforts have contributed to increased conservation and production of hilsa, he said.

NBR adopts 3-R strategy to harness revenue collection

Staff correspondent

National Board of Revenue (NBR) has framed a 3-R (Recovery, Restoration and Reconstruction) strategy to harness revenue collection by overcoming the existing challenges.Under the strategy, investment in tax administration, skill development, system interoperability, risk management, taxpayer service, technology and compliance would act as catalysts in harnessing the realization of challenging revenue collection target by the NBR in the 2027 fiscal year, according to a NBR presentation before the members of the parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance last month.Under Recovery, the strategy aims to achieve an average 16 percent growth in revenue collection, Restoration focuses on expanding the tax net and creating a business-friendly revenue environment while Reconstruction seeks to accelerate revenue collection through greater transparency and voluntary compliance.The NBR made detailed presentations on its capacity to meet government expenditure requirements, measures taken to narrow the Tax-GDP gap, and assessment of the NBR’s organisational structure and necessary measures.To materialize the goal of realizing Taka 6,04,000 crore revenues in the FY27 by the NBR, the revenue board has also highlighted various sources from which it would collect the required revenues.Of the total target, the Income Tax Wing has been assigned to fetch TK 2,23,480 crore, the VAT wing TK 2,23,480 crore and the Customs wing TK 1,57,040 crore.“The NBR expects the combined measures across income tax, VAT and customs administration to help achieve the TK 6,04,000-crore revenue target for FY27,” a senior NBR official told BSS.Overall, the revenue projection shows that the income tax authorities plan to raise collection through a combination of revenue growth, stronger action against tax evasion, broader withholding-tax coverage, changes in individual taxation and investment rebates, taxation of capital gains, enhanced compliance requirements and improved tax-case disposal.For the Income Tax Wing, the authorities plan to mobilise revenue through regular growth, recovery of evaded taxes and a range of policy and administrative measures.Income tax and travel tax collection stood at TK 1,45,588 crore in FY2025-26. The authorities expect an additional TK 14,558 crore from 10-percent regular growth in FY2026-27.The projection also includes TK 3,000 crore from recovering evaded taxes through the Central Intelligence Cell, income tax intelligence, IIC and tax circles, while TK 1,000 crore is expected from faster disposal of tax cases arising from audits and reopening of cases under Section 212. Another TK 500 crore is projected from facilitating taxpayers to submit delayed returns voluntarily.Among policy measures, the authorities expect TK 3,000 crore from replacing the 5-percent tax rate for individual taxpayers with a progressive rate of up to 30 percent. Another TK 1,000 crore is projected from reducing the investment-related tax rebate from 15 percent to 10 percent and lowering the maximum rebate from TK 10 lakh to TK 7.5 lakh.The introduction of turnover tax for taxpayers across all business categories is expected to generate another TK 1,000 crore, while requiring business taxpayers to submit audited financial statements and computation sheets with their returns is projected to yield TK 500 crore.A major measure is the collection of withholding tax from retailers under the business-to-business model, projected to generate TK 7,000 crore.The authorities also expect TK 4,000 crore from introducing IFRS-15 in the accounting practices of real-estate developers and another TK 4,000 crore from taxing capital gains from the sale of land, flats and other capital assets at regular rates.For the VAT wing, the projection is based on regular growth and additional revenue mobilisation measures. The division collected TK 1,56,069 crore in FY2025-26 and expects TK 15,607 crore from 10-percent regular growth.It also expects TK 15,000 crore from higher ADP implementation and TK 12,000 crore from the tobacco sector, including biri and cigarettes. Another TK 2,500 crore is projected through measures against illegal cigarettes.The VAT authorities are also focusing on audits, arrears recovery, expansion of VAT registration, monitoring of high-risk establishments and minimising compliance gaps. They aim to dispose 50 percent of pending cases by December 2026 and at least 95 percent of unresolved cases during FY2026-27.Meanwhile, the Customs wing has projected TK 1,57,040 crore revenue in FY27 against TK 1,11,623 crore collected in FY26.The Customs projection includes TK 11,577 crore from normal growth and TK 3,500 crore from FY27 budgetary measures. Additional mobilisation is expected through arrears recovery, intelligence and preventive operations, post-clearance audits, auctions, proper classification and valuation of imports, prevention of misuse of bonded facilities and recovery of deferred payments.



Heavy rain floods Bangkok, disrupts traffic and forces thousands to evacuate

International Desk

Persistent heavy rain has flooded large parts of Bangkok, disrupting traffic and forcing thousands of residents to move to shelters as authorities declared all 50 districts of the Thai capital disaster areas. The rain, which began Thursday afternoon, has dumped more than 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) of water in many parts of Bangkok, particularly in central and eastern areas, according to officials. Thailand’s Meteorological Department forecast that heavy rainfall would continue across much of the country through Sunday. Bangkok Gov. Chadchart Sittipunt said more than 200 shelters had been established across the city, with around 4,200 people already taking refuge there. The government said flooding had

Bus carrying Filipino tourists to Oktoberfest over- turns in Germany, kills

International Desk

A bus carrying Filipino tourists to Germany’s Oktoberfest festival in Munich veered off a highway and overturned Sunday, leaving at least two people dead and eight others injured, according to Germany’s dpa news agency. The coach left the road at around 6 a.m. local time on a highway near the town of Buchloe in Germany’s Ostallgäu region, dpa reported, citing officials. Images from the scene showed the bus lying on its side in a wooded area as rescue workers attended the scene. Martin Cornils, a spokesperson for traffic police in nearby Fürstentfeldbruck, said the tour group had been traveling to Oktoberfest, the news agency reported. The popular annual festival began eight days ago.

Lavrov rejects German call to ease ‘dangerous’ escalation with Russia

International Desk

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has rejected Germany’s call for Moscow to step back from what Berlin described as a “dangerous path of escalation” toward Germany, Europe and NATO. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly, Lavrov accused Germany of being Ukraine’s main sponsor and seeking to become a leading military power in Europe. “Does Berlin understand what this could lead to?” Lavrov said, referring to Germany’s position. He also invoked the lessons of World War II. His remarks came shortly after he met German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul on the sidelines of the General Assembly meeting, reportedly the first meeting between the two countries’ foreign ministers since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Lavrov later described the meeting, which was requested by Wadephul, as producing nothing new, saying the German minister had simply repeated Berlin’s publicly stated position condemning Russia. According to a German delegation official, Wadephul urged Russia to abandon its “dangerous path of escalation” and expressed readiness for improved relations if Moscow showed a genuine willingness to end the war in Ukraine. Tensions between Russia and Germany have increased in recent weeks following an alleged drone incident at Leipzig



airport, which Germany has blamed on Russia, and subsequent reciprocal measures between the two countries. Lavrov also criticized efforts by Germany and Japan to obtain permanent seats on the UN Security Council, making clear that Russia would oppose such attempts. He also criticized Japan’s security policies and what he described as the militarisation of the country. Japan’s Deputy UN Ambassador Mikanagi Tomohiro rejected Lavrov’s characterization, saying Japan is a peace-loving country and that freedom, democracy and fundamental human rights remain the basis of its decisions and actions. On the Ukraine war, Lavrov accused Western countries of seeking Russia’s “strategic defeat” and said such efforts would lead to a strategic dead end. He said Russia remains ready to return to what Moscow considers an agreement reached during the August 2025 meeting

between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska. Lavrov also accused the United States of undermining Europe’s security system and creating what he called a “Russophobic regime” in Kyiv. Meanwhile, German Foreign Minister Wadephul told the General Assembly that Russia’s war in Ukraine was harming millions of civilians, Ukrainian statehood and culture, as well as European security, and urged Moscow to negotiate an end to the conflict. Lavrov’s UN appearance came amid continued intensification of the aerial war between Russia and Ukraine. Russian forces have continued missile and drone attacks on Ukraine, while Ukrainian forces have carried out long-range drone strikes against targets inside Russia, including oil facilities and businesses. Ukrainian authorities said Russian attacks killed four people on Saturday, while Russian authorities reported three deaths from a Ukrainian drone attack. The war has also continued to affect global energy, fertilizer and grain supplies while deepening divisions between Russia and Western countries. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged international partners to maintain pressure on Moscow and prevent the conflict from spreading. He said the United States was seeking technical-level talks involving delegations from the United States, Ukraine and Russia, with Kyiv awaiting Washington’s proposal for a date.

Iran’s push to reopen Strait of Hormuz faces US rejection

International Desk

A motorboat passes a general cargo ship anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, Iran, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi) Iran’s latest diplomatic effort to end its seven-month war with the United States and reopen the Strait of Hormuz has been rejected by President Donald Trump, leaving negotiations uncertain despite recent indirect talks between the two sides. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited New York for the UN gathering of world leaders and proposed an agreement under which the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened within seven days. Tehran’s proposal called for the United States to lift its military blockade of Iranian ports, release frozen Iranian assets and waive sanctions on Iranian oil sales, among other conditions. The demands largely mirror terms included in a June agreement that collapsed only days after it was signed. The latest proposal differs mainly in its accelerated timeline and reportedly suggested that a quick agreement could benefit Trump in the November midterm elections. Trump said Saturday that he had rejected Iran’s proposal to reopen the strategic waterway. Earlier, he posted an image on social media referring to the Strait of Hormuz as the “Trump Strait.” The developments came as both countries face mounting economic pressure from the prolonged conflict. First indirect talks in months US and Iranian representatives held about three hours of indirect discussions through mediators on Tuesday, marking their first such talks in months. The talks followed the collapse of a previous agreement aimed at ending the fighting and starting negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday that the discussions had been positive and that Washington was willing to continue talking. However, Trump used his speech to world leaders at the United Nations on Tuesday to threaten to “annihilate” Iran. Pezeshkian, speaking a day later, said Iran would continue fighting “until our last breath,” while also indicating at the end of his address that Tehran remained open to diplomacy. Tehran outlines new proposal Iran’s foreign minister presented the latest proposal during a private meeting Thursday on the sidelines of the UN gathering. Opening the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran moved to control after being attacked by the United States and Israel, could ease pressure on international markets and reduce risks for US military forces escorting commercial vessels through the waterway. For Tehran, lifting the US naval blockade and removing restrictions on oil exports would provide an opportunity to increase crude shipments and ease economic difficulties as Iran’s currency has fallen to record lows and inflation has surged. Pezeshkian also met Qatar’s prime minister early Friday. Qatar has been acting as a mediator in the indirect negotiations. “The choice now rests with the United States,” Araghchi told reporters Friday evening. The White House said earlier Saturday that US officials were engaged in positive and constructive discussions with mediators. Both sides weigh costs Iran has also held extended discussions with Oman, located across the Strait of Hormuz, on managing shipping through the waterway. Analysts said Tehran’s latest push for an agreement with Washington appears to reflect concern about the political and economic consequences of the conflict, including the approaching US midterm elections.

Gunmen attack ambulance after Pakistan checkpoint bombing kills 12

International Desk

Volunteers transport an injured victim of a suicide attack on a roadside police checkpoint upon his arrival at a hospital in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026. (AP Photo/Kashif Naveed) At least 12 people were killed and around 35 injured in a suicide bombing at a police checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, after gunmen opened fire on an ambulance responding to the attack, officials said. The blast, involving an explosives-laden vehicle, occurred in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according



to Bilal Faizi, a spokesman for the provincial emergency service. Local police chief Safdar Baloch said most of those killed and injured were security personnel and people passing by the checkpoint. The explosion destroyed the large roadside checkpoint, while witnesses reported hearing gunfire following the blast. Faizi said attackers fired at an ambulance as emergency workers were taking victims to a nearby hospital. A rescue worker was killed and two others were wounded. Two women and a child were among those killed in the bombing, he said. The Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan has witnessed increased militant violence in recent years, with the TTP and the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, a separatist group mainly active in neighboring Balochistan province, claiming many of the attacks. The TTP is a separate organization from Afghanistan’s Taliban but maintains close ties

their territory to be used for attacks against other countries. The bombing came two days after fighting along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border reportedly killed at least 13 Afghan Taliban fighters, according to Pakistan’s government. The clash followed Pakistani strikes earlier in the week against what Islamabad described as suspected militant hideouts inside Afghanistan. The renewed tensions have complicated mediation efforts by China, Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia to establish lasting peace between the neighboring countries. Dera Ismail Khan lies near South Waziristan, a former militant stronghold where Pakistan’s military has carried out several operations. Militants have frequently targeted security forces in the area. In December 2023, a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-filled vehicle at the entrance of a police station in Dera Ismail Khan, killing at least 23 security personnel. Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a small militant group believed to be linked to the TTP, claimed responsibility for that attack.

Xi’s visit brings new progress in China-U.S. ties: Chinese FM

International Desk

Chinese President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States has led to new progress in a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said after Xi wrapped up his U.S. visit on Friday. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks while briefing reporters on Xi’s state visit to the United States from Sept. 23 to 25. President Xi and President Donald Trump had a candid and in-depth exchange of views in a friendly atmosphere of mutual respect on strategic and overarching issues concerning China-U.S. relations and the broader global landscape, Wang said. Since President Trump began his second term, the two heads of state have maintained close exchanges, including three in-person meetings and five phone talks, and fostered a pattern of interaction marked by mutual respect and sincerity, said Wang, noting this has become the most valuable strategic asset in China-U.S. relations. An important political outcome of the visit is that President Xi and President Trump further enriched the substance of the new positioning of China-U.S. relations and have agreed to build a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability based on respect, fairness and reciprocity, Wang said. Respect means respecting each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, respecting each country’s choice of social system and development path, and respecting the other side’s core interests and major concerns, Wang said. Fairness, Wang continued, means pursuing mutually beneficial cooperation and handling differences through consultation, rejecting a zero-sum game in which one side’s gain comes at the expense of the other’s, and not seeking unilateral absolute advantage. Reciprocity means that the two countries are equal in sovereignty, that neither side stands above the other, that neither engages in hegemonic nor bullying behavior, that each side’s concerns are addressed on an equal basis, and that cooperation across various fields develops in a balanced manner, Wang said. Noting that President Xi has pointed out that a stable China-U.S. economic and trade rela-



tionship requires both expanding the list of cooperation and shortening the list of problems, Wang said that the U.S. side should treat Chinese companies fairly, resolve problems through dialogue and negotiations, and promote the sustained, stable and positive development of China-U.S. economic and trade relations. The fentanyl abuse problem in the United States is not caused by China, but China has always acted with the utmost goodwill and made every effort to assist the U.S. side in addressing the fentanyl crisis, Wang noted, adding that the two heads of state tasked the law enforcement agencies of the two countries with continuing to strengthen cooperation and jointly combat transnational crime. To promote people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States, President Xi has announced a series of new measures, including inviting 100,000 young Americans to visit China for exchange and study programs over the next five years, Wang said. One piece of good news that has been particularly welcomed by the American public is that two pandas, Ping Ping and Fu Shuang, will soon arrive at Zoo Atlanta, Wang added. During the visit, Wang said, the two heads of state had an in-depth exchange of views on major international and regional issues of common concern and agreed to strengthen coordination to make due contributions to world peace and development. President Xi also encouraged relevant parties to stay committed to peace, supported the United States and Iran in returning to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, resuming dialogue and negotiations at an early date, and ultimately reaching a comprehensive agreement covering the nuclear issue, Wang said. During the visit, President Xi and President Trump also had an in-depth exchange of views on artificial intelligence (AI), pointing out that the two countries should leverage respective strengths rather than guard against each other, Wang said. The two heads of state agreed to make good use of AI dialogue mechanisms between the two countries and jointly prevent the misuse and abuse of AI, Wang added. Noting that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Tokyo Trials, Wang said that China and the United States are both



Dancer Rudmila Priyonti Unveils First Book on Bharatanatyam

Entertainment Desk

The book was unveiled on Friday (September 25) at Aloki Convention Centre in Tejgaon, Dhaka. Written in English, Bharatanatyam focuses on the fundamental aspects of the classical Indian dance form and marks Rudmila's debut as an author. Dancer, artistic director, dance researcher and cultural activist Lubna Marium was present at the event as a guest. Speaking on the occasion, she said, "For a young dancer in Bangladesh to write a book in English on the fundamentals of Bharatanatyam is a significant initiative for the country." Ekushey Padak-winning dancer Arthi Ahmed, Nova Ahmed, daughter of writer Humayun Ahmed, dancer Ojia Ahmed and physician Nayla Khan were also present at the event. Dancers, artists, writers, cultural activists and other prominent figures from the cultural community attended the programme. The speakers discussed the importance of practising, researching and documenting classical dance forms such as Bharatanatyam. They also noted that presenting the fundamentals of the dance form in English will create an opportunity for readers in Bangladesh and abroad to

learn more about Bharatanatyam. Rudmila Priyonti Chowdhury has been practising Bharatanatyam for the past 12 years. Alongside her dance practice, she has also been involved in studying and researching the art form. In 2022, she completed a diploma in dance from Kolpotoru. Speaking about her first book, Rudmila said, "I have finally been able to publish my first book, and the feeling is truly wonderful. Several of my seniors supported me tremendously throughout this journey. I am sincerely grateful to all of them. I would especially like to express my gratitude to physician and dancer Nayla Khan for her support and guidance." Explaining her decision to publish the book in English, she said, "Most of the students at Kolpotoru are from English-medium backgrounds. Keeping that in mind, I planned to publish Bharatanatyam in English. I am also planning to publish the book in Bengali soon." The book is available for purchase through Rokomari.com and Jatra's Facebook page, she added. Guests and prominent members of the cultural community welcomed Rudmila's initiative and wished her success in her future dance practice, research and writing.



Thai teen rocker Nene for 'America's Got Talent' win

Entertainment Desk

A 16-year-old Thai rock singer and guitarist who has performed with the prime minister and Linkin Park won a top US television talent show Thursday, sparking celebrations back home — and praise from her principal. Nene Royal, whose real name is Rattikarn Amloy, took home the \$1 million prize as winner of 'America's Got Talent', after wowing judges and viewers with blistering guitar solos and rock ballad shrieks. The teen from the island of Phuket has become a national figure in Thailand since entering the competition and played alongside Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul in July. As Nene's final performance aired on television, her schoolmates and teachers back home rooted for her at a watch party. The moment she was crowned champion — the first Thai national to win the hit TV show — was 'electric', school principal Gareth Eynon told.

'Off Campus' star Ella Bright joins Sony's 'Narcs'

Entertainment Desk

Actor Ella Bright, known for Prime Video's romantic drama series "Off Campus," has landed her first major studio film role. She will star opposite Mason Thames in Sony Pictures' upcoming coming-of-age comedy "Narcs." The film will mark the directorial debut of John Phillips, writer of R-rated comedies including "No Hard Feelings", "Good Boys" and "Dirty Grandpa". The plot details of Narcs are being kept under wraps. The screenplay was written by Jordan and Justin Shipley, creators of the TBS comedy series "Wrecked", with rewrites by Phillips and his frequent collaborator Gene



Stupnitsky. Stupnitsky will produce the project through Big Name Entertainment, with Robert Lamonaca serving as executive producer. Phillips and Joseph Micucci are also attached as producers. Bright has emerged as a rising talent following the success of "Off Campus", an adaptation of Elle Kennedy's book series. The Prime Video series attracted 36 million viewers worldwide within its first.

Artistes who have 'no value' to Bhabna

Entertainment Desk

Questions have been raised many times about the double standard of artistes who live a life of public morality but live an uncontrolled life including drugs in their private lives. This time, actress Ashna Habib Bhabna has spoken about some of the unpleasant truths hidden behind the glamour of the showbiz arena. This time, the actress has brought to the fore the realisations she has gained from what she has seen and experienced in her many years of career. Bhabna started her journey in the acting world from a young age. She is not unfamiliar with the various behind-the-scenes stories of the entertainment world for the convenience of her work. After a long experience, Bhabna said that there are many so-called big-name artistes whose personalities and personal lives do not match the hype in any way.



In Bhabna's words, "I won't lie. I entered the industry at a very young age. Many times I have heard, 'Oh, you don't drink?' These things are actually inappropriate to say. However, many people are seen talking about big principles in interviews, but in their personal lives they are not at all nice people. We all see that." At this stage in life, Bhabna no longer feels the urge to hide the truth. From her own perspec-

tive, she further says, "Now I feel like I've grown up. The idea that people can die at any time now works within me. So, I'll say whatever I want to say. Those who spread moral talk in interviews, then go behind the scenes and take drugs or other things and try to make it a kind of inspiration, they don't carry any value to me as artistes." Stating that an artiste should have moral and social responsibilities towards the society, Bhabna raised the question, "When you are an artiste, you have some responsibilities towards the society. Why would you lead such a frivolous life? Look at a personality like Syed Jamil Ahmed, he doesn't have to do any drugs! He works so much that his work becomes his identity. So, I have to say with great sadness, I don't consider those who start eating junk food as soon as the evening falls to be real artistes."



Bollywood actor Mushtaq Khan passes away at 56

Entertainment Desk

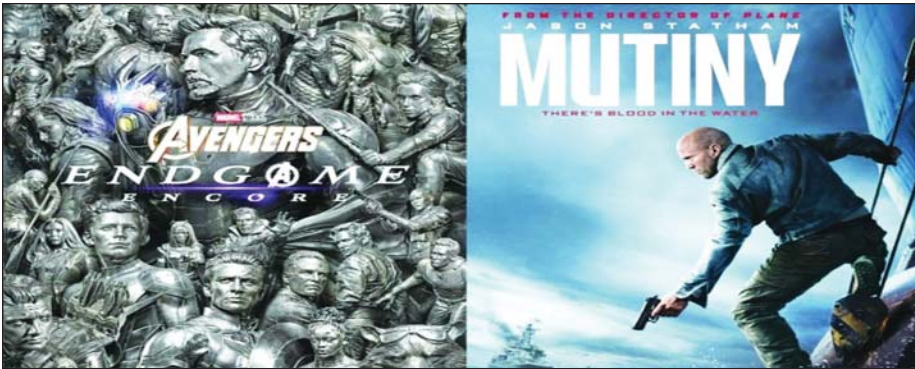
Veteran Bollywood actor Mushtaq Khan, known for his memorable supporting roles in films such as 'Welcome', 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha', 'Gadar 2' and 'Stree 2', has died at the age of 56 following a battle with cancer. The actor passed away at around 7:00pm on Thursday after being admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati Hospital in critical condition. He had been receiving treatment in the intensive care unit. Confirming the news to HT City, his business partner Shivam said Khan had previously been diagnosed with lung cancer and had recovered. However, the disease returned eight days before his death, leading to his hospitalisation.

Star Cineplex to screen 'Avengers: Endgame Encore', 'Mutiny'

Entertainment Desk

Star Cineplex is set to bring two Hollywood releases to Bangladeshi screens on Friday, September 25, with Marvel Studios' 'Avengers: Endgame Encore' returning to cinemas alongside Jason Statham-starrer action thriller 'Mutiny'. 'Avengers: Endgame Encore' brings back the 2019 blockbuster in a special version featuring around four minutes of new footage, a new introduction and an additional ending. The extended version has a run-time of 185 minutes. The re-release comes ahead of 'Avengers: Doomsday', scheduled for release in December, giving Marvel fans an opportunity to revisit the events of 'Endgame' while potentially picking up new connections to the MCU's next chapter. The original film marked the conclusion of a major phase of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and featured several defining moments, including Tony Stark's sacrifice, Natasha Romanoff's death, Steve Rogers' emotional farewell and Captain America wielding Mjolnir. The additional footage has become a major point of curiosity for fans, particularly

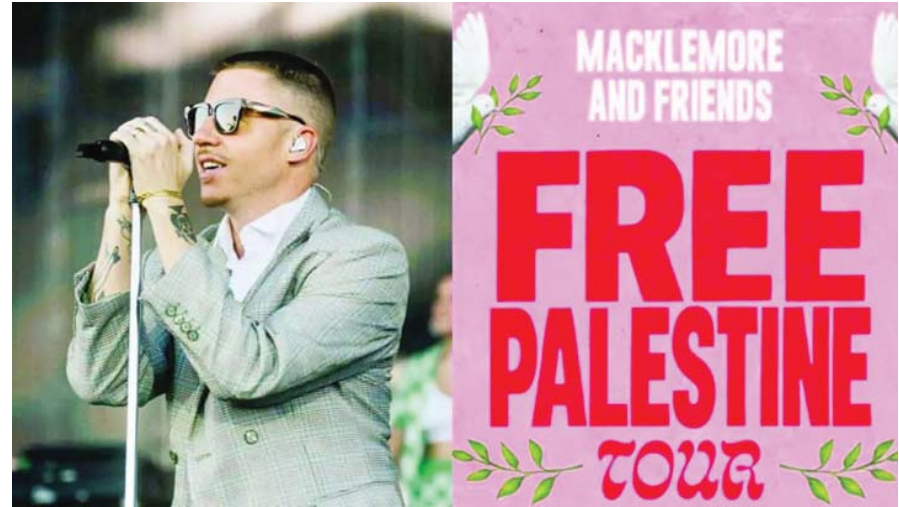
because of its possible connection with 'Doomsday'. The trailer for 'Endgame Encore' reportedly crossed 77 million views within its first 24 hours, reflecting strong global interest in the special theatrical release. Marvel has also prepared a list of 15 films and series for audiences looking to revisit key stories before watching 'Avengers: Doomsday'. Meanwhile, 'Mutiny' stars Jason Statham as Cole Reed, a former New York police officer and special forces operative who later works as a private security professional. Directed by Jean-François Richet, the action thriller follows Reed after his employer, a wealthy industrialist, is murdered in front of him. Reed is framed for the killing and forced to go on the run in search of the real culprit. His investigation takes him aboard a cargo ship, where he discovers that the murder is part of a wider international conspiracy. Surrounded by mercenaries and criminals and cut off from outside help, Reed must rely on his training and experience to survive.



Taapsee Pannu recalls 'worst reason' she was replaced in film

Entertainment Desk

Taapsee Pannu has been open about some of the uncomfortable experiences she faced in the film industry. Recently, the Thappad actor recalled being removed from a film by the lead actor after she had already committed to her dates, without any concrete explanation. She also shared the 'worst reason' she was given for being replaced in a film. Speaking to Nayandeep Rakshit, Taapsee shared that she was removed from a film without being given any proper reason. She said, "I have been told that I was replaced by the hero of the film. God knows the reason. I keep imagining the reasons. I can imagine the insecurity, I can imagine that he wanted someone else whom he was closer to. I can imagine various reasons, but I wasn't given any solid reason. I was just told that he didn't want me in the film because I kept asking the reason for my removal." In the same conversation, the actor went on to share what she described as the worst reason someone gave for replacing her in a film. The actor said, "The worst reason given to me when I was replaced was, 'The hero's wife doesn't like you.' I don't know why she didn't like me." However, Taapsee did not name the actor or his wife. Whether it is Haseen Dillruba, Thappad or Dhunki, Taapsee has carved a niche for herself in the film industry with her performances. However, she has also rejected work to avoid being typecast. Sharing the same, she told PTI, "Everybody is going into their comfort zone and using tried-and-tested methods. For instance, for glamorous roles, they (industry) have a set of five actresses they can cast, and for hard-hitting, issue-based films, they have another set of five actresses to cast. I've actually started turning down films for this reason, telling makers that the audience will easily guess the ending. So, (I tell them) 'Don't cast me in this; it's bad for your film'. I've gone and 'de-sold' myself to a few films."



Macklemore announces 'Free Palestine' tour

Entertainment Desk

A lot has happened since American rapper Macklemore was dropped from British musician Ed Sheeran's tour due to his pro-Palestinian remarks during a concert. Even Ed Sheeran himself expressed his regret for it and this is the first time he has criticised the Israeli genocide in Palestine on stage. Now, Macklemore has announced a solo music tour called 'Free Palestine'. "As you all know, my schedule is a bit empty right now!" the American artist joked while announcing the tour on Thursday. Macklemore, whose real name is Benjamin Haggerty, said all proceeds from the tour, which kicks off in Dublin, Ireland next month, will be donated to various charities helping Palestinians. In a statement, McLemore said the events of the past few weeks have shown him that "a collective awakening has emerged among the people against the demand for Palestinian liberation and the power of the billionaires who seek to silence that voice."

Brahmanbaria Correspondent

At the monthly crime review meeting, the participants discussed the overall law-and-order situation in the district, crime prevention, investigation of cases, execution of arrest warrants, arrest of wanted criminals and measures to ensure public safety. The police superintendent directed the concerned officers to take more effective and coordinated measures to



SP Shah Md Abdur Rouf listened attentively to their statements and proposals. He subsequently instructed the concerned officials to review the issues and take necessary measures to resolve them. The meeting also placed emphasis on improving the overall welfare of police personnel, creating a better working environment, strengthening law-enforcement activities and enhancing the professional skills and capabilities of members of the force. The regular master parade, welfare meeting and crime review meeting are considered important platforms for evaluating the performance of police personnel, identifying operational challenges and ensuring better coordination among different units of the district police. Officials concerned said such regular programmes would help strengthen accountability, professionalism and coordination among field-level police officers and members while contributing to more effective law enforcement and public service in Brahmanbaria.

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet



Chapainawabganj Correspondent

Ekramul Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chapainawabganj Sadar Model Police Station, said legal proceedings in connection with the inci-

Rangpur Correspondent

After filing a case against the arrested persons in this incident, the elite force handed over them along with the seized drugs to Phulbari police station, the release

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent.

According to local sources on Sunday, auto driver Habib left his father-in-law's house in Betmore village of the union along with his pregnant wife Tanya and father-in-law Dulal for the hospital. At that time, Bakhat Sahag (20), Mamun (23) and Shaon Sikder (22) were standing on the road adjacent to Munsibari stand. As they were standing on the road, Habib's auto was obstructed. Meanwhile, Habib asked them to move away from the road. This led to an argument



Police conduct simultaneous raids in 18 police stations, four alleged members of 'Ratan Group' among those detained

M A Khayer Emon, Cumilla Correspondent

According to the police, Anik is currently functioning as the second-in-command of the Ratan Group, or B Squad.

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

How the theft occurred

According to the case statement, on the night of 19 September, the priest Kushal Chakraborty lockeded the temple. The next day, on 20 September, when he went to the temple, it was found that the lockers had been cut and approximately 20 kg of a stone idol of Kali (estimated value around 1 crore taka), 5 bhoiri of gold (value around 11.5 lakh taka), 30 bhoiri of silver ornaments, and brass idols had been stolen. After this incident, a case was filed at Kotwali police station, and the police, along with a joint team formed by the DB, began an investiga-



The police reported that Saddam has more than 10 cases against him for theft and robbery, and Ali Amin has more than 8 cases. All recovered evidence has been seized, and legal action is being taken against the suspects.

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

?The event was also attended by Upazila Health and Family Planning Officers from all upazilas in the district, consultants from the 250-Bed General Hospital, medical officers from the Civil Surgeon's office, along with various officials and employees of the district health department including the district health superintendent, head assistant, statistician, senior medical technologist, and cashier. ?Speakers commended the outgoing Civil Surgeon for his professionalism and contributions toward improving the quality of healthcare during his tenure in Feni, wishing him overall success in his new role.



Mohammad Hossain Chowdhury, A clean and transparent politician, humble, enterprising and a social worker.



Chapainawabganj Correspondent

Ekramul Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chapainawabganj Sadar Model Police Station, said legal proceedings in connection with the inci-



Road Shoulder of Baneshwar-Ishwardi Highway Occupied



Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

The road shoulder of the Baneshwar-Ishwardi highway has been occupied with heavy timber piles of sawmills and cultivation of crops; vehicular movement at extreme risk. The road shoulder or the 'shoulder' of the road on both sides of the main part of the highway is not just a matter of beautification; it is a very important technical part for parking vehicles in a safe place in case of emergency, removing accident-hit vehicles and ensuring overall safety of travel. Its role is also undeniable in maintaining the durability of the road. However, that shoulder of the important Baneshwar-Ishwardi regional highway in Rajshahi has been freely occupied for illegal sawmill business and commercial crop cultivation. In some places, turmeric, ginger, banana and papaya, and in other places, artificial bushes have been created by cultivating Napier grass that exceeds human height. Besides, heavy logs are being piled up on both sides. As a result, in addition to the loss of opportunity to take vehicles to a safe distance in an emergency, drivers' visibility is being obstructed at bends, which is constantly causing fatal accidents. Even in the dark of night, these bushes have become a safe cover and the snatching gang has become active. This 54-kilometer road, which is one of the most important roads for communication between the southern region and Rajshahi with the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, was started to be upgraded to a regional highway in 2020. With a main cost of about 554 crore taka and later an additional allocation of about 100 crore taka for land acquisition and other infrastructure, its construction was completed in early 2024. Although thousands of vehicles including heavy vehicles ply this route every day, within just two years of opening the road, the government road shoulder worth crores of taka has been occupied by locals. According to official statistics of Charghat and Bagha Upazila Health Complexes, 4,249 people have been treated after being injured in road accidents in the last one year on about 38 kilometers under Charghat and Bagha Upazilas of the highway. At least 28 people have lost their lives in these two upazilas during the same period. According to locals, due to lack of space on the shoulder, collisions with vehicles coming from the opposite direction are regularly occurring because wood or goods are being loaded and unloaded by parking vehicles on the main road. On June 27 at around 8 pm, a teenager named Rafiul Ehsan (15) died on the spot after hitting a timber-laden trolley standing on the road in the Raottha Nurul Bottala area while returning home from Bagha in an auto-rickshaw. Earlier, on November 7, in the Shibpur area, three friends named Tuhin Ali (25), Maruf Ali (18) and Shimul Ali (25), who were riding a motorcycle, lost their lives in a head-on collision with an ambulance coming from the opposite direction while crossing a goods-laden truck standing on the road. In this regard, truck driver Maksud Ali and teacher Fazlur Rahman of Mirganj area of Bagha said that as a lot of mangoes and agricultural products are produced in the Charghat-Bagha region, goods have to be loaded and unloaded in hundreds of trucks. As the shoulder is occupied, the trucks stand directly on the

main road, causing constant chaos and accidents on this busy two-lane road. In addition to terrible accidents, the dense bushes on both sides of the road are now a permanent terror for local passengers and traders. At night, snatchers suddenly come out from behind Napier grass forests and banana gardens with local weapons, blocking vehicles and looting everything. Garment trader Manik Islam of Shalua village said that around 11:30 pm, while going to Baneshwar from Pabna with goods, three snatchers came out from inside Napier grass at Charghat Fire Service intersection and blocked his way and snatched goods worth several lakhs of taka. In addition, first-class contractor Abdul Awal was hit on his motorcycle in the Taltala area and thrown into the grass and banana garden beside the road and robbed of all his belongings. Local businessman Shamim Islam also said that he has been a victim of such snatching attempts multiple times. A field investigation has found that at least 21 wood sawing sawmills have been built along the highway in the Charghat and Bagha Upazila sections. Most of these establishments are without clearance from the concerned authorities and they are occupying the government shoulder and the edge of the main road and piling up heavy timber. For loading and unloading wood, large trucks are parked directly on the main road for hours, which greatly constricts traffic on this two-lane highway. However, in this regard, the owner of Twister Furniture and Saw Mill, Tariq Hossain, and the owner of Zakaria Saw Mill, Zakaria, said that it was not right to keep wood on the shoulder of the highway and although they were not aware of the notice from the forest department, they would quickly remove the wood on their own responsibility. Jahangir Hossain, president of the Charghat Upazila Teachers Committee and headmaster of Halidagachi Girls High School, said that shoulder occupation on a busy two-lane highway is a major threat to road safety; it reduces the driver's visibility and leaves no alternative place to swerve in an emergency. Charghat Upazila Forest Officer Mahbubur Rahman said that although sawmill owners have been evicted after multiple notices and drives, later they occupy the shoulder again; coordinated action will be taken against them soon. Many like farmer Abdul Hannan of Naodara area claim that they have cultivated papaya and grass because there is vacant space beside the road and there is no infestation of cattle, but the administration has never prohibited it. Saiful Islam, president of the Charghat Upazila branch of the Nirapad Sarak Andolan, said that allowing cultivation or business opportunities without ensuring safety on a highway built at a cost of hundreds of crores of taka is an extreme threat to public life. Officials in charge of law and order and road protection administration are also acknowledging the severity of the problem. Mahabubur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Charghat Model Police Station, said that if both sides of the road remain open, it is easier for the police to ensure security and conduct patrols, but due to bushes, it becomes difficult to identify the location of criminals. The matter has been informed to the Roads Department. On the other hand, Abdul Mannaf Akand, Sub-Divisional Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) Rajshahi, said that they have noticed the issue of increased accidents due to cultivation and creation of bushes by occupying the road shoulder of the Baneshwar-Ishwardi road. The occupiers are being given a final deadline to remove these on their own responsibility without delay; if the obstacles are not removed within the specified time, the entire road shoulder will be cleared by conducting a strict eviction drive according to government law.

8 arrested over attack on BNP leader's house in Khulna

Khulna Correspondent

Police have arrested eight people in connection with a gun attack on the residence of the general secretary of the BNP's Ward No. 28 unit in Khulna city. Of the arrestees, six juveniles were sent to the Juvenile Development Centre (Boys) at Pulherhat in Jashore, while the two adults were sent to Khulna District Jail following court orders. The arrests were made during a police raid in the Ria Bazar area of Harintana under Labanchara Police Station between 2am and 4am on Saturday. On September 25, a group of miscreants allegedly opened fire on the house of Manjurul Alam, general secretary of the BNP's Ward No. 28 unit, at Islamia intersection in front of Mawla's house in Tutpara, Khulna city, while chanting "Joy Bangla". On Saturday, Manjurul filed a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act with Khulna Sadar Police Station, naming seven people and accusing several unidentified others. The arrested individuals were identified as Raj, Fahim Khan, Arafat Islam Nahid, Yamin Sheikh, Sujan Islam, Maharaj Molla, Mohammad Ali and Md Shuvo Islam. Officer-in-Charge of Khulna Police Station Md Lokman Hakim said police arrested the accused after collecting and examining CCTV footage from areas surrounding the scene of the incident. According to police, the attackers fired shots at the BNP leader's residence while chanting "Joy Bangla".

Rangpur Citizens' Committee Holds Press Conference Demanding Removal of Prepaid Meters and Reinstallation of Digital Meters

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Prepaid meters installed in those houses in Rangpur city by removing digital meters must be removed immediately and digital meter connections must be provided again to those houses. The people can no longer continue to bear the unbearable burden of prepaid meters. No more prepaid meters, which are instruments of exploitation and harassment, should be installed in any house. Taking into account the complaints and dissatisfaction of the people, the government must take effective steps to abolish these prepaid meters. Otherwise, this anger of the people will turn into a mass explosion. The leaders said these things at a press conference organized by the Rangpur Metropolitan Citizens' Committee at the court premises on Sunday (September 27). Advocate Palash Kanti Nag, Member Secretary of the organization, delivered a speech highlighting the overall matter at the press conference. Among those present at the time were members of the organization Abdul Jabbar Sarkar, ABM Mashiur Rahman, Bijoy Prasad Tapu, Mahabub Alam, Sabuj Roy, Sanzida Akter, Kanak Rahman, Redwan Ferdous and others. On July 22, 2026, the affected customers filed a declaratory suit, making the District Commissioner and six officials of NESCO defendants, declaring the activity of replacing digital meters with prepaid meters in houses in the city illegal and unlawful. Sunday was



fixed for the hearing of the said suit. However, due to summons not being served upon the defendants, the date was adjourned. Subsequently, the affected customers and leaders of the Rangpur Metropolitan Citizens' Committee held a press conference at the court premises. At the press conference, they criticized the negligence of the process server assigned to serve the court summons in the performance of his duties and demanded that action be taken against those concerned in accordance with the rules for such negligence in a case of public importance. From the press conference, the leaders strongly demanded that the government abolish anti-people prepaid meters, publish a white paper on corruption in the power sector, reduce electricity prices, stop efforts to privatize the power sector, and withdraw harassment-based false cases filed in the names of customers.

First meeting of the newly formed committee of Taleem-e-Hizbullah and Youth Kafela held in Nabinagar

M Badal Khandakar (District Correspondent) Brahmanbaria

With the determination to lead the young society forward in the light of deen, morality and humanity, the first meeting of the newly formed committee of Bangladesh Taleem-e-Hizbullah and Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela Nabinagar Upazila Branch, operated under the guidance of the Pir Sahebs of the traditional Sonakanda Darul Huda Darbar Sharif, was held in Nabinagar Upazila of Brahmanbaria. There was enthusiasm and excitement among the leaders and members surrounding the first meeting of the new committee. Emphasis was laid in the meeting on making the organization's activities more organized and dynamic with the determination of religious education, moral values, the ideals of Sunnityat and the fulfillment of humanitarian and social responsibilities. In the meeting, the names of various office bearers of Nabinagar Upazila Branch were officially announced. Hazrat Maulana Mukhlesur Rahman has been elected as the President of Bangladesh Taleem-e-Hizbullah Nabinagar Upazila Branch. Md. Ziaul Haque as General Secretary and Maulana Md. Nazmul Karim as Organizing Secretary. On the other hand, Dr. Mosharrarf Hossain has been elected as the President of Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela Nabinagar Upazila Branch. Md. Nizam Uddin, General Secretary of Nabinagar Pashchimanchal Press Club, Nabinagar Upazila Representative of Daily Banglar Nabakantha and News Editor of C TV Online, has been elected as General Secretary. Organizing Secretary Noor Alam and Joint Taleem Secretary Kazi Ibrahim. Md. Nizam Uddin, the newly elected General Secretary of Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela Nabinagar Upazila Branch, gave an emotional speech while expressing his feelings of getting the responsibility. He said - First of all, I offer millions of thanks to the court of the great Allah Rabbul Alamin. Alhamdulillah, the responsibility and opportunity that the great Allah has given me is a great trust as well as a great joy for me. Along with this, I remember with deep respect and gratitude the current Pir Saheb Qibla of the traditional Sonakanda Darul Huda Darbar Sharif. I am sincerely grateful to him for entrusting me with such an important responsibility as Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela, keeping trust in me. I believe that responsibility is not just a position; Responsibility means a trust. And fulfilling the right of this trust properly is a big test for me. I pray to the court of the great Allah - may He grant me the tawfiq to properly fulfill this responsibility. May no kind of misbehavior towards the honor, ideals and trust of the Darbar Sharif be done by me. May the great Allah forgive me if I make any mistake knowingly or unknowingly and protect me from all kinds of mistakes and misbehavior. I cannot do anything alone. I need the cooperation and prayers of all the responsible persons, colleagues, youth and well-wishers of Nabinagar. We want our youth society to stay away from drugs, crime, perverted culture and moral decay and build themselves through religious education, morality, humanity and good character. I want to work with our youth in such a way that they can be a cause of welfare for their family, society and country. Standing by helpless people, participating in humanitarian work and presenting the beautiful ideals of Deen to people will be one of our main goals. Finally, my humble request to the countrymen and all Muslim brothers and sisters around the world - pray for us. May the great Allah accept our intention, forgive our mistakes and grant us the tawfiq to serve the Deen. May the great Allah keep all of us firm on the path of the ideals of Sunnityat, morality and humanity and grant us the tawfiq to stay with Iman and Amal till the last moment of life. Ameen. The determination to lead the youth to the path of morality,

according to the concerned, Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela is not just an organizational platform; Rather, it is an effort to build the youth and young society in the spirit of morality, religious values and humanity.



In the present time, the organization emphasizes the importance of religious and moral education to keep the young generation on the right path in the midst of various social challenges including drugs, crime, perverted culture and moral decay. The activities of this organization, conducted under the guidance of the Pir Sahebs of Sonakanda Darul Huda Darbar Sharif, include Islamic cultural programs, Hamd-Naat, educational competitions, moral and spiritual training and various social and humanitarian activities. Members of the Jubo Kafela serve as volunteers in various religious events including the annual Waz and Isale Sawab Mahfil of Darbar Sharif. They also participate in social activities such as maintaining order at the venue, coming forward to help people and standing by the suffering humanity. Jubo Kafela, an associate organization of Taleem-e-Hizbullah, Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela for the youth and Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Kafela for the students work under the main organization of Sonakanda Darbar Sharif, Bangladesh Taleem-e-Hizbullah. In the first meeting of the new committee of Nabinagar Upazila Branch, the responsible leaders expressed their determination to make the organization's activities more organized and dynamic. Special emphasis was laid on involving the young generation in social welfare activities as well as inspiring them with religious education, morality and humanitarian values. The determination of a new journey, the speakers at the meeting said, the dream of building a beautiful and ideal society comes true only when the young generation is enlightened with proper education, morality, humanity and sense of responsibility. Therefore, everyone must work together to organize the youth and involve them in religious, moral and humanitarian activities. Members of the newly formed committee expressed hope that through mutual cooperation, discipline, sense of responsibility and sincerity, Bangladesh Taleem-e-Hizbullah and Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela Nabinagar Upazila Branch will play a more important role in religious, moral and social activities in the future. With the determination to lead the young society forward in the light of Deen, the education of morality and the spirit of humanity - Bangladesh Taleem-e-Hizbullah and Bangladesh Islami Jubo Kafela Nabinagar Upazila Branch started a new journey with this goal. At the end of the meeting, a short Zikir and Dua Mahfil was held. At this time, the responsible persons of the newly elected committee formally took charge. In the Dua Mahfil, peace, prosperity and welfare of the entire Muslim Ummah of the world were prayed for. In addition, special Dua and Munajat were made for the great Allah Rabbul Alamin to grant all Muslims the tawfiq to live according to the ideals of Islam and to serve the Deen by staying on the right path. The Dua Mahfil was conducted by the President of Bangladesh Taleem-e-Hizbullah Nabinagar Upazila Branch, Hazrat Maulana Mukhlesur Rahman.



The property purchased at auction was handed over to the recipient by the court in Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

On Sunday (27 September) afternoon, 69.5 percent of land in the Raghundpur mouza of Shobha Rampur in Faridpur city was handed over through the court. At this time, the recipient who participated in the auction took possession of the land by waving a red flag and beating a drum around the land. It is known that in 2021, due to the inability to repay a loan from Faridpur Premier Bank, 69.50 acres of land was auctioned. Later, Rubel Hossain Dulal participated in the auction and purchased 69.5 percent of the land in the Shobharampur area of the city. Although this property was previously handed over through the court, the former owner of the land later filed a case in court claiming it as his own. After a long 11 months of trial, on Sunday afternoon, the Nazir of the District Judge's Court, A K M Rofiqul Islam, handed over the possession of the auctioned land to the owners by beating drums.

Human Chain in Brahmanbaria to Protest the Rape and Murder of Mahida in Ashuganj

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A human chain was formed in protest against the rape and murder of Mahida in Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, and demanding that those involved in the incident be brought under the law quickly and given the maximum punishment.



The human chain was held at 3 pm on Saturday (September 26) in front of the Brahmanbaria Press Club on the initiative of Oikyabaddha Sadar Brahmanbaria. Leaders of the organization and people from various walks of life participated in it. The chief guest at the human chain was Sheikh Arif Billah Azizi, convener of Oikyabaddha Sadar Brahmanbaria. In his speech, Sheikh Arif Billah Azizi said that heinous crimes like rape and murder cannot be accepted in any civilized society. The brutal incident that happened with Mahida is extremely painful. Through a fair and impartial investigation of this incident, the real culprits must be quickly identified and brought under the law. He called upon the concerned authorities to play an effective role so that no criminal can escape through loopholes in the law. The speakers at the human chain said that those involved in the rape and murder of

Mahida must be arrested quickly and presented in court through a transparent and impartial investigation. They demanded that the maximum punishment for rape be ensured. At the same time, they called upon the law enforcement agencies to be more active to prevent such crimes in the future. Others who spoke at the time were Member Secretary of Oikyabaddha Sadar Brahmanbaria Mohammad Saber Hossain, representative of Oikyabaddha Ashuganj Jayanti Biswas, Member Secretary of Jatiya Chhatra Shakti Brahmanbaria district Shimul Chowdhury, Sajal Chowdhury, Zubair Ahmed, Saeed Abdullah Himu, Sultan Nayeem and other leaders of the organization. The speakers said that ensuring the safety of a woman or child is not only the responsibility of the family, but also the responsibility of the state and society. Everyone must build a united social resistance against crimes like rape, murder and violence against women. At the same time, they called upon the concerned authorities to ensure that the victim's family gets justice. The participants in the human chain chanted various protest slogans and demanded the speedy arrest and maximum punishment of those involved in the rape and murder of Mahida. Later, after the human chain ended, a short protest march was brought out. The marchers chanted various slogans in protest against the murder of Mahida and demanding strict legal action against rape.