

End the deadlock at the Information Commission

Despite the formation of a five-member selection committee more than two and a half months ago to appoint the chief information commissioner and information commissioners, the Information Commission is still without commissioners and therefore unable to hear complaints. According to a Prothom Alo report, around 850 complaints are now pending with the commission, up from 780 in July, while the institution is functioning mainly through routine administrative work. This prolonged vacuum is weakening a key mechanism for enforcing citizens’ right to information.

The Information Commission has been without leadership for over two years now. The vacancies began after the chief information commissioner and one commissioner resigned in September 2024, followed by the removal of another commissioner. Neither the interim government nor the BNP-led government appointed replacements, leaving complaints unresolved and key activities stalled. Under the Right to Information Act, 2009, citizens can complain to the Information Commission when they are denied information, receive incomplete or misleading information, or do not receive a satisfactory response to an information request. The commission has the authority to investigate complaints, hold hearings, impose fines, and order compensation where appropriate. Without commissioners to exercise these powers, a crucial legal avenue for citizens has been closed. Moreover, training on the right to information, public awareness programmes and publications have also largely stopped. The institution is therefore failing to resolve complaints while also being unable to carry out important activities that help citizens understand and exercise their right to information. According to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, applications have been collected and are now being scrutinised. In August, the prime minister’s information and broadcasting adviser also said an independent Information Commission would be formed within a month. That deadline has passed, but the commission has yet to be formed.

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ECNEC clears 13 projects

physical disability training centres in Chhattogram, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and expand hostel facilities at the institution for children with intellectual disabilities at Rofubad in Chhattogram.Two water resources projects are- integrated flood and river management and improvement of drainage systems in the Chhoto Feni and Bamni river basins including construction of the Musapur Regulator while the other aims to protect Shibpur, Dhania and Medua areas under Bhola Sadar and Daulatkhan upazilas from erosion by the Meghna River.

A second revised project under the Ministry of Land will establish digital land management systems through digital land surveys in three city corporations, one municipality and two rural upazilas.

Two projects under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives were also approved. They are- widening and strengthening important upazila and union roads in Rangpur Division and developing rural infrastructure in Madaripur, Shariatpur and Rajbari districts.ECNEC approved the third revised phase of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (Phase I).It also approved the second revised project for enhancing the technical and technological capacity of the Special Response Battalion (SRB), formerly known as RAB.Two power and energy projects were approved,including land acquisition for a solar power plant in Sonagazi of Feni district and expansion of the electricity network in three hill districts.

The ECNEC was also informed about 15 projects costing less than Tk 50 crore each that have already been approved by the Planning Minister.The projects include infrastructure expansion at Bangladesh International School and College, Nirjhor, Dhaka Cantonment; infrastructure development at BAF Shaheen College, Kurmitola; infrastructure development of Alikadam Cantonment Public School and College; establishment and infrastructure development of government primary schools in Dhaka metropolitan area and Purbachal; and establishment of regional BSTI offices in 10 districts.Other projects include the first revised Rupsha 800MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Project, development of the Mirpur UCEP Institute for Labour and Employment, the first revised Climate-Smart Agriculture and Water Management project, and flood control and riverbank protection along the Dharla River in Kurigram. The list also includes riverbank protection along both banks of the Kushiara River in front of the Bibiyana power plants in Habiganj, road and drainage development in Mymensingh City Corporation, safe water supply, water supply and sanitation in 23 municipalities, upgrading of the Bhuyapur-Tarakandi regional highway, and a project to supply treated surface water through pipelines and improve sanitation in Chapainawabganj Municipality.

Chinese Ambassador pays

ambassador said Bangladesh is a highly trusted friend of China and one of its important development and strategic partners. He recalled with gratitude the full cooperation and support he received from the Defence Adviser and the Armed Forces during his tenure in Bangladesh.

Yao en expressed hope that mutual trust, longstanding friendship and strategic partnership between the two countries would continue to grow in the future, the ISPR release added.

Govt to act against LP

also contribute to the rising prices. “The government is monitoring the situation and taking necessary measures,” he said.

Three Furnace Explosions at

a different position regarding the casualties. Attempts were made to contact the authorities for details about the incidents, including their causes, the number of injured workers and the extent of damage. However, no detailed statement was immediately available.

Journalists Denied Entry to Factory

When journalists went to the Farmac Steel Mill premises to collect information about the latest incident, they were allegedly denied entry into the factory. During attempts to gather information from the site, representatives of the factory reportedly told journalists that they could conduct their reporting from outside but would not be allowed to enter the factory premises.

The factory authorities also reportedly said that an investigation team from the relevant authorities had already visited the facility and that journalists were not currently being allowed inside.

However, details of the findings of the investigation team were not immediately available.

How public schools can protect children from extreme heat

Md. Neyamul Hossain

resilient homes, cooling technologies, and other adaptive measures. This creates an opportunity to protect our children where they are brought together at scale: in public schools. Children spend a substantial part of their waking hours at school each day, making classroom conditions an important part of their daily exposure to heat. Public schools, in particular, serve large numbers of children, including those who have limited protection from heat at home. They can therefore provide a more equitable point of intervention. Yet many public schools lack adequate measures to provide comfortable thermal conditions. Improving these conditions should be treated as part of protecting children’s health and learning. The first step is to reduce heat gain within school buildings. The amount of heat entering a classroom depends on decisions made long before children occupy it, including the design of roofs and walls. Reflective roofs and walls with appropriate insulation can reduce heat entering through the building envelope. New public-school construction should incorporate these climate-responsive design requirements, while older schools should have retrofit guidelines to make necessary changes.But reducing heat gain is only part of the challenge. Humidity is an inherent part of our geographical climate, and our buildings must be designed around it. This principle was reflected in a recent conversation I had with prominent architect Rafiq Azam, who designed the Aga Khan Academy based on features of our tropical monsoon climate. He emphasised the need for school architecture to align with our climatic features through a combination of passive and active techniques. Passive solutions include shading and natural ventilation. Shading by trees and green roofs can reduce direct exposure and lower indoor temperatures, while cross-ventilation, supported by additional fans, can improve air movement. Together, these measures can make indoor conditions more tolerable in humid heat. Where passive measures are insufficient, and resources permit, air conditioning should also be considered. Research has found that classroom air conditioning can mitigate the negative effects of high temperatures on learning outcomes. It may not be feasible for every school, but

skilled technicians and funds.

The low utilisation of the machinery has contributed to a decline in production and repair output, worsening the shortage of serviceable coaches for trains in the western region.Under railway maintenance schedules, intercity coaches are supposed to undergo repair every year, mail and express coaches every one and a half years, and freight wagons every three years.However, many coaches are not being repaired within the prescribed periods because of the various constraints at the workshop, railway sources said.

A train inspector, speaking on condition of anonymity, said load-bearing springs of coaches are supposed to be replaced every five years.Instead, in some cases, plates or packing materials are placed underneath worn-out springs to increase their height, he said.

Power shifted from

Bangladesh time) while addressing a view-exchange meeting, as the chief guest, with expatriate Bangladeshis in the United States, according to a message received here today.

Presided over by Nasim Ahmed, President of the US Jatiyatabadi Front, the meeting was attended, among others, by Zakir H Chowdhury, President of the America-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce; Dr Wazed Ali Khan, Editor of the weekly Bangladesh; senior journalist Anwar Hossain Manju; and journalists Saiful Islam, Zakaria Ahmed, Mahbubur Rahman, Al Mamun Sabuj, Nur Alam, Motahar Hossain, Nazrul Islam Khan, Shahabuddin, Shah Alam Shimul, Shah Alam, Shahadat Hossain, Farhad Miridha, Harun-or-Rashid, Hamidullah Khan, Raisul Islam Rabbi, and Shamim Mahmud.Gani Chowdhury said about 70 to 75 percent of the development witnessed in Bangladesh is attributable to the BNP, which was achieved under the leadership of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. He said the people of the country envision a developed and prosperous Bangladesh in the future under the leadership of BNP Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

“We, too, are optimistic that the people will turn this vision into reality,” he said.The BSS chief editor said Bangladeshi Taka is currently in its strongest position against dollar and the Indian rupee in five and a half years, thanks to various measures taken by the government.This is fostering a positive image of the country among foreigners and importers, he said.Further stabilisation of the exchange rate will boost the confidence of foreign investors and businesspeople involved in international trade, Gani said.

Due to various measures taken by the government, a new record has been set in ready-made garment exports to non-traditional markets, he said.

In August of the current fiscal 2026-27, the BFUJ secretary general said, exports to these markets reached a record US\$ 642.93 million, marking the highest monthly export figure for the sector.

Abu Sayeed is national asset

exchanging pleasantries with his family members in village Babanpur under Pirganj upazila of Rangpur.

The State Minister announced that Tk 1.0 crore would be allocated on behalf of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman for constructing a new house for martyr Abu Sayeed’s family, arranging accommodation for his parents and beautifying his graveyard.

He said, “To ensure that the memory of martyr Abu Sayeed extends beyond the boundaries of his own village, the Rangpur District Stadium will be renamed ‘Shaheed Abu Sayed Stadium’ in his honor.”

He said that the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, is working to bring the long-neglected northern region into the mainstream of development. He affirmed that Rangpur and the entire northern region would be transformed.

Regarding government initiatives, State Minister Mir Shahe Alam noted that a certain political party had once dismissed the “Family Card” scheme, saying, “Keep your family card. Yet, today, members of that very party ask in Parliament when the Prime Minister will provide family cards to their respective upazilas in their parliamentary constituencies. ver the next four years, family cards will be distributed in phases to female heads of 40 million households across the country.

Agriculture cards will be issued to 21 million farmers over the next four years. The distribution involves four stages: cards will be issued first to landless farmers, followed by marginal, medium-scale and then large-scale farmers. He further

targeted investment could provide controlled environments during the hottest periods. Such investment could prioritise schools serving children who are particularly vulnerable to heat because of poor housing conditions.

These measures should not be treated as a separate climate agenda. They should be integrated into existing investments in school infrastructure, safety and learning environments. The current approach to protecting children from heat remains largely reactive, with school closures when temperatures reach dangerous levels. While closures can protect children during extreme heat, they do not address students’ experience on days when temperatures remain close to thresholds, nor do they protect children from heat in their homes. As extreme heat becomes a recurring feature of our climate, protecting children requires a more systematic approach.

Climate-responsive schools could also serve a wider public purpose. As extreme heat becomes an increasingly important urban climate risk, appropriately designed and safely managed school spaces could function as community cooling centres during dangerous heat events. Bangladesh already has a precedent for using schools as cyclone shelters and relief centres. The same public infrastructure could be adapted to provide refuge during extreme heat events, which are common these days.Significant investments are already underway to improve school infrastructure. Thermal comfort should be treated as an integral component of such investments. Alongside infrastructure, heat-safety measures should also be incorporated into broader school-safety initiatives under the government’s School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP). As SLIP provides resources for school-level improvements, these investments should also address thermal conditions, making school environments resilient to a changing climate. We may not be moving fast enough to stop the world from getting hotter, but we can still determine how much heat affects our children’s health, learning and development. We have an opportunity to better equip our public schools to protect children from the adverse effects of an extreme climate. As the government seeks to reform the education system, heat considerations should be mainstreamed into education policies and practices. Investing in heat-resilient schools is an investment in healthier children, better learning, and a more climate-ready future.

remarked that a particular political party speaks constantly about religion. During elections, they enticed voters with promises of paradise. Yet, they gave no thought to the welfare of Imams and Muezzins and other religious leaders, he said.

“Our Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman, will bring Imams and Muezzins serving 350,000 mosques, Purohits, and other religious leaders and caretakers of religious places of worship under an allowance scheme within the next four years,” he said.

Regarding the long march by the 11-party alliance, the State Minister remarked that vast quantities of fuel were consumed during the event, even while citing an oil and gas crisis. ddressing the opposition, Mir Shahe Alam stated that if they have well-considered opinions on resolving the issues, they should present them in the National Parliament. e further commented that various programmes organized by the opposition outside parliament were attempts to destabilize the country.

He said, "The government does not deny that there were issues regarding oil and gas during the early days of the current administration. Like the rest of the world, Bangladesh faced difficulties due to various factors, including the war in the Middle East."

The Prime Minister addressed the nation in Parliament regarding this, expressing regret and apologizing for the temporary difficulties. Oil prices were raised to align with global rates. Had the price not been increased, the fuel would have been smuggled into India. That is why the price was hiked. Even now, the price has not reached parity with India. The State Minister said, "The electricity crisis is a legacy issue. We need time to resolve it." He alleged that attempts were being made to discredit the people's government by artificially creating a fertilizer shortage in certain constituencies represented by the opposition. Asserting that there is no actual shortage of fertilizer in the country, he said, "Those elected by selling 'tickets to heaven' have orchestrated this artificial crisis in specific districts using their own party activists to stir up trouble." He said, "I want to inform the nation through you (journalists) that the districts where this artificial fertilizer crisis has been created are Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Chapainawabganj, Kushtia, Bagerhat, Meherpur, and Narail. "In other words, the very districts from which representatives were elected by selling 'tickets to heaven' are the ones facing this fertilizer crisis," he clarified. He said, "In the districts where this artificial crisis has emerged, we are appointing new dealers alongside the existing ones to ensure such a crisis cannot be created again."Subsequently, Shahe Alam inspected the renovation work of the Baradarga Bazar-Bhendabari road in Pirganj upazila and attended meetings on law and order and district development coordination, a reception ceremony for meritorious students who achieved GPA-5, and the foundation laying ceremony of a new school and college in Rangpur city. Member of Parliament (Reserved Women's Seat) Rezeka Sultana Fency, Rangpur City Corporation Administrator Mahfuz U Nabi Don, Zila Parishad Administrator Md Saiful Islam, Deputy Commissioner Israt Jahan, martyr Abu Sayed's father Md Mokbul Hossain and mother Monwara Begum, high officials, local BNP leaders and activists were present.

Govt to support technology

The adviser said technological cooperation must improve the quality of citizen services and create new opportunities for the people of Bangladesh.

He urged the participants to quickly identify implementable projects, responsible individuals or institutions and follow-up actions to translate the discussions into concrete outcomes.

The dialogue, titled "Technology, Talent and Partnership for Bangladesh's Future", was organised by the Consulate General of Bangladesh in Los Angeles. Members of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's special delegation held discussions with technology experts, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors and expatriate Bangladeshis from Silicon Valley on the development of Bangladesh's technology sector, artificial intelligence (AI), the semiconductor industry, research, skills development, employment and investment prospects.Consul General Kazi Muhammad Javed Iqbal delivered the welcome address and moderated the event. Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Tareq Md Ariful Islam also spoke at the programme.The Prime Minister's special delegation included Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Posts, Telecommunications, Information Technology, Science and Technology Rehan Asif Asad and State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj.



President calls for research, innovations in modern technology sectors

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir today called for stepped-up research and innovation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), nanotechnology, biotechnology and semiconductors for the public welfare. The President made the call when a delegation of Khulna University of Engineering and

Technology (KUET), led by its Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Masud, paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban, President's Press Secretary Md. Sarwar Alam He said awareness must be maintained to ensure that AI is not used uncontrollably and indiscriminately."Uncontrolled use of AI is reducing people's thinking

capacity and creativity. Therefore, it's essential to ensure its use for public welfare and in moderation."During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor briefed the President about the university's overall academic activities. The President said advanced education should be further decentralized instead of being centered only in the capital. He also ♦ see page 7

None to be allowed to halt advancement of democracy: Gayeshwar

Staff correspondent

BNP standing committee member and lawmaker from Dhaka-3 Gayeshwar Chandra Roy today said a situation where the advancement of democracy is halted will not be allowed to emerge in Bangladesh in any circumstances.

He said it is the administration's responsibility to restrain those, who harbour a fascist mentality and are secretly engaged in various subversive activities and acts of sabotage, to bring them to justice, to ensure they face trial, and to guarantee the people's safety.

Gayeshwar made the remarks after paying floral tributes at the graves of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, located at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital this morning.

He said many have made the ultimate sacrifice - becoming ♦ see page 7



JS committee recommends realistic plan to keep fuel prices affordable

Staff correspondent

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Public Administration has recommended that the relevant authorities should formulate and present a realistic plan to keep fuel prices at an affordable level for the people. The committee also recommended that detailed information on current fuel demand, storage capacity and the preparedness of the concerned institutions to meet future demand be presented at its next meeting. The recommendations were made at the first meeting of the committee, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban today, with its Chairman and Chief Whip of Parliament Nurul Islam Moni in the chair. Committee members and whips Mia Nuruddin Ahmed and Md Akhtaruzzaman Mia, along with Mst Tahsina Rushdi, Khondaker Abu Ashfaq, Mohammad Kaiser Ahmed, Biswas Jahangir Alam, Md Mustafizur Rahman Bhuiyan and Mohammad Najibur Rahman,

attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the activities of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and its affiliated organisations. Detailed discussions were held on the reasons behind increases and adjustments in petroleum product prices at different times, ways to keep prices at an affordable level, and the roles of Padma Oil PLC, Meghna Petroleum PLC and Jamuna Oil PLC in increasing or reducing fuel prices. The committee sought an explanation from the BPC as to why a fuel crisis emerged in the country after the incumbent government assumed office and how the crisis was resolved solely through increases in fuel prices, despite the fuel supply system remaining unchanged both during and after the crisis. The Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, officials of the BPC, and representatives of the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, ministries, divisions and concerned organisations were present at the meeting.



Prime Minister's Feni Visit on October first, Unprecedented Preparations Underway in Parshuram and Fulgazi

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Ending a long wait, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to visit Feni next Thursday (October 1). A festive atmosphere has taken hold across the border sub-districts of Parshuram and Fulgazi ahead of the government head's visit. Last-minute preparations—including the erection of arches, road repairs, helipad construction, and setting up a digital stage—are in full swing.

According to upazila administration and local sources, during his visit, the Prime Minister will unveil the plaque for the rehabilitation work of the long-awaited Muhuri-Kahua Flood Control, Drainage, and Irrigation Project (Phase 1) in Parshuram. Additionally, he will inaugurate several social safety net programs in Fulgazi.

The detailed itinerary was confirmed in a schedule signed on Monday (September 28) by the Prime Minister's Protocol Officer-1, Md. Uzzal Hossain.

Prime Minister's Day-Long Schedule at a Glance: 08:30 AM: Departure from Dhaka for Parshuram by road. 12:30 PM: Arrival near ♦ see page 7

IGP orders strict action against extortionists, terrorists

Staff correspondent

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md Ali Hossain Fakir directed field-level police officers to take strict legal action against drug traders, terrorists and extortionists, saying there is no scope to consider political identity in dealing with criminals.

"The only identity of a criminal is that of a criminal," he said. The IGP gave the directives at the monthly crime review meeting for August 2026 held at Police Headquarters on Tuesday. He also instructed them to take appropriate legal action against juvenile offenders. Reiterating the police's "zero tolerance" policy against drugs, he directed officers to take strict measures to prevent drug-related activities and stressed ensuring public participation through community policing. He also directed field-level officers to ensure overall security for peaceful, safe and trouble-free celebration of the upcoming Durga Puja and take measures to prevent rumours and misinformation.

Additional IGP (Crime and Operations) Md Sayedur Rahman presided over the meeting. Sayedur Rahman directed officers to collect ♦ see page 7

Freedom Fighter Complex remains unused even after seven years



Suvo, Sherpur (Bogura) Correspondent

A three-storey Freedom Fighter Complex building was constructed in Sherpur of Bogura for official work of valiant freedom fighters, meetings-seminars, preservation of memories of Liberation War and welfare activities. The building constructed at a cost of about two crore taka was handed over in 2019. But seven years after construction, the main gate of the building is locked. Weeds have grown around. Several parts of the boundary wall have broken, cracks have appeared somewhere. The convener of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad has also informed that various equipment of the building has been stolen after vandalism.

Recently, on-the-spot visit shows, the main gate of the complex is closed. No regular activities are going on inside the building.

Weeds have grown outside the gate and around. Several parts of the boundary wall are broken. No night guard or other staff in charge of the building was found there either.

Under the Upazila Muktiyoddha Complex Building Construction Project, the building was constructed on 3,500 square feet of land. Its contract value is Tk 1 crore 94 lakh 9 thousand 207. There is arrangement for market on the first and second floors of the building and office, library, conference room and museum on the third floor. There are six shops in the market. As an alternative to electricity, a 1,200 watt solar panel was also installed.

According to government plan, in the Freedom Fighter Complex, besides organizational and official activities of valiant freedom fighters, meetings-seminars, preservation of memories of Liberation War and programs of various national days are to be observed. There is also arrangement to deposit the money earned by renting or allotting shops and various rooms of the building into the welfare fund of freedom fighters.

But currently in Sherpur, the building is not being regularly used for that purpose. The number of listed valiant freedom fighters at upazila level is ♦ see page 7

Rape of Aunt and Subsequent Childbirth in Narsingdi: Prime Accused Arrested

Syed Bashir Ahmed Chief Reporter, Dhaka:

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) has arrested Apurba Chandra Das (20), the prime accused in a case involving the repeated forced rape of a young housewife (25) in Palash, Narsingdi—leading to childbirth and subsequent blackmail—during the absence of her expatriate husband.

Dr. SM Farhad Hossain, the Superintendent of Police (SP) for PBI Narsingdi, confirmed this information on Monday (September 28).

Apurba Chandra Das was arrested around 5:45 PM on Sunday (September 27) following a raid in the Panditpara area under Palash Police Station. The arrested individual is the son of Nil Kamal Chandra Das from the same village.

SP Dr. SM Farhad stated that following his arrest, Apurba Chandra Das gave a confessional statement before the Narsingdi court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. According to the case statement and PBI investigation findings, the victim Tithi Rani ♦ see page 7



US firms eye over \$1bn investment in Bangladesh's AI, semiconductor sectors: Bobby

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj has said the US semiconductor and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology companies have expressed interest in investing more than US\$1 billion in Bangladesh.

"There is significant potential for international investment in Bangladesh's technology sector. In particular, the interest of US technology companies in investing more than US\$1 billion in the AI and semiconductor industries will bring new momentum to the country's economy. The government is working to facilitate technology transfer, develop a skilled workforce and ensure an investment-friendly environment to turn this opportunity into reality," he said. He made the remarks while addressing the 'CEO and Senior Executives Roundtable' held at a hotel in California, USA, on Monday local time, said a press release received here today. The roundtable was organised under the theme 'Technology Investment and Strategic Partnerships for Bangladesh's Growth'. Bobby ♦ see page 7



Prayer Gathering for the Late BMSS Founding Chairman Khandaker Asifur Rahman Tota

Chief Reporter

The Dhaka North Metropolitan branch of the Bangladesh Mofassal Journalist Society (BMSS) has expressed deep grief and condolences over the untimely demise of the organization's founding chairman, Khandaker Asifur Rahman Tota.

A prayer gathering was organized at a restaurant in Uttara, Dhaka, to pray for the salvation of the deceased's soul. Attendees included BMSS Central Committee Secretary General Sagor Ahmed, Dhaka North Metropolitan President Farid Ahmed Nayan, and various other leaders of the organization.

Speakers at the gathering recalled Khandaker Asifur Rahman Tota's contributions to journalism and his role in advancing the BMSS. They prayed for the peace of his departed soul and extended their deepest sympathies to the bereaved family members.

The speakers remarked that the death of Khandaker Asifur Rahman Tota represents an irreparable loss for the journalism community and the BMSS. His work and contributions will long be remembered by the organization's members. At the conclusion of the gathering, a special prayer (Munajat) was offered for the salvation ♦ see page 7



Sylhet District Commissioner Inspects Various Activities in Gowainghat

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

Sylhet District Commissioner Abdullah Al Mamun has inspected various government activities and development initiatives in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet.

On Tuesday (September 29), he visited various facilities and ongoing activities in Gowainghat. During the visit, he observed different local activities and spoke with the concerned officials and individuals.

The District Commissioner also participated in a tree-planting programme by planting and watering a sapling. He inquired about various local activities and provided necessary directions to the concerned authorities.

Officials of the Gowainghat Upazila administration, including Ratan Kumar Adhikari, ♦ see page 7

ESTD-2008

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি শুক্রবার বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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এম.পি.এইচ (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.

President calls for research

stressed the need to involve universities more in research and development (R&D) activities at the national level.The Vice-Chancellor formally invited the President to attend the upcoming convocation of KUET as the Chancellor. The President accepted the invitation and assured that he would attend the convocation, said President's Press Secretary Md. Sarwar Alam. The President's Military Secretary, Secretary and Press Secretary, as well as professors of the university, were present at the meeting.

None to be allowed

martyrs, falling victim to enforced disappearances and killings, or enduring imprisonment and persecution - through a long series of struggles.

"Yet, with the fall of fascism on August 5, we have managed to initiate the restoration of Zia's vision, multiparty democracy, and our independence and sovereignty," he said. He added, "We have succeeded in driving the fascists out of this country. Fascism is gone, and its leadership has gone, but many people who embody the character of fascism still remain in Bangladesh."

The BNP standing committee member said, "We occasionally witness signs of this. Incidents such as sudden processions at dawn, the bursting of firecrackers and bomb blasts - aimed at destabilising public life and disrupting the march of democracy - have caused concern among people across the country."He said the BNP leaders and activists at all levels remain vigilant to this end on behalf of the people.

Under no circumstances, he said, the government will allow a situation to develop in Bangladesh that disrupts democracy.Gayeshwar said the government will surely take an active stance to ensure the safety of lives and properties of people in this regard.

He said it is the administration's responsibility to restrain the cohorts of fascism who are secretly engaged in various acts of sabotage, bring them to justice, and ensure public safety.

Prime Minister’s Feni Visit

Ghatghar Muhuri Bridge, official inauguration of the Muhuri-Kahua Flood Control Project, and greetings with locals. 01:15 PM: Departure from Parshuram for Begum Khaleda Zia Women's College in Fulgazi and participation in a tree plantation program.

02:00 PM: Inauguration of the national grid connection from the rooftop solar system at Fulgazi Zila Parishad Dak Bungalow, followed by lunch.

03:00 PM: Attendance as the Chief Guest at an event held at Fulgazi Government Pilot High School grounds to distribute Family Cards, Farmer Cards, and honorariums to teachers and caretakers of mosques, madrasas, and other religious institutions.

05:00 PM: Departure for Dhaka at the end of the visit.

Security and Beautification Preparations:

In honor of the Prime Minister's arrival, multiple temporary helipads have been prepared at Parshuram Pilot High School grounds, and an attractive venue has been set up in the Ghatghar area of Parshuram. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) is making arrangements for safe drinking water tanks and temporary sanitation facilities.

Meanwhile, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is working round the clock to repair key connection roads, including the Feni-Parshuram main road and the Parshuram-Subar Bazar road. It is worth noting that the Prime Minister's visit was originally scheduled for September 17, but was later rescheduled to October 1.

IGP orders strict action against

information about juvenile gangs and identify whether any influential people are behind them so that action can be taken. He also directed every police unit to prepare its own security plan for the upcoming Durga Puja, warning that misinformation could be spread through social media ahead of the festival.

He instructed police personnel to properly use body-worn cameras while performing their duties.Sayedur Rahman also stressed effective use of community policing in maintaining law and order and controlling crime, and called upon police personnel to maintain professionalism in discharging their duties.Metropolitan police commissioners, range DIGs and superintendents of police joined the meeting virtually.DIG (Crime Management) Mohammad Abu Sufian and concerned officials were present.

The meeting reviewed the overall crime situation in August 2026, including major incidents during the month.Detailed discussions were also held on robbery, dacoity, murder, rape, attacks on police and abduction cases, as well as pending arrest warrants, investigation and trial outcomes and conviction rates.

Freedom Fighter Complex

181. Among them 92 have died. Besides, there are more than a hundred July fighters under the same ministry.

Convener of Sherpur Upazila MuktiJoddha Sangsad, valiant freedom fighter Md. Obaidur Rahman said, after receiving the building, there was not much activity there as there was no committee. After the new ad hoc committee was formed in 2025, some shops were rented out. But after August 5, those also closed.

Informing about theft of various equipment from the building, he said, after vandalism, generator, solar, water pump, thai glass and even electric wires have been stolen. Such a situation has arisen as there is no one to look after it permanently. A person from the neighboring house used to look after the building. Some local residents said, after construction of the building, activities continued there for some time. Currently there is no regular movement of people. Due to being locked for a long time, the surroundings of the building have become unclean. They demanded to quickly clean the building and start regular activities.

Regarding this, Sherpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Saidduzzaman Himu said, recently he visited the complex with valiant freedom fighters. The amount of damage to the building has also been assessed. Steps are being taken to quickly renovate so that valiant freedom fighters can sit there.

He said no instruction has yet come to them regarding July fighters sitting in that building. He said, a lot of money is needed to renovate the whole building. A letter has been sent to the ministry in this regard. If funds are allocated later, the matter will be considered.

Prayer Gathering for the Late

of the deceased's soul and for the well-being of his bereaved family. An appeal was also made to all BMSS members and well-wishers to offer prayers for the deceased.

Rape of Aunt and Subsequent

Das's husband, Haridas (36), was residing in the United Arab Emirates for work. The prime accused, Apurba, was Haridas's cousin (nephew by relation); as their homes were adjacent, he had free access to the household. On the night of June 20 last year, Apurba entered the house in the absence of her husband's family members and forcibly raped Tithi Rani. Fearing threats and concerned about social stigma, the victim could not disclose the incident immediately. When she later informed her expatriate husband, he asked her not to tell anyone and assured her he would resolve the matter upon returning to the country. However, in the interim, Apurba forcibly raped the victim multiple times, resulting in her pregnancy.

It was further revealed that after returning to the country, the husband confirmed the pregnancy through an ultrasonogram. On April 17 of this year, the victim gave birth to a baby girl. At that time, the victim's husband kept the incident a secret,

personally handled all arrangements and religious rituals associated with the child's birth, and publicly acknowledged the child as his own.

The Superintendent of Police stated that after the victim's husband returned abroad, the accused, Apurba, sent messages from his mobile phone claiming the child was his biological offspring. He also made various offensive remarks regarding the rape of the victim and threatened dire consequences if the matter were disclosed to anyone. Upon receiving these messages, the husband's attitude toward the victim changed. Accusing his wife of infidelity, he disowned both her and the newborn child—and abandoned his wife—by executing a so-called "deed of release or abandonment" through a notary public on August 20.

He added that the victim subsequently filed a case with the Tribunal for the Prevention of Repression against Women and Children, seeking justice, the restoration of her dignity, security, and paternal recognition for the child. Following a court order, a case was registered at Palash Police Station on September 25 under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

He further mentioned that upon learning of the incident, PBI Narsingdi initiated a parallel investigation. Acting on modern information technology and confidential intelligence, the prime accused, Apurba Chandra Das, was arrested on the afternoon of September 27 while in hiding. The investigation is ongoing to ensure justice for the victim and to complete the legal proceedings.

US firms eye over \$1bn invest

said Bangladesh was placing emphasis on skilled human resources and international cooperation to keep pace with rapid changes in the global technology sector. Such global investment in AI, data infrastructure and high-tech sectors would create future employment opportunities, he added.The roundtable discussion covered various aspects of AI and data infrastructure development, investment in the semiconductor industry, technology transfer, skilled workforce development, research, innovation, trade expansion and strategic partnerships.

Participants also emphasised identifying practical areas of cooperation with international companies to enhance Bangladesh's technological capabilities.Among others, the high-level discussion was attended by Bangladesh's delegation, including Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, and Prime Minister's Adviser on Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, and Science and Technology Rehan Asif Asad.Shamim Mohammad, Executive Vice President and Chief Information and Technology Officer of CarMax, moderated the roundtable, which was attended by senior executives from the US technology sector.The joint discussion featured productive exchanges on potential areas of cooperation in AI, the semiconductor industry, technology transfer and strategic partnerships.

Sylhet District Commissioner

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gowainghat Police Station Md. Omar Faruk Mural, and officials from different levels of the administration and concerned individuals were present during the inspection.

World far from fulfilling

situations.Highlighting emerging challenges, Ambassador Khan said new technologies must counter rather than spread hatred and incitement to violence. She called for safe, secure, and human rights-respecting artificial intelligence with safeguards for equality and non-discrimination.“Bangladesh remains committed to a world where the diversity and dignity of all people are upheld, offline and online,” she said.

Dhaka-Delhi ties “absolutely

of mutual interest.Trivedi said it was essentially a courtesy call and an opportunity to convey his congratulations and greetings.“It was purely a courtesy meeting - I was happy to congratulate [him] from the High Commissioner’s side, from India’s side, and I also sent the greetings to the Prime Minister through him,” he said. He also referred to the Prime Minister’s recent engagement in New York, saying: “He had great meetings in New York.”

The Dream Peddler from a

Cup Football Tournament

In an interview with the sports reporter of The Daily Bangla Sky, Sajib said, "I want to spread the flag of Bangladesh all over the world through playing football, that is my wish."

Talking to his family, it is learned, "Our son has been a football lover since childhood. Whenever he is free from his studies, he fiddles with football. Even inside the house there is football, even when he goes to sleep at night, the football stays beside him."

All his dreams are now around this Minister Cup. He is hopeful that through this tournament, he will come to the attention of a good coach or a training center like BKSP and will be able to reach his destination with proper training.

On behalf of the local people and family, Sajib has prayed to everyone so that he can bring the cup of this year's Minister Cup to Bagerhat district.

The Daily Bangla Sky family wishes a bright future for this rising young talent from Bagerhat. At the same time, it draws the attention of all training centers and BKSP authorities in Bangladesh - so that proper attention is paid to such talented boys who want to make the map of Bangladesh known to the world through sports.

Tuku stresses stronger fisheries sector to uphold Bengali identity

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sultan Salauddin Tuku on Tuesday stressed the need to increase fish production and develop the fisheries sector to preserve the traditional Bengali identity of “Mache-Bhate Bangali”.

“Bangladesh has made significant progress in fish production, but we need to further strengthen our position globally,” Tuku said while addressing a fish fry release programme and discussion meeting at the University of Dhaka. The Department of Fisheries organised the programme at the Professor Mohammad Shafi Auditorium of the university's Fisheries Science Building.Highlighting the sector's economic potential, Tuku said fisheries offer extensive employment opportunities and contribute significantly to the national economy.e said former President Ziaur Rahman had recognised the potential of the sector and taken initiatives to develop fisheries through canal excavation and encourage fish farming.

Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia subsequently introduced National Fisheries Fortnight, while Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has continued canal excavation programmes aimed at increasing fish production, he added.

The state minister said many rivers across the country have lost their navigability, adding that initiatives were underway to restore their navigability and reduce pollution.He also stressed the importance of expanding deep-sea fishing, saying it could make a significant contribution to the national economy.Addressing students of the Department of Fisheries, Tuku encouraged them to build their careers in the sector, noting its growing importance worldwide.He called for concerted efforts to make fisheries education more modern, effective and

relevant to future needs while ensuring the conservation and sustainable development of aquatic resources.Professor Wahida Haque, chair of the Department of Fisheries at the University of Dhaka, chaired the programme.

Earlier, Tuku released fish fry into a pond at Curzon Hall on the university campus.

AG urges journalists to highlight people's access to justice

Staff correspondent

Attorney General Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal has urged journalists to highlight not only negative news but also stories of speedy disposal of cases and people getting justice.

"If you notice any irregularities, misconduct or corruption in the Supreme Court arena, you will bring them before the nation through objective journalism," he said while addressing the second founding anniversary of the Supreme Court Reporters' Forum (SRF).

The Attorney General said, "After I assumed office, you (journalists) responsibly published several reports on various court-related issues, and we have benefited from those reports."

Urging journalists to play an important role while ensuring that the entire institution does not suffer because of a vicious circle or one or two individuals, the Attorney General said thousands of cases have recently been disposed of in both the Appellate Division and the High Court Division of the Supreme Court following the initiatives of the Chief Justice."You have highlighted those developments before the nation with due importance," he said.

Supreme Court Registrar General Mohammad Habibur Rahman Siddiquee, SRF President Mohammad Didarul Alam, General Secretary Mehedi Hasan Dalim and other members of the forum were present at the function, among others.

Earlier, a colourful rally was brought out marking the day. The rally paraded through the Supreme Court premises.

Biman to sign 10 Airbus purchase deal in Oct: Millat

Staff correspondent

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat today said Bangladesh plans to sign an agreement in October to purchase 10 Airbus aircraft as part of efforts to expand Biman Bangladesh Airlines' fleet.

"Yes, we are buying 10 Airbus aircraft. Inshallah, the agreement will be signed in October," he told journalists at the Secretariat.The minister said that the Airbus aircraft could begin arriving in 2033, with deliveries continuing through 2036 or 2037.

ircraft cannot be purchased for immediate delivery, he said, explaining why the government was placing orders years in advance.Millat said Biman was also trying to lease 10 aircraft to meet more immediate demand, but had yet to secure them despite repeated efforts.On the Boeing purchases, he said the first aircraft under an earlier agreement was scheduled for delivery in 2031.Biman had requested at least one aircraft earlier, possibly in 2027 or 2028, while the remaining deliveries would take place in stages.

The additional 11 Boeing aircraft would cost about US\$2.7 billion, although payments would be made as the aircraft were delivered rather than all at once, the minister said, adding that Biman currently had 17 Boeing aircraft and no Airbus aircraft. Rejecting suggestions that the purchases were being made under pressure, Millat said the government's aim was to increase Biman's capacity and operate more flights on routes where demand exceeded its current service.

He cited the Middle East as a market where Biman could add flights if more aircraft were available. The airline was also considering services to Sydney and a second flight to Japan, while pursuing the resumption of its New York service after an aviation audit, he said.Expanding the national carrier's fleet would allow Biman to carry a larger share of Bangladeshi travellers and retain more of their spending within the country, the minister added.

The proposed Airbus package comprises four A350-900 wide-body aircraft and six A321neo narrowbody jets.The Airbus purchase would add to Biman's agreements for 25 Boeing aircraft signed this year.

Those orders comprise 13 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners, two 787-9 Dreamliners and 10 Boeing 737-8 jets. The first Boeing agreement, signed in April, covered 14 aircraft; a supplementary agreement for 11 more was signed in September.

Together, the Boeing orders and proposed Airbus purchase would give Biman a pipeline of 35 new aircraft: 19 widebody jets for longer routes and 16 narrowbody aircraft for regional and medium-haul services.

CWASA's 3rd water treatment plant expected to produce 100m liters water daily

Staff correspondent

Chattogram WASA (CWASA) is set to implement its 3rd water treatment plant targeting to produce 100 million liters of purified water per day.

The project titled 'Karnaphuli Water Treatment Plant Project-3' has been taken to meet the growing demand of water for city dwellers. Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) has expressed its interest to financing the project.

Confirming the matter, Chattogram WASA Managing Director Engineer Selim Md. Jane Alam said, "JICA has agreed to finance the project. A JICA delegation has already visited the project site at Sarafbhata on the east bank of Karnaphuli river under Rangunia upazila of the district. They will soon begin the feasibility study of the project and the process of appointing experts in this regard has already begun."

The WASA authorities said the city's growing population and rapid urbanization are putting increasing pressure on water supply and sanitation systems. Initiatives are underway to meet the growing demand by increasing current production capacity and modernizing the aging supply infrastructure. JICA's assistance has been sought to add a production capacity of 100 million liters through execution of 3rd Karnaphuli Water Treatment Plant project. Selim pointed to a key advantage of the new plant: there will be no need to install new pipelines to bring water from proposed project site to Chattogram city as newly produced water can be brought through the existing pipeline network of the Karnaphuli Water Treatment Plant Project-2.According to WASA sources, Project-3 will be built in the Sarafbhata area near the Godown Bridge in Rangunia upazila, the same site where the Project-2 is currently being operated.

A JICA delegation has already inspected the proposed site as part of conducting the feasibility study. The estimated cost of the project will be finalized along with proportionate share of financing by JICA, Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and CWASA after completion of feasibility study. Chattogram WASA Chief Engineer Maksud Alam said JICA had earlier funded Project-2 in the Godown area of Rangunia Municipality. The plant produces 143 million liters of water per day. Of the total cost of Project -2 Tk 4,491.15 crore, JICA contributed Tk 3,623.28 crore, GOB Tk 844.80 crore while CWASA's share is Tk 23.07 crore.



Woman Alleges Hijab Pulling After Refusing to Buy Fruits in Chandina

Shop Employee Accused of Misbehaviour and Making Offensive Remarks

M A Khayer Emon, Cumilla Correspondent

A woman customer has allegedly been subjected to misbehaviour, an attempt to physically assault her and pulling of her hijab after she decided not to buy fruits from a shop in Chandina, Cumilla.

The accused has been identified as Md. Sajib, an employee of the fruit shop. The complainant's family said that Sajib has not been seen in the area since the incident.

According to information provided by the complainant's family, Sajib is the son of Md. Sakhawat Hossain and hails from the Nawabiabad area under Debidwar Police Station.

The incident reportedly took place at a fruit shop beside Saha Medical in Chandina. The shop is owned by Sujon, son of late Khorshed Alam, of Maharong village.

According to the complaint, the woman went to the shop to inquire about the prices of fruits. Later, she decided to purchase fruits from another shop. At that point, Sajib allegedly became angry and behaved improperly with her.

The complainant alleged that Sajib subsequently attempted to physically assault the woman and pulled at her hijab.

Following the incident, several women and local sources reportedly raised additional allegations against Sajib, claiming that he had previously behaved improperly with female customers who asked about product prices but later decided not to make purchases.

Some women, speaking on condition of anonymity, alleged that they had faced rude behaviour, taunting and inappropriate remarks from him. They claimed that such conduct had caused them considerable embarrassment and discomfort.

However, the allegations could not be independently verified. The complainant's family has called for a fair investigation into the incident and urged the authorities to take legal action if the allegations are found to be substantiated.

The family also claimed that Sajib has been unavailable in the area since the incident. Attempts to obtain his statement were unsuccessful. His response, if received, will be published in a subsequent report.



Two Houses Destroyed in Devastating Fire in Chandina

Gold ornaments, cash, furniture, IELTS certificate and important documents reportedly destroyed; losses estimated at Tk 25 lakh

M A Khayer Emon, Comilla Correspondent

Two adjoining residential houses were completely gutted in a devastating fire at Kuduti Barabari area under Joag Union of Chandina upazila in Comilla on Monday night.

The fire reportedly destroyed gold ornaments, cash, furniture, clothes, an IELTS certificate prepared for overseas travel, and other important documents. The affected family has estimated the total loss at around Tk 25 lakh.The fire broke out at the house of Gazi Meraj Hasan Siam at around 8:30pm on Monday (September 28).According to local residents, the fire originated in one of the residential rooms and spread rapidly to the adjoining parts of the house. After noticing the flames, locals raised an alarm and rushed to the spot. They began efforts to put out the fire using water.After prolonged efforts, the locals managed to bring the blaze under control. By then, however, both residential houses had been completely destroyed, leaving most of the belongings inside beyond recovery.Gold, cash and important documents destroyed

Family members said gold ornaments, cash, valuable furniture and other household items were destroyed in the fire. The IELTS certificate and other important documents prepared as part of Siam's plans to travel abroad were also reportedly reduced to ashes.Gazi Meraj Hasan Siam, one of the affected family members, said he was outside the house when the fire broke out.“I was outside at the time. Later, my sister called and informed me that our house was on fire. I rushed home and joined the locals in trying to put out the blaze. But the fire spread so quickly that we could not remove the gold ornaments, cash, important documents or furniture from the house,” he said.He added that he had completed IELTS preparations for the purpose of going abroad and that the certificate, along with other important documents, was also destroyed.

According to Siam, the two residential houses and almost all belongings inside them were burned. The family initially estimated their total financial loss at around Tk 25 lakh.

Locals make desperate efforts to contain blazeEyewitness Gias Uddin Kanan said they suddenly noticed the fire and, after hearing the commotion, local residents rushed to the scene. “Many people came with water and tried to put out the fire. After prolonged efforts, the fire was brought under control. By then, Siam's two houses had already been completely burned,” he said. MP visits affected family Upon receiving news of the fire, Comilla-7 (Chandina) constituency MP Atikul Alam Shawan visited the scene and spoke with the affected family members.He expressed concern over the incident and assured the family of possible government assistance.Local BNP leaders, activists of different political parties and prominent residents of the area were also present at the scene and expressed sympathy for the affected family.

Fire Service team turns back after receiving update Chandina Fire Service Station Officer Imam Hossain Patowari said their team immediately left for the scene after receiving the information about the fire. “We received the call and immediately headed towards the spot. While we were on the way, we were informed by phone that local residents had already brought the fire under control and that our presence was no longer required. So, we did not proceed to the scene,” he said. Locals initially suspected that the fire might have originated.



Iran urges Americans to protest Trump as Mideast conflict deepens



International Desk

Iran's Revolutionary Guard has called on Americans to take to the streets and protest President Donald Trump's policies, claiming that Washington's war in the Middle East has failed, as fresh developments unfolded across the region on Tuesday.

Guard spokesman Gen. Hossein Mohebbi delivered what he described as a "letter to the American people" at a news conference in Tehran, urging them to reconsider their choice of leaders ahead of the US midterm elections.

He said the conflict could end only if Washington acknowledged defeat and withdrew, while accusing the US of using Iran's nuclear programme as a pretext to "plunder Iran's wealth" and turn the country "back into a colony."

In remarks to The Associated Press later, Mohebbi encouraged Americans to stage street protests against Trump's policies and denounce what he described as the US government's war-mongering approach.

He said military action and economic

sanctions would not force Tehran to surrender.

The message came weeks ahead of the Nov. 3 US midterm elections, in which Trump's Republican Party is seeking to retain control of Congress.

Meanwhile, Iran's currency fell to a new record low on Tuesday, with the US dollar trading at more than 2.5 million rials in Tehran, reflecting further economic deterioration amid the conflict.

The rial had previously reached a record low of 2.2 million to the dollar on Sept. 2 and has repeatedly weakened since the war began in February.

Settlers prevent Palestinian family from returning home

In the occupied West Bank, more than 100 Israeli settlers clashed with Israeli soldiers who were escorting a Palestinian man back to his home in the village of Jalud.

Mahmoud Tubasi, the homeowner, said soldiers initially took him to the house but rioting settlers forced him and his family to leave in a military vehicle. He said settlers have surrounded the property for about two months, preventing the

family from returning.

The Israeli military said the overnight effort to return the family "was not completed" and that three officers were injured after settlers threw rocks, blocked roads and set Palestinian property on fire.

Israeli police said three settlers suspected of involvement in the violence were arrested.

The incident drew condemnation from Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Gidon Saar and President Isaac Herzog.

The latest violence comes as the Israeli military faces difficulties in containing an escalation in settler attacks.

Rights groups have accused the military of cooperating with settlers.

Israeli strike kills Hamas commander, two others

An Israeli airstrike on an apartment west of Gaza City killed two people, including a Hamas commander, according to the Israeli military.

The military said Izz al-Din Bik, a commander in Hamas' northern Gaza brigade, was involved in planning attacks and recruiting members for the militant group.

Hamas did not immediately confirm his death.

Officials at Shifa Hospital said five other people were wounded in the overnight strike.

More than 1,400 Palestinians have been killed since a ceasefire took effect nearly a year ago, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The ministry, which maintains detailed casualty records generally considered reliable, does not distinguish between civilians and militants.

It says women and children account for about half of those killed.

Bangkok floods ease as heavy rains affect 700,000

International Desk

Floodwaters in Bangkok slowly receded Monday after near-continuous weekend rainfall, though several neighborhoods and major roads remained submerged.

Intermittent rain continued, but city officials said improved conditions allowed drainage efforts to accelerate.

Four major canals had reached levels too high to receive runoff from surrounding communities.

The flooding affected 329,000 households, or about 700,000 people, according to the Bangkok Flood Control Center, Deputy Gov. Tavid Kamolvej said.

Thai media reported two flood-related deaths in Bangkok and at least 10 nationwide.

Gov. Chadchart Sittipunt declared a flood emergency across all 50 districts Saturday.

Authorities prioritized older people and people with disabilities, while nearly 7,000 residents were staying in shelters.

Eastern Bangkok was hardest hit, with Bang Kapi particularly affected.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul inspected a flooded housing estate there Sunday night and distributed relief supplies.

The flooding also disrupted food supplies, caused panic buying and created staffing shortages.

At Suvarnabhumi Airport, the Thai Air Force sent 69 personnel to help clear a luggage backlog caused largely by workers being unable to reach work.

Some departures were delayed and passengers faced longer waits for baggage.

The government declared special holidays Monday and Tuesday for state offices.

Thailand's meteorological agency warned of heavy to very heavy rain, flash floods, river overflows, runoff and landslides.

Myanmar reported at least 10 deaths and dozens missing after flooding and landslides in Tainintharyi.

Dawei received a record 346 millimeters of rain Monday.

Cambodia reported flash floods in 10 provinces, affecting 44,889 families and forcing nearly 4,000 people to evacuate.

Authorities in Siem Reap operated water gates and diversion systems to protect the Angkor temple complex.



UNGA 81: General Debate concludes with global priorities in focus

International Desk

The General Debate of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly concluded on Monday, during which 194 delegations spoke on topics including peace, development, human rights, UN reform and the selection of the next secretary-general, as well as artificial intelligence (AI).

"Across your statements, one word came before all others -- peace. But peace was spoken of less as a distant aspiration than as an urgent defense of the UN Charter, international law and the protection of civilians," General Assembly President Khalilur Rahman said in his closing remarks.

"We heard that the maintenance of peace and security ... meant more than containing violence. It requires prevention, mediation and diplomacy, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, adherence to international law and investment in the conditions that sustain peace," he said.

Development was featured prominently throughout the debate, Rahman said. "Time is running out, and promises remain unfulfilled," he said, noting that only a few of the Sustainable Development Goals are on track and progress has stalled.

AI, or artificial general intelligence, has moved from the margins of discussions in previous years to the center of the debate this year, he noted.

Four years ago, AI was raised in this hall by only five delegations. This year, 128 delegations addressed it, more than the number that spoke on climate change and human rights, he said.

More leaders recognized the extraordinary potential of AI to transform public services, accelerate scientific discovery, advance sustainable development and expand access to knowledge, while pointing out risks arising from it.

Many framed AI as a question of governance, he said.

"AI governance must be human-centered, inclusive and attentive to the needs of developing countries. It must prevent a new divide," he said.

World leaders also spoke clearly about reforming the United Nations.

Reform is not an exercise in rearranging structures or reducing budgets.

Its measure is whether this

organization delivers better, faster and more fairly for the people it serves, said Rahman.

On the selection of the next secretary-general, member states called for a process that is transparent, inclusive and merit-based.

The selection process must strengthen, not diminish the legitimacy, independence and moral authority of the office of the UN secretary-general, he said.

Restoring trust, a theme of this year's debate, resonated widely in speeches, said Rahman.

"Trust cannot be commanded. It must be earned through consistency between words and deeds, equal application of international law, fulfillment of commitments, genuine representation, transparency, accountability, and results," he said.

"Restoring trust, therefore, means making our institutions worthy of that trust. Meaningful, and often painful, reforms need to underpin efforts to rebuild trust."

This year's General Assembly high-level week again saw the weaponization of visas by the United States, which abused its status as the host country.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was unable to travel to New York for a second consecutive year after the United States imposed a visa ban on Palestinian officials.

Addressing world leaders via prerecorded video, Abbas said: "We reject these unlawful punitive measures. And we reject the accusations and justifications on which they were based."

The Palestinian people and leadership should not be punished for demanding an end to the occupation or for turning to the United Nations, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, said Abbas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke Thursday morning in the same session after Abbas.

Netanyahu's presence triggered a mass exodus from the General Assembly Hall as scores of delegates walked out in protest.

Netanyahu was booed as the Israeli delegation sat in the hall, while supporters in the gallery cheered him on.

The theme of this year's General Debate was "Restoring trust, managing transformation: a United Nations that delivers for all."

During the high-level week, meetings were also held on sustainable development, climate action, sea-level rise, pandemic prevention and response, among other issues.



Netanyahu secretly visits UAE as tensions rise across Middle East

International Desk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a secret weekend trip to the United Arab Emirates to meet President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with the talks reportedly focusing on claims that the Emirati leader had warned Netanyahu of a possible Hamas attack before the Oct. 7, 2023, assault on southern Israel.

Two people briefed on the visit confirmed Monday that Netanyahu and Sheikh Mohamed met for about an hour on Sunday.

The meeting was first reported by Israel's Channel 12 television.

One of the sources said Netanyahu asked Sheikh Mohamed to reject a recent report by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz alleging that the Emirati leader had cautioned him about an impending Hamas attack shortly before Oct. 7, 2023.

A source with firsthand knowledge of the meeting and a regional official briefed on the talks spoke on condition of anonymity because the visit was not publicly announced.

Netanyahu's office had previously denied the Haaretz report and did not immediately comment on the meeting.

Israel's Shin Bet security service filed a complaint with the country's chief military censor against Channel 12, accusing it of a serious breach of censorship rules.

The agency said the report's timing endangered the prime minister, military personnel and operations.

The UAE Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the reports but said it maintains "open and direct lines of communication" with Israel and shares relevant intelligence.

The UAE's state-run WAM news agency later confirmed Netanyahu's visit, saying the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Monday that the European Union is seeking observer status in a Saudi-led maritime security coalition aimed at protecting the kingdom's energy exports.

Kallas said the EU also wants to expand its naval mission in the Red Sea, known as ASPIDES, to help escort commercial vessels through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and protect shipping from attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

She said the need for additional ships "is bigger than it's ever been," as the EU faces pressure over energy supplies amid the war in Iran.

In Iran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei praised Iranian forces for what he described as preventing "enemy forces" from freely operating in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a message broadcast Monday, Khamenei said Iran's adversaries no longer approach the strategic waterway from closer than the Arabian Sea.

He made the remarks marking the second anniversary of the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon.

Khamenei has not appeared publicly since the initial attacks of the war on Feb. 28, which killed his father and predecessor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In Yemen, the Houthi-run Health Ministry said a strike by Saudi-backed forces on a residence in Taiz province killed three women and an elderly man and injured three others.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim.

The World Health Organization said Sunday that it had recorded 164 deaths and 645 injuries in Yemen between Sept. 19 and Sept. 26.

Since Aug. 6, the conflict has killed 838 people and injured 3,643 others, while more than 180,000 people have been displaced.

In Gaza, an Israeli strike on a rooftop in Gaza City killed a woman and injured her husband and another person, according to officials at Shifa Hospital.

The Israeli military said it was aware of the strike and was investigating.

A separate Israeli strike on a school in the Nuseirat refugee camp later Monday critically injured one person, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital.

The Israeli military said it had targeted a "military operative" but gave no further details.

Gaza's Health Ministry said more than 1,400 Palestinians have been killed since a ceasefire took effect nearly a year ago, with women and children accounting for about half of the deaths.

International organizations regard the ministry's records as generally reliable.

Meanwhile, Iran and the UAE renewed a dispute over the ownership of three Gulf islands — Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb during the closing hours of the U.N. General Assembly.

The islands were seized by Iran in 1971 from territory that later became part of the UAE and are located near the Strait of Hormuz.

UAE Minister of State Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar accused Iran of occupying the islands in a speech earlier in the day.

Later, Nasser Asadi of Iran's U.N. mission rejected the criticism, saying Tehran maintains full sovereignty over the islands.

Five men arrested near US air base in UK released on bail

International Desk

Five young British men arrested near a US-operated air base in England have been released on bail as UK counterterrorism police investigate possible links to Iran, Russia or non-state militant groups.

The men, all British nationals from London and in their 20s, were arrested early Sunday near RAF Fairford after three vans were spotted in the surrounding countryside.

They were initially detained on suspicion of explosives offences and later arrested on suspicion of preparing an act of terrorism.

Police said they remain under investigation and face strict bail conditions.

The national news agency PA



reported that no viable explosives had been found.

Counter Terrorism Policing chief Laurence Taylor said investigators were pursuing several lines of inquiry, including whether the suspects were acting knowingly or unknowingly on behalf of a foreign state.

Iran denied any involvement, with its embassy in London rejecting what it called "unfounded and malicious" speculation.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the incident "clearly involves the hands of a foreign actor" but did not identify a country.

Residents of 85 homes near Whelford were evacuated while bomb-disposal experts examined the vans.

They were allowed to return Monday, although a police cordon remained.

The arrests come amid heightened UK concerns over alleged Iranian and Russian proxy activity.

RAF Fairford has been used by US bombers during military operations in the Middle East, including the recent conflict involving Iran.

News organizations ask court to halt White House access ban until case is resolved

International Desk

Three news organizations barred from the White House grounds asked a federal court Monday to stop the Trump administration from enforcing the ban while their lawsuit is pending, saying officials have continued to apply the restrictions inconsistently despite a judge's temporary order.

Lawyers for CNN, MS NOW and Politico said the White House continued restricting access, including preventing CNN from carrying out its scheduled role in the White House television news pool over the weekend.

In a 42-page filing, the lawyers said the administration could restore the full ban on the three outlets if the court does not intervene.

They argued that the restrictions violate First Amendment protections and could cause lasting harm to the news organizations and the public.

The outlets also called Trump's action a violation of press freedom and due process.

Theodore J. Bortous Jr., lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said the administration's actions showed that the ban was aimed at punishing coverage the president dislikes.

The filing came a day after Attorney General Todd Blanche defended the administration's position that Trump was justified in restricting the outlets.

Speaking to ABC, Blanche said access to the White House was a privilege rather than a right.

The dispute has increasingly centered on the White House television pool, made up of CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox News.

After CNN was removed from the rotation, the other networks declined to provide replacement coverage in solidarity.

CNN was allowed to cover Trump's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the National Archives on Friday.

However, the White House barred CNN from Air Force One on Saturday, preventing the network from covering Trump's trip to a college football game in Tennessee.

Blanche defended the decision, saying the president has the right to determine who flies on his plane.

He also accused some media outlets of failing to report accurate information and said misinformation could create a national security concern.

U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly questioned that argument in a ruling last week that temporarily blocked the White House

ban.

Kelly said he was skeptical that national security was the actual reason for removing the outlets' access.

The ruling did not specifically address the television pool rotation, although Bortous has argued that it covers pool access as well.

The five networks are now handling the dispute on a case-by-



case basis, according to a person familiar with the pool's operation who spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions are ongoing.

Fox covered a pool event Sunday, while NBC covered Trump in the Oval Office Monday.

CNN is not scheduled for pool duty again until at least Thursday.

If CNN is again barred from an assignment, the networks are expected to decide jointly whether to provide replacement coverage or suspend coverage, depending on the importance of the event.

Legal experts said the networks face difficult choices between defending press access and continuing to provide news to their audiences.

David A. Schulz, director of Yale Law School's Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic, said there were few easy options for the networks.

RonNell Andersen Jones, a law professor at the University of Utah, said refusing to cover major government events could also raise concerns about the media's responsibility to inform the public.

The Trump administration has shown no clear sign of changing its position.

"When it comes to the White House, it is the people's house," Blanche said. "It is a privilege, and not a right, to be there."



The Paradise box office day 5: Nani's film earns Rs 5 crore on Monday

Entertainment Desk

Nani's much-anticipated film The Paradise has struggled to maintain the strong momentum it showed on its opening day. After a promising start, the film's earnings have declined over the following days, with its India net collection reaching Rs 97.10 crore after five days. Day 5 box office According to Sacnilk, The Paradise earned an estimated Rs 5 crore net in India on its fifth day from 5,804 shows. With this addition, the film's total India gross collection stands at Rs 114.85 crore, while its net collection has reached Rs 97.10 crore. The film also earned Rs 0.75 crore from overseas markets on Day 5, taking its total overseas gross collection to Rs 30 crore. As a result, The Paradise has earned Rs 144.85 crore worldwide in gross collections so far. The Paradise review Reviewing the film for NDTV, critic Saibal Chatterjee described The Paradise as a

missed opportunity, particularly for director Srikanth Odela, whose debut film Dasara had received strong attention. Chatterjee noted that Nani delivers highly intense performances in parts of the film and praised the movie for staying connected to its setting. However, he said the film's different elements feel scattered and uneven. The critic also pointed to the film's heavy use of graphic violence, saying the action sequences repeatedly attempt to become more extreme than those before them. About The Paradise The Paradise reunites Nani and director Srikanth Odela after their 2023 film Dasara. Produced by SLV Cinemas, the movie also stars Mohan Babu, Kayadu Lohar, Sonali Kulkarni and Raghav Juyal. Set in 1980s Secunderabad, the film follows Jadal, played by Nani, as he challenges social discrimination and a system that has denied basic rights to his community. The movie blends period drama with action and explores themes of inequality, resistance and social injustice.



Sajek Valley marks World Tourism Day for first time

Entertainment Desk

World Tourism Day as has been celebrated in Sajek Valley in Rangamati for the first time with a colorful procession, cultural performances and activities highlighting the destination's natural beauty and the heritage of its local communities. The Rangamati Parbatya District Council organised the programme under the supervision of the Cottage and Resort Owners Association of Sajek, with support from the Bangladesh Tourism Board and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation on Sunday, said a press release. The day began with a road show from Rangamati to Sajek. After an inauguration marked by a balloon release, participants joined a procession from Sajek Entry Point to Zero Point, where members of local communities displayed their traditional attire. The programme also featured a cleanliness campaign, tree planting, a photogra-

phy exhibition and the inauguration of a traditional food court. The Cottage and Resort Owners Association of Sajek launched its official website. Rangamati Parbatya District Council Chairman Dipan Talukder Dipu attended the programme as chief guest. Baghaihat Zone Commander Lt Col Md Tarekul Imran, Rangamati Zilla BNP General Secretary and district council member Advocate Mohammad Mamunur Rashid, and district council member in charge of tourism Shwashata Chakma were among the special guests. District council member and Cottage and Resort Owners Association of Sajek President Suparna Deb Barman presided over the programme. In the afternoon, artists from the Lusai, Tripura, Chakma and Marma communities performed at the Sajek Helipad premises. Invited Manipuri artists also presented a traditional dance accompanied by the mridang

Keya Payel makes web film debut with Arifin Shuvoo

Entertainment Desk

On July 15, Keya Payel caused quite a stir on social media when she posted "Happily Married" on her verified Facebook page alongside a photograph with actor Arifin Shuvoo. The post initially led many to wonder whether the actress had actually tied the knot. It was, however, the announcement of her first web film, Chorki Original "Happily Married". Directed by Jahid Preetom, the Ministry of Love film is produced by Chorki and co-produced by Chabial. It is scheduled to premiere on Chorki on October 8. With the release approaching, the project has once again drawn attention online. While viewers have expressed their anticipation for the film, some have jokingly asked when Payel herself plans to become "happily married". "I believe in fate. So, let's

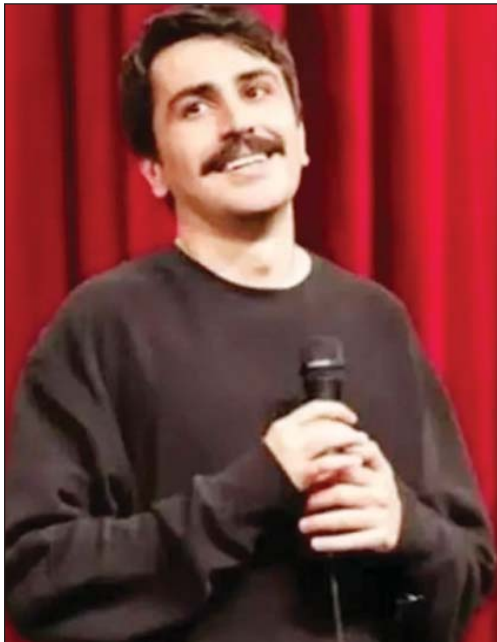


see when it happens. It will happen when it is written in my fate, and everyone will know about it. But for some reason, I feel it will happen quite suddenly," she said. For now, however, the actress is more focused on work. Alongside television dramas, she has been busy with endorsements and fashion runway appearances. She is also set to travel abroad in early October and is currently completing her prior commitments before leaving. She expects to return towards the end of the month. Having seen Payel across different mediums, many of her fans have also been waiting for her transition to films. The actress said she has received numerous offers over the years, particularly for web films, but had been waiting for a project that would present her differently from.

Turkish comedian sentenced to 19 months for insulting Erdogan

Entertainment Desk

A Turkish court on Monday sentenced comedian Deniz Goktas to more than 19 months in prison for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and religious values, but released him pending an appeal. Goktas, 32, had been in custody since July 3 after videos of his comedy routine circulated online. In the performance, he referred to Erdogan as a "dictator." The court convicted him of insulting the president and religious values, handing him a combined sentence of 19 months and 10 days. During his defense, which prompted laughter in the Istanbul courtroom, Goktas said he stood by a joke in which he described Erdogan as having developed from a "shy dictator" into one who was "confident in his identity." He argued that political satire had previously been tolerated in Turkey and that laws concerning insults had not changed. "What has changed? Fragile leaders who can't handle jokes or criticism," he said, according to remarks published by Birgun and other opposition-supporting media outlets. Goktas also said none of his jokes had led to



complaints until excerpts were taken out of context and shared on social media.

His comedy show, "Dead Sea," was recorded in Istanbul in June and received more than 9.5 million views after being uploaded to YouTube. The court was told that 185 complaints had been filed through a reporting system operated by Erdogan's office. Goktas was arrested after returning from a vacation and held at Karatepe high-security prison in Tekirdag province, west of Istanbul. Erdogan has been in power for more than two decades, during which critics say restrictions on freedom of expression have increased. Journalists and government critics regularly face investigations, detention and prosecution. Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, Erdogan's main political rival, has been imprisoned since March last year and is facing trial on corruption charges. Hundreds of mayors and other officials from Turkey's main opposition party are also facing corruption prosecutions. The party's leader was removed by a court order, moves critics describe as attempts to weaken the opposition ahead of the next elections. The Erdogan government maintains that Turkish courts operate independently and without political interference.

Kriti Sanon shines Daughter's Day spotlight on women's everyday fears

Entertainment Desk

"Imagine your daughter calling you saying, 'I think I'm being followed by some men.' Imagine her walking home alone at night, constantly looking over her shoulder. Imagine her phone dying before she reaches home." Indian actor Kriti Sanon used those words in a Daughter's Day post highlighting the everyday fears and precautions many women live with, NDTV reports. Sharing her thoughts on social media, Kriti asked people to imagine a daughter calling home because she feels she is being followed, walking alone at night or finding herself without a working phone before reaching home. She also pointed to the precautions women often build into their daily routines -- sharing live locations with family or friends, carrying pepper spray, booking a cab instead of walking and staying on a phone call while travelling. According to Kriti, such measures have become so routine that they are often treated as a normal part of being a woman. "The day a daughter can walk home alone at night, sit in a park after dark, wear whatever the hell she wants, take public transport without fear, or simply exist in a public space without calculating the risk of being assaulted... That is the day we should celebrate Daughter's Day," she wrote. Kriti also reflected on a phrase familiar to many families -- a daughter calling home to say she has arrived safely. "To every daughter who has ever called home and said, 'I've reached'. May you one day live in a world where you don't have to... That is the world our daughters deserve! And that is the world we owe them!" she concluded. Her post comes amid continuing conversations about women's safety and the freedom to move through public spaces without fear.



Lisa on life beyond Blackpink

Entertainment Desk

Years before K-pop girl group Blackpink was shattering streaming records and headlining Coachella, 14-year-old Lalisa Manobal (known mononymously as Lisa) was flying from Thailand to Korea, alone, to chase her dream of performing onstage. The now 29-year-old rose to fame as a member of the group, but a new documentary, "Always Lalisa," in cinemas Oct 12, captures the year she stepped away from Blackpink to try new projects -- including making her acting debut on the latest season of "The White Lotus" -- for the first time since that flight to Korea 15 years ago. Speaking with Reuters in Toronto after the film's world premiere, Lisa dis-

cusses how she forged her own path in the industry, what's changed since her year-long break and whom she always invites to watch her perform. The following conversation has been edited and condensed for clarity. This documentary focuses on one year of your life, in which you took a step back from Blackpink to try new things. Was one year long enough? I thought it was long enough. We ended up squeezing everything in one year. It was a lot, but it was fun. I tried my best to take a little break for myself and just be with my family. During "The White Lotus," I got to spend six months (in Thailand). Of course, I was back and forth doing music in LA, but it's always nice to be close to your family.

Madonna dominates 2026 MTV VMAs with seven wins

Entertainment Desk

Madonna emerged as the biggest winner at the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards, taking home seven trophies at the ceremony held Monday (IST) at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. The legendary singer, who led this year's nominations with 13 nods, won Artist of the Year, Best Collaboration for Bring Your Love with Sabrina Carpenter, Best Dance, Best Choreography, Best Long Form Video and Best Album, all for Confessions II -- The Film except the collaboration award. Madonna, however, missed out on the night's biggest prize, with Taylor Swift winning Video of the Year for The Fate of Ophelia. Swift, who was second among the leading nominees with 11 nods, also won Best Direction for Opalite. She was also honoured with the inaugural MTV VMA Artist Director Honors, recognising her work as both an artist and director of her music videos.

'Roid' to represent Bangladesh in 99th Oscars

Entertainment Desk

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon's film "Roid" has been selected as Bangladesh's official submission in the International Feature Film category of the 99th Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars. The announcement was made at "Meet the Press", held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, on Sunday morning, UNB reports. Dr Mohammad Zahurul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) and chairman of the Oscar Bangladesh Committee, announced the name of the selected film. A total of five films were submitted for consideration within the September 16 deadline set for Bangladesh's participation in the 99th Academy Awards. The submitted films were Redoan Rony's "Domm", "Roid", Nurul Alam Atique's "Manusher Bagan", Mohammad Tawqeer Islam's "Delupi" and Monirul Akash Haque's "The University of Chankharpool". "Manusher Bagan" later voluntarily withdrew from the



competition, leaving four films in contention. Following an extensive review, the six-member Oscar Bangladesh Committee unanimously selected "Roid" as Bangladesh's official submission in the International Feature Film category. Sajjad Sharif, Shaheen Dil-Riaz, Rashed Zaman, Syed Shahzada Al Karim and Shahreen Akter Sumi str serving as members of the committee. The BFFS congratulated the film's director, producer, cast and crew on the selection and expressed hope that it will represent Bangladesh's film industry and cultural identity on the international stage.



Manchester City's Premier League charges: What comes next?



Sports Desk

Manchester City's fate in a legal battle with the Premier League is yet to be sealed, but reports they have been found guilty on wide-spread financial misconduct has sparked speculation of what comes next.

The dominant Premier League force for more than a decade, swinging sanctions against City would send shockwaves through English football.

Rival clubs are set to launch their own legal action seeking hundreds of millions of pounds in compensation, while there is debate over whether some of City's many titles and trophies over the past 15 years could be stripped.

AFP Sports looks at the next steps and potential fall out from the case:

Sanction and appeals process

The Athletic first reported on Friday that City had been found guilty of all but one of the 115 charges they faced.

However, no sanction has yet been approved. Even once a decision is made on how City will be punished, should they be found guilty, the club are almost certain to appeal.

In a letter to City fans on Saturday, the club's chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said: "Our confidence and intent in proving the club's innocence is just as strong as when this began."

A case that began after German outlet Der Spiegel published leaked documents from City executives in 2018, could still take a lengthy time to fully resolve.

According to Premier League rules, the sanction can vary from a points deduction, a fine or even expulsion from the division.

Everton and Nottingham Forest were handed points deductions in the 2023/24 season for single breaches of financial sustainability rules. On that basis, City would face almost certain relegation if found guilty of over 100 charges. Whether the sanction is applied before an appeal is heard will be another bone of contention. If it is, City could face relegation before overturning any guilty verdict.

On the other hand, if City, who currently sit top of

the table, are not punished until after an appeal, it could cost other clubs their place in the top-flight or lucrative European qualification.

Even after the Premier League process if over, there is also the chance that City's Abu Dhabi backed owners seek redress in England's High Court if they challenge a legal issue regarding how the arbitration process was conducted. Who stands to gain?

City's rivals were quick to revel in the news of their potential demise.

"Another Premier League medal to be added to the cabinet," posted former Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand, who was part of the United team to finish second to City in the 2011/12 season.

The reality is that stripping and retroactively awarding titles is a messy process.

City's charges relate to the period between 2009 and 2018. In that time they won four league titles, with United and Liverpool twice finishing second in those seasons.

Yet City have won another four since, arguably built on foundations that were fraudulently gained.

They also won four League Cups and one FA Cup, the club's first trophy for 35 years, in the period between 2009 and 2018.

"I don't seriously believe any other trophies and titles will be handed back over either," Tony Pulis, whose Stoke side lost the 2011 FA Cup final to City, told the BBC.

"A points deduction and a massive fine feels far more likely. But I still feel cheated."

A more likely source of recompense for clubs that missed out is through financial compensation.

In June, Everton were told they must pay Burnley £35 million (\$46 million) after they edged out the Claret's to Premier League survival in the same season they broke financial sustainability rules.

What about City's stars?

Less than a month ago, City completed the biggest ever transfer spend in one window, splashing out around £460 million on the likes of Enzo Fernandez, Elliott Anderson and Ayyoub Bouaddi.

The impending verdict on the charges has to this point made little impact on City's ability to attract and retain their star names.

Talismanic striker Erling Haaland signed a nine-year contract in 2025 that could keep him tied down till his 34th birthday.

How many, if any, of the players managed to negotiate exit clauses in the case City were heavily sanctioned remains to be seen.

Women's hockey development programme concludes in Bandarban

Sports Desk

The first phase of the 'BRAC Bank Aparajeyo Alo Women's Hockey Development Programme-2026', aimed at promoting women's hockey and nurturing grassroots talent in the hill districts, concluded in Bandarban yesterday (Tuesday).

Organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) and sponsored by BRAC Bank PLC, the closing ceremony was held at a local school auditorium.

BHF Women's Wing chairman Group Captain Refatul Islam attended the programme as the chief guest while BRAC Bank Bandarban branch Relationship Officer and SME Unit-in-Charge Anup Mahajan and BHF Women's Wing secretary Tariquzzaman Nannu were present, among others.

The first phase of the programme covers eight districts, including the three hill districts of Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

During the Bandarban camp, young female players received intensive training in the fundamentals of hockey, rules of the game and technical skills.

Speakers at the closing ceremony appreciated the initiative to promote women's hockey at the grassroots level and expressed hope that talented players from remote areas would eventually contribute to strengthening the national women's hockey team.

The guests later distributed gifts among the participants who successfully completed the training programme.

Italy rebound in Turkey as France win late in Belgium

Sports Desk

Italy crushed Turkey 4-1 in the Bursa rain to drag themselves into contention in Nations League Group A1, as leaders France struck late to win 1-0 in Belgium on Monday.

In Brussels, both teams had wasted chances before Michael Olise scampered through the home defence after 88 minutes and drilled a shot inside the post.

"He is a pure talent and he loves to just play. You can see it. He feels the game. I am pleased to be at his side," France coach Zinedine Zidane told broadcaster TF1.

Olise's goal gave Zidane a second victory to start his long-awaited debut as France coach.

Roberto Mancini's return to run Italy had ended in Roman jeers on Friday as Italy lost their opener at home to Belgium.

His team dazzled in the downpour in the first half in Turkey.

"The players all put in an excellent performance yesterday. It was a tough match and we approached it in the right way, staying high up the pitch and playing aggressively throughout the game," Mancini told Italian television at the final whistle.

The hosts quickly slid three goals behind with errors in their muddy goalmouth.

Twice Altay Bayindir struggled to reach low cross-shots from the right. After nine minutes, the Celta Vigo goalkeeper scooped a drive from Pio Esposito round the post.

From the corner, Bursa-born fullback Zeki Celik, who plays for Juventus in Italy, swung wildly at a low near-post cross deflecting the ball to Alessandro Bastoni.

The Inter Milan centre back lunged to fire into the roof of the net.

After 23 minutes, Bayindir flapped an identical cross-shot from Michael Kayode into the path of Lazio's Davide Frattesi, who tucked the ball home.

Intricate Italian passing around the penalty area repeatedly found a player free on the right of box.

- 'To my grandmother' -

When Brentford's Kayode again ran into that space, his shot for the near post eluded the plunging Bayindir.

Turkey gave the restless crowd hope in the 47th minute when Gianluigi Donnarumma was drawn to Oguz Aydin beyond the far post.

He found Baris Yilmaz who gleefully drilled into an empty net.

The comeback lasted five minutes.

Tottenham's Sandro Tonali, in space, hit the post but Pio Esposito dived to nod home the rebound.



After the game the Inter Milan striker's thoughts turned to family.

"I dedicate yesterday's goal to my grandmother, who is going through a difficult time," said Pio Esposito who was playing alongside older brother Sebastiano of Sassuolo who was making his Italy debut.

"Sharing the pitch with him was incredibly moving; I tried to support him before the match without putting too much pressure on him. Let's hope we get to wear these colours together many more times."

Galatasaray attacker Yilmaz then curled a shot home but Aydin of Besiktas, bouncing up and down in front of Man City's Donnarumma, was offside.

Monday's slick display may ease the pressure on Mancini, while piling it on his former Sampdoria club-mate and fellow ex-Italian international Vincenzo Montella.

Montella led Turkey to the quarter finals at Euro 2024 but his side finished bottom of their group at the summer's World Cup.

- 'Fresh and ready' -

For their next match Italy visit the Stade de France on Friday.

"We'll try to recover our strength and be ready for the match in Paris," Mancini told Italian media.

"I'm confident. We've got plenty of young players who are fresh and ready."

Zidane, who was without injured captain Kylian Mbappe, made nine changes from his opening win over Turkey, was thinking along the same lines.

"We need a rest now. We have done a lot of travelling and not much training or resting," said Zidane, adding he was happy with his team.

"We were really good in every department. Against a really good Belgium side who made us suffer we held out, we played really well, and we were brave."

Infantino ready to increase funding for all 211 members

Sports Desk

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has opened the door to substantial increases in funding for the world governing body's 211 members, with the FIFA Council set to consider additional payments at its meeting on October 15.

In a letter sent to the presidents of FIFA's six continental confederations on Monday, and seen by Agence France-Presse, Infantino said he would support "the greatest level of additional funding that can responsibly be delivered", but cautioned that no figure currently under discussion represented an approved commitment.

Infantino said the abandoned proposal to sell a slice of the World Cup commercial rights that brought calls for his resignation had been intended to generate additional money for football.

"The recent commercial proposal, now withdrawn, was intended to enable FIFA to invest more in football," Infantino wrote.



On September 18, two of Infantino's critics, European football chief Aleksander Ceferin and his counterpart at the North and Central American and Caribbean body, Victor Montagliani, said each of FIFA's member associations) should receive \$10 million in the four years between 2027-2030.

Infantino responded by suggesting he would match any other offers.

"I will support the greatest level of additional funding that can responsibly be delivered through FIFA's proper governance process," he said.

FIFA confirmed in early September that Infantino will stand for president in an election next March, despite the backlash over his now-abandoned plan to bring private investment into the men's and women's World Cups.

Infantino is not without friends -- 2034 World Cup hosts Saudi Arabia came out in support last month, with African football's governing body CAF and South America's CONMEBOL also supportive.

Batista sacked as Costa Rica coach after six months

Sports Desk

Costa Rica's head coach Fernando "Bocha" Batista was dismissed Monday following the team's disastrous start to the CONCACAF Nations League, the country's football federation announced.

Argentine manager Batista was removed along with his staff just six months after taking the job following losses to Curacao and Haiti in the tournament's first two rounds.

He will be replaced on an interim basis by former Costa Rica player Bryan Ruiz.

Costa Rica reached the quarter-finals of the 2014 World Cup, advancing from a group containing Italy, England and Uruguay, but have suffered a slump in recent years.

The Central American nation failed to escape the group stage in the following two editions, and did not qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

Last Thursday, Costa Rica lost 4-3 at home to Curacao despite leading 3-0 at half-time. Three days later they lost 2-0 to Haiti.



Bangladesh move to semi-final after rain ruins match against Malaysia

Sports Desk

Bangladesh secured a spot in the men's cricket semi-finals of the 2026 Asian Games after heavy rain washed out their quarterfinal against Malaysia without a ball being bowled yesterday.

The match was abandoned before the toss as persistent rain continued to disrupt the cricket schedule at Korogi Sports Park in Nagoya, Japan.

Bangladesh secured their place in the last four based on their higher T20I ranking, while Malaysia eliminated under the tournament's rules for rain-affected matches.

All four men's cricket quarterfinals were abandoned because of rain, with no play possible in the Bangladesh-Malaysia and Sri Lanka-Nepal matches yesterday.

Bangladesh, led by Liton Das, will face Pakistan in the semifinal on October 1. India will meet Sri Lanka in the other semifinal on the same day.

The weather could again play a decisive role. If the Bangladesh-Pakistan semifinal is abandoned without play, Pakistan would advance to the final because of its higher ranking.

The repeated washouts have raised concerns over the possibility of further disruption to the Asian Games cricket schedule.

Ruthless An makes history to retain Asian Games badminton crown

Sports Desk

South Korea's badminton world number one An Se-young became the first woman to win two Asian Games singles titles after dominating Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-9 in Tuesday's final.

The reigning Olympic and world champion, who has not lost a match since March, gave another ruthless display in Nagoya to defend the Asian Games title she won three years ago in Hangzhou.

It was the 24-year-old's eighth title of an incredible 2026.

Of those she didn't win, she finished runner-up at the All-England Open and pulled out injured from the Japan Open.

She won her second world title in August in New Delhi.

Backed by pockets of vocal Korean fans in the arena, An made a slow start but battled back and took control of the first game.

She sent Yamaguchi sprawling with one smash to the line, before clinching the first game with a backhand flick at the net.

An kept up her assault in the second game, building a big lead to make her latest title look inevitable.



It arrived when Yamaguchi hit a serve return long, and An celebrated by dropping to her knees and letting out a primal scream.

An had already beaten Yamaguchi this week in the women's team event.

The world number one has been in feisty form at the Asian Games, apologising after her frustration threatened to boil over in an earlier match.

She also had stern words for her watching father, saying: "I am out there running myself into the ground and he is just cheering away in comfort."

Fellow South Koreans Lee So-hee and Baek Ha-na won the women's double gold after a marathon 26-28, 21-18, 21-18 win over China's Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning.

The match was poised at 18-each in the final game when Liu went down with an ankle injury.

She managed to continue but the Korean pair took advantage to close out the match.

China's Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin won the mixed doubles final, beating Indonesia's Amri Syahnawi and Nita Violina Marwah 21-19, 21-8.

Franchises finalize coaching panel for D3 trophy

Sports Desk

The six franchises of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) newly-introduced Domestic Three (D3) Trophy have finalized their coaching panels yesterday by appointing a group of experienced former national cricketers and established domestic coaches.

The D3 Trophy is a new domestic competition that combines three formats-- four-day first-class cricket, 50-over cricket and T20- under the same franchise.

The initiative is aimed at giving domestic cricket a more integrated and professional structure.

Sohel Islam has been appointed head coach of H Bluestar while former national team captain Rajin Saleh will take charge of ACME.

Mizanur Rahman Babul will serve as head coach of Citizens Bank. Experienced coach Mohammad Salahuddin, however, takes charge of the Fortune.

Former national pacer Talha Zubair has been named head coach of Seven Rings Cement while former Bangladesh spinner Abdur Razzak will lead Walton.

The franchises have also completed their support staff with



former national cricketers and familiar figures from the domestic circuit joining as assistant coaches.

Walton's coaching panel includes Tushar Imran and Dollar Mahmud. Seven Rings Cement have brought in Hannan Sarkar and Humayun Kabir Shahin.

Former Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful and Abdul Quayyum Jewel will work as assistant coaches at Fortune. H Bluestar have appointed Salauddin Ahmed Ujjal and Ashiq Majumder.

Nazmul Hossain and Mohammad Selim will serve as assistant coaches for Citizens Bank while ACME have named Tarek Aziz Khan and Faisal Hossain Dickens in the same roles.

The appointments were completed following the franchise finalization and icon-player draft, with the teams subsequently selecting their support staff through a management draft.

The D3 Trophy brings together competitions that were previously organised separately, including the four-day and 50-over editions of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) and the T20 competition of the National Cricket League (NCL).

The BCB has also entered into three- year agreements with the participating corporate franchises as part of the new structure.



UNO Naima Khan's field activities in Tanore

On-site monitoring in development and citizen services

Md. Sohel Rana (Rajshahi) Correspondent

In Tanore of the district, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Naima Khan has taken various initiatives to bring momentum to the activities of the upazila administration through field-level supervision and simplification of citizen services. Since taking charge, besides administrative activities, she has been working directly at the field level on development projects, social safety net programs, education, prevention of child marriage and drugs, and law and order situation. Its impact is also visible in the Upazila Parishad premises. Flower gardens, clean and serene environment have created a relatively comfortable environment for service recipients. Locals claim that coming to the upazila administration



office, ordinary people are getting the opportunity to directly contact the concerned officials and get necessary services. Since taking charge as Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Naima Khan has been giving importance to direct supervision of field administration activities. Initiatives have been taken to increase coordination among concerned departments on simplification of citizen services, monitoring progress of development projects, social safety net programs, educational activities, prevention of child marriage and drugs, and law and order situation. According to upazila administration sources, along with office-centric activities, on-site field inspection is also being given importance. To know the real situation of various government projects and service activities, concerned areas are being visited, views are being exchanged with beneficiaries, and necessary instructions are being given in coordination with officials. Initiatives have been taken to directly listen to citizens who come to the upazila administration with various problems and complaints. Necessary instructions have been given to concerned officials so that common people can easily get necessary information in receiving government services and are not harassed. Identifying so many problems of local people, initiatives are being taken to solve them through public hearings and direct communication through concerned departments. These activities are being given importance in making administrative services easier, more transparent and accountable.

UNO Naima Khan is monitoring on-site the implementation situation of various development projects of the upazila. Regular inquiries are being made about progress and quality of work of various development works including rural roads, infrastructure, educational institutions.

Along with supervising whether prescribed policies and standards are being followed in implementation of development projects, coordination is being done with officials of concerned implementing agencies. If any problem or irregularity information is found, importance is also being given to bringing it to the notice of concerned authorities. Besides, as Tanore Municipal Administrator, she is also inspecting various development works of the municipality on-site. Supervision is also being done by the upazila administration to ensure government

benefits for the elderly, widows and other allowance recipients of the upazila. Coordination is being done with concerned parties regarding preparation of list of actual beneficiaries and maintaining transparency in distribution of government assistance.

In natural disasters or emergency situations, importance is being given to preparation and coordination activities of upazila administration in quickly delivering government assistance to affected people. In addition to regular activities of the administration to prevent child marriage in the upazila, awareness initiatives are being taken; when news of child marriage is received, importance is being given to taking immediate necessary measures in coordination with local administration, public representatives and concerned parties. In case of violation of law, besides taking action through mobile courts according to prevailing law, initiatives are also being taken to create awareness at family and local level.

The upazila administration is working in coordination with police administration and other concerned departments to keep the law and order situation of the upazila normal. Importance is being given to taking action according to law by identifying various social and administrative problems including regular market monitoring, drugs, child marriage, encroachment of government property. There is also surveillance on keeping government canals, water bodies and lands free from illegal encroachment and taking necessary administrative steps to protect government property. Coordination with public representatives, government officials, teachers, local dignitaries and ordinary people is being given importance in field administration activities. Concerned people think that this communication is playing an effective role in bringing local level problems to the notice of administration quickly. Talking to local residents, it is learned that they are giving importance to the opportunity of direct communication in going to the upazila administration with various problems. However, there are also allegations that a section is sometimes running propaganda about various activities of UNO Naima Khan.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Naima Khan said, the main goal of performing government duty is to provide services to the people according to rules. Efforts are being made to work maintaining transparency, accountability and coordination in all activities of upazila administration. She said, listening to the problems of common people with importance, necessary measures will be taken according to rules. Upazila administration is working to deal with social problems along with citizen services and development activities in field administration. Local people expect that the benefits of government services should reach equally from the upazila headquarters to the people of remote areas. They hope that administrative activities will become more effective through field-level supervision of upazila administration, inter-departmental coordination and direct communication with citizens.

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Friendly Football Match and Reception to Meritorious Student on the Initiative of Titas Boys Club in Nabinagar

M Badal Khandaker (District Representative) Brahmanbaria

A friendly football match and reception to a meritorious student has been given on the initiative of Titas Boys Club in Konikara of Shibpur Union of Nabinagar Upazila of Brahmanbaria.

On Monday (September 28, 2026) in the afternoon, after giving a reception to Irene Akter, a student of Konikara High School, for achieving GPA Five in the SSC examination, a friendly football match was held in the area for the development of education and culture. In the friendly football match, the green team defeated the red team by 1 goal. At this time, a joyful atmosphere of harmony was created.

Conducted by Md. Abu Sayed, the chief guest present was Md. Ziaur Rahman, a meritorious son of Konikara village expatriate in America, and special guests present were Md. Haji Ayat Ali, Md. Ershad Mia, Md. Abu Siddique, Md. Shafiqur Rahman, Abu Islam, Nurul Amin, Md. Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, Md. Majed Bhuiyan, journalist Rumen Sarkar and other dignitaries of the area.

The guests present mentioned the development, social and cultural aspects of Konikara village and called for working for its improvement. In addition, they encouraged all-out efforts so that other students of the area can move forward like Irene Akter.

Shesh Dulur from the Ayodhya Dhalur Pahar area of Charbhadrason upazila, who had been lying in wait, wrapped a towel around the 13-year-old child's mouth and took her to his home, where he raped her throughout the night. The next morning, the child was found unconscious at the accused's house.

On the same day, the child's mother, Asia Begum, filed a case at Charbhadrason police station, and after all the evidence in the case, the Honourable Judge delivered this verdict yesterday.

The public prosecutor in the case, Advocate Golam Rabbani Bhuiya Ratan, stated that they are pleased with the verdict given by the Honourable Judge in the case. He believes that this will lead to a decrease in the number of rapes in the country.

All stakeholders must work together to develop Mitingachhari as an SDG village: Rangamati DC
Rangamati Correspondent

Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Nazma Ashrafi yesterday called for coordinated efforts by all concerned to develop Mitingachhari in Kaptai upazila as an 'SDG Village', as declared by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

"Everyone, including government agencies, must work together to achieve the noble objective behind declaring Mitingachhari an SDG Village," she said.

The deputy commissioner was speaking as the chief guest at a stakeholder consultation held at Mitingachhari SDG Village in Chandraghona union of Kaptai upazila this morning. The Kaptai upazila administration organised the meeting to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and development activities at the local level.

Kaptai Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Rayhanul Islam chaired the meeting titled "Role of Stakeholders in Localising the SDGs".



Truck Hits Auto-Rickshaw in Patgram, Death Toll Rises to 4

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

The death toll has risen to 4 after a truck hit a battery-powered auto-rickshaw in Burimari of Patgram Upazila in Lalmonirhat. At least seven others were injured in the incident.

The accident occurred on Monday (September 28) morning in the Ghunti area of Burimari Union on the Burimari-Lalmonirhat highway.

The deceased were identified as fish trader Nur Amin of Dangapara area of Burimari Union, fish trader Fatul Mia of Guriatari area, businessman Saiful Islam, and Omar Ali of Dharla Bridge area.

According to locals and police sources, a passenger auto-rickshaw was heading towards Patgram from Burimari Land Port. When it reached the Ghunti area, a truck heading towards Burimari Land Port from the opposite direction lost control due to a mechanical fault and initially hit the auto-rickshaw. In a moment, the truck entered a nearby shop and crushed the auto-rickshaw.

Two people were killed on the spot. When the injured were rescued and taken to Patgram Upazila Health Complex, another person died there. Later, several of the critically injured were taken to Rangpur Medical College (RMCH), where another person died. After receiving the news, members of Patgram Fire Service and local people rescued the injured. Among the injured, five people have been transferred to RMCH in critical condition. In addition, two people are undergoing treatment at Patgram Upazila Health Complex. Patgram Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Saiful Islam said that two people died at the scene, one at Patgram Upazila Health Complex and another at Rangpur Medical College Hospital in the incident. The bodies have been handed over to their relatives.

Workshop on ending child marriage concludes in Jamalpur
jamalpur Correspondent

A two-day-long workshop on preventing child marriage concluded at the training room of Unnayan Sangha, a non-government organisation (NGO) at Deurpar Chandra area in Jamalpur Sadar Upazila, yesterday afternoon.

Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE), an NGO, under the Joint auspices of the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) and UNFPA, arranged the workshop. In the workshop, the organiser said child marriage in Jamalpur district is higher than the national child marriage rate. They said journalists should work on the issue to find out its reasons and ways to decrease the local child marriage rate. They also stressed the need to cover news on female victims so that their social dignity is not harmed. Almost 30 reporters in the district attended the workshop. Deputy Director (in-charge), WDA, Kamrunnahar, Field Officer, UNFPA, Atahar Ali and Deputy Director, BACE, Kamrul Hassan Khandakar spoke at the concluding session.



Along with law enforcement, people from all walks of society must work unitedly against drugs: Bagerhat Upazila Executive Officer

Masum Howlader, Bagerhat,

The monthly law and order meeting of Bagerhat Sadar Upazila has been held. In the meeting, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Learned Executive Magistrate Ms. Shahnaz Parvin Bithi said,

The roots of drugs must be uprooted. Drugs do not only destroy a person, it is a big threat to a family, society and the state. Along with law enforcement, people from all walks of society must work unitedly against drugs. Especially to keep the young society away from drugs, family, educational institutions, religious institutions and social organizations have to play an important role.

The meeting was held on Tuesday (29 September) morning in the conference room of Sadar Upazila Parishad. Presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shahnaz

Parvin Bithi,

In the meeting, along with reviewing the overall law and order situation of the upazila, emphasis was given on freeing government canals from encroachment, and strengthening market monitoring of essential commodities. Shahnaz Parvin Bithi gave necessary instructions to the concerned officials for further improvement of the law and order situation. In the meeting, Abu Shahma, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate said that the government has fully digitalized land services, so that people can get direct service without any middleman.

He warned that criminals usually hide in society, it is difficult to identify them if common people are not active, and warned of strict suppression of any kind of extortion, snatching or harassment. At this time, Sadar Upazila Health and Family Planning

Drug Dealer Arrested with 110 Bottles of Foreign Liquor in Companiganj

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat (Sylhet)

A drug dealer has been arrested with 110 bottles of foreign liquor during an operation in Companiganj, Sylhet, by the Special Response Battalion (SRB)-9.

At around 8:35 pm on Monday (September 28), an SRB-9 team conducted a raid inside a wooden sawmill in the Tukur Bazar area of Islam Pur Union in Companiganj upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, the team conducted the operation. Sensing the presence of the law enforcement personnel, three individuals attempted to flee, but one of them was apprehended. Later, 110 bottles of foreign liquor were recovered from a plastic sack and cartons in the custody of the arrested individual.

The arrested person was identified as Md. Nazrul Islam (42), son of late Sainik Mia of Tukergaon area.

According to SRB-9, during interrogation, the arrested individual and the absconding suspects admitted that they had been collecting foreign liquor from border areas and keeping it in their possession for the purpose of selling it in collusion with one another.

Preparations are underway to file a case against the arrested person under the relevant sections of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018. The recovered liquor and the arrested individual have been handed over to Companiganj Police Station.

SRB-9 said that its intelligence activities and operations against drugs will continue.



Forest Department Imposes Strict Ban on Tourist Entry into Kaptai Reserved Forest; Warning Boards Erected

Staff Reporter

The Forest Department has taken stringent measures to ensure the security, natural environment, and biodiversity of the Kaptai Reserved Forest. A formal ban has been imposed on the entry of the general public into the entire reserved area to stop the unregulated movement and roaming of tourists inside the forest. Simultaneously, billboards and warning notices are being installed at key locations in Kaptai to alert tourists and locals alike. According to Forest Department sources, tourists often venture into the deep forest for trekking or adventure trips in remote hilly areas throughout the year, especially during the winter season. However, due to a lack of proper guidance and failure to follow safety regulations, visitors frequently encounter accidents. Several incidents of tourists getting lost in the deep hills of Kaptai have occurred recently. Most recently, on August 29, a group of tourists lost their way while exploring Sita Pahar and got trapped in the deep forest, leaving one person severely injured while attempting to trek down the hill. A team from the Kaptai Fire Service subsequently rescued



them safely after receiving a call via the national emergency service line, 999.

The Forest Department took this strict decision primarily to prevent untoward accidents, ensure tourist safety, and preserve wildlife and forest biodiversity. Mohammad Mithu Talukdar, Beat Officer of the Rampahar Beat under the Kaptai Forest Range, stated that these awareness measures are being taken to warn the public and prevent any unforeseen incidents. Permanent warning billboards stating "Entry of Tourists into the Reserved Forest is Strictly Prohibited" are being installed at main entry points and sensitive locations across the forest. The Forest Department has issued instructions advising all tourists not to violate rules by entering the reserved forest area. Authorities have also warned that administrative action will be taken against violators in accordance with forest laws.

Feni Cardiac Centre brings out rally, conducts health camp on World Heart Day

30% discount offered on all diagnostic tests

Staff Reporter

Feni Cardiac Centre brought out a colorful awareness rally and conducted a daylong free medical camp in the district on Monday (September 29) to observe World Heart Day with the theme "Don't miss a beat."

The rally was brought out at noon from the Feni Cardiac Hospital premises and paraded through the main thoroughfares of the town. Doctors, nurses, hospital officials, staff, and local residents spontaneously participated in the rally.

Highlighting the risks and prevention of heart diseases, the Managing Director of the hospital stated that the number of cardiac patients in the country is increasing at an alarming rate due to an unhealthy lifestyle, smoking, and the consumption of excessive salt and fatty foods. He noted that the initiative was taken to educate the public and raise health consciousness. To mark the day, the hospital authority announced major discounts and free medical services: 30% Discount on Tests: A 30% special discount was made applicable throughout the day for all cardiac-related pathological and diagnostic tests, including ECG, Echocardiogram, ETT, and Ultrasonogram. Free Services: Visiting patients received free blood pressure screening, diabetes tests, and consultations from specialist doctors throughout the day. Speaking at the event, Cardiology Specialist Dr. Md. Mofazzal Hoque Rayhan said, "To stay free from heart diseases, it is essential to walk at least 30 minutes every day, refrain from smoking, avoid adding extra salt to food, and keep mental stress under control."



Life imprisonment for a youth named Raju Sheikh for child rape in Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A youth named Raju Sheikh has been sentenced to life imprisonment for child rape in Faridpur. On Tuesday (29 September) afternoon, the Honourable Judge Md. Abul Bashar Mia of the district's Women and Child Abuse Prevention Tribunal delivered this verdict. At this time, the Honourable Judge also imposed a fine of two lakh taka on the accused, stating that failure to pay would result in an additional year in prison.

From the case details, it is known that on the evening of 1 March 2021, the victim's mother, Asia Begum, left the child alone at home for cooking purposes. When the child went outside to answer nature's call at night, Raju Sheikh, the son of

