

PM Tarique to visit Feni Today, inaugurate Muhuri-Kohua project

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to visit Feni on Thursday, joining several programmes in Parshuram and Fulgazi upazilas throughout the day. It will be his first visit to Feni since becoming the Prime Minister. Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Md. Suzauddhowla (Sujon Mahmood) said the prime minister will leave his Gulshan's residence for Parshuram upazila by road at 8:30am. He will attend the inauguration and exchange-of-greetings programme for the rehabilitation of the Muhuri-Kohua Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation Project (Phase I) on the outskirts of Parshuram upazila and the Kheyaghat Ghat-Muhuri Bridge area around 12:30pm. Tarique Rahman will attend a tree-planting programme on Begum Khaleda Zia Women's College premises in Fulgazi at 1:30pm. Then he will visit the Fulgazi District Council Dak Bungalow and inaugurate the operation to supply elec-



tricity to the national grid from the rooftop solar power system installed there. He will later rest and offer prayers at the Dak Bungalow. The prime minister will attend a programme at Fulgazi Government Pilot High School field at 3:30 PM for distributing Family Cards and Farmer Cards and providing honorariums to mosque imams, muezzins, khadims and people working at other religious places of worship. The Executive Committee of the National

Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the Muhuri-Kohua Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation Project (Phase I) project in Parshuram on June 16 at an estimated cost of Tk 1,542.16 crore. Under the project, rivers and water bodies will be re-excavated, flood-control embankments rehabilitated, riverbanks protected and irrigation infrastructure renovated. The project includes rehabilitation of 67.92 kilometres of embankments, protection of 11.73 kilometres of riverbanks, re-excavation of 83.50 kilometres of rivers and water bodies, rehabilitation of 27 irrigation structures and construction of 77 inlets. In the next phase, there are plans to construct new embankments along the Muhuri and Kohua rivers, as well as construct embankments along the Silonia River and carry out its excavation and rehabilitation. The project is expected to be completed by 2030. The prime minister's visit to Feni was originally scheduled for September 17 but was later postponed and rescheduled for October 1.

UN seeks greater regional, int'l support to advance political solution to Rohingya crisis

Staff Correspondent

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, on Wednesday said greater regional and international support is needed to advance a political solution to the crisis and end the hostilities in Myanmar. The UNHCR called on the international community to maintain support for countries in the region hosting refugees from Myanmar. "Until conditions in Myanmar allow for safe, dignified and sustainable returns, States must continue to provide access to asylum and uphold international protection obligations," said the UN agency, noting that the UNHCR is "concerned" by Malaysia's recent return of 1,476 people to Myanmar amid the country's continuing conflict and dire human rights and humanitarian situation. "We are concerned by these returns at a time when people sent back to Myanmar may face serious risks, and some within the group may be in need of international protection," said UNHCR Assistant High

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Petrobangla sees no LNG shortage as 19 cargoes due in Oct-Nov

Staff correspondent

Petrobangla has secured 19 LNG cargoes for October and November, ensuring uninterrupted supply and ruling out any shortage during the two-month period, officials from Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) said. Of the total, 10 cargoes are scheduled to arrive in October and the remaining nine in November. So, there will be no shortage of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) during October and November, they said. Talking to BSS, Petrobangla Chairman Md Abdul Mannan said there is no problem regarding LNG-carrying cargoes for November as the required nine cargoes have been confirmed.

He said necessary LNG cargoes have been secured for October as well, with a total of 10

cargoes scheduled for import. This ensures preparedness for LNG supplies over the coming months.

Mannan said, "We are consistently trying to ensure the necessary LNG supplies for the upcoming three-month period. This approach eliminates the risk of any gas supply shortages from LNG availability."

Petrobangla oversees LNG imports with the approval of the Energy Division. Meanwhile, Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL), a subsidiary of Petrobangla, is responsible for tasks such as LNG importation, cargo scheduling, contract negotiation and implementation, and terminal operations. Sources at Petrobangla and RPGCL told BSS that the import of a total of 19 LNG cargoes has been confirmed for October and November. Of the total, 10 cargoes scheduled for October. So, three

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Tk 1 Crore to Be Given for Construction of a New House at Abu Sayed's Home and Beautification of the Cemetery, State Minister Mir Shahe Alam



Mohinul Islam Sujon, Rangpur.

State Minister in charge of Rangpur Mir Shahe Alam has announced that Tk 1 crore will be given for constructing a new house at Shaheed Abu Sayed's home, arranging accommodation for his parents and beautifying the cemetery. He made the announcement after visiting Abu Sayed's home in Babonpur village of Pirganj upazila in Rangpur on Tuesday (September 29) morning. At the time, the State Minister referred to Abu

Sayed as an inspiration for the mass uprising and said that the government is working to eliminate the long-standing neglect and deprivation of the people of the northern region. Abu Sayed's sacrifice is not only a part of history but also an inspiration for the young generation and students and people. The movement that brought people across the country to the streets through his

sacrifice will remain important in history. Regarding the development of Abu Sayed's home and cemetery, the State Minister said, "Abu Sayed is a hero of the mass uprising. We want to spread the story of Abu Sayed. This development work worth Tk 1 crore will be implemented through the District Administration. The District Commissioner has been instructed to prepare a design for this." Highlighting various government programmes

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Clash over hawker eviction at Mirpur leaves several injured; 2 DNCC vehicles torched

Staff Correspondent

Several people, including police personnel, were injured in a clash between hawkers and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) staff during an eviction drive at Mirpur-10 on Wednesday morning. The clash started on the footpath in front of Hope Market as the DNCC was conducting an eviction drive from Mirpur-10 to Mirpur-14 areas from around 10am. During the clash, two DNCC dump trucks were set on fire and three bulldozers were vandalised, according to a DNCC official who spoke to UNB on condition of anonymity. A police vehicle was also vandalised during the incident. Hawkers claimed that the fire initially broke out from an electrical wire when DNCC personnel began removing shops from the footpath. They said the situation became tense after some goods were damaged in the fire. At one stage, angry hawkers hurled sticks and bricks at people

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Dhaka Metropolitan North BNP Convener Committee Dissolved

Staff Correspondent

The BNP has announced the dissolution of the 51-member convener committee of its Dhaka Metropolitan North unit. This decision was conveyed on Wednesday (September 30) through a press release signed by the party's Assistant Office Secretary, Muhammad Munir Hossain. According to the release, the existing convener committee—formed under the directive of the party high command with Md. Aminul Haque as convener and Md. Mostafa Zaman as member secretary—has been dissolved. The party further stated that a new convener committee for the Dhaka Metropolitan North BNP would be formed shortly.



Attack on New Gini Properties: Major (ret'd) Golam Mohiuddin arrested

Staff correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has arrested Major (ret'd) General Golam Mohiuddin Chowdhury over the attack at New Gini Properties in the capital's ECB Chattar area. Golam Mohiuddin was an 'ezhar listed' accused in the case, said deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Akhtar Hossain. However, DB did not disclose when or from where the person was arrested. Earlier, police arrested Shahrier, the suspected mastermind of the attack and vandalism, at content creator Salman Muqtadir's Brownfish Studio and the surrounding land at ECB Chattar in the capital. Cantonment Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Gias Uddin said the attack stemmed from a dispute between New Gini Properties Limited, owner of the land where the studio is located, and other landowners in the area. Police said Salman Muqtadir had set up the studio by renting a floor from New Gini Properties. The studio was vandalised during the attack, police said. Salman alleged that a group of people arrived in two trucks and attacked the studio late Saturday night. In a live broadcast from the Brownfish Studio

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Let Us All Together Build Sonar Bangla



News Desk, The Daily Bangla Sky Let Us All Together Build Sonar Bangla. Let us strengthen the hands of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and take Bangladesh forward towards continuous development by utilizing our own resources to establish Bangladesh as a developing country in the world arena.

We have the biggest strength - the Sundarbans. We have the world's

longest sea beach - Cox's Bazar. We have Mahasthangarh, Kuakata, Sajek, Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Jaflong in Sylhet. We have countless tourist spots in the hill tracts. Let us present all these resources to the world.

Wherever we are abroad, let us stand from there and attract the attention of the world through social media. Let us say NO to drugs, let us not consume drugs, let us not get involved in drug dealing.

Yesterday, if we look at Bangladesh, when we open the newspaper or turn on the TV channel, we see murder, abduction, rape, snatching, bodies cut into four pieces, grabbing others' property. It is difficult to move freely on the streets. A woman cannot go to the market alone.

Brothers, let us leave all these behind and become educated in social education and present our society in a beautiful way.

Our country is a golden country. In this country lies Hazrat Shahjalal (R.A), the leader of 360 Aulias, and many other Pirs and saints. The soil of this country is fertile. Every inch of land is fertile - it is a land where if a bird drops waste, a tree grows. One can imagine how fertile this soil is.

So brothers, let us abandon

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Magura PBS GM suspended over 'ghost' electricity bill

Staff correspondent

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood yesterday expressed his disappointment over the ghost electricity bill of Taka 507 crore for the consumption of 235 units in Magura. Besides, the minister ordered immediate suspension of the General Manager (GM) of Magura Palli Bidyut Samity over the alleged gross and unacceptable negligence in the discharge of his official duties. The suspension was issued immediately after the incident came to the minister's attention through the media and social media, according to a ministry press release. The minister expressed deep concern and regret over the issuance of a bogus electricity bill against a residential customer in Magura, said the press release. It said suspended GM Md Mahitul Islam will not discharge his duties, while the Palli Bidyut Samity Board will take disciplinary action following an urgent directive from the minister. The minister personally contacted the affect

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Bangladesh delegation visits Google's headquarters in California

Staff correspondent

A ministerial-level delegation from Bangladesh has visited Google's headquarters in Mountain View, California. During the visit, the delegation met senior Google officials and discussed potential collaboration on modernising the education system, artificial intelligence (AI), digital skills, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and the responsible use of technology. The visit took place on Monday (September 28) under the initiative of the Consulate General of Bangladesh in Los Angeles, according to a message received here yesterday.

Led by Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud

Titumir, the delegation included State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj, Prime Minister's Adviser on Posts, Telecommunications, Information Technology, Science, and Technology Rehan Asif Asad, Prime Minister's Protocol Officer-2 Kamrul Islam, and Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary-1 Jahidul Islam Roni.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Tareq Md Ariful Islam and Consul General of Bangladesh in Los Angeles Kazi Muhammad Javed Iqbal were also present at the meeting. Divya Jani, Vice-President of Strategy and Operations for Google for Education, led the team representing Google. Experts from Google also

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Artsem Minister Cup 2026 Uzair Hossain Sajib Wants to Be Bagerhat Icon, Dreams of Becoming the Second Hamza Choudhury

Sports Reporter, Bagerhat

From Bagerhat, our sports reporter says a young emerging footballer has come into discussion in this year's Artsem Minister Cup Football Tournament 2026 - Uzair Hossain Sajib.

Coming from a poor family, this 17-18 year old young man's position is Centre Back. He has just appeared for his HSC exam from Sharankhola Honours College, result is yet to be published. He is the captain of Sharankhola Honours College Football Team.

Speaking to The Daily Bangla Sky, Sajib said, "I want to be the second Hamza Choudhury of Bangladesh. InshaAllah, we will bring the Minister Cup to Bagerhat."

Not just a Centre Back, for the need of the team he can play in midfield, left wing, right wing and even during corner kicks he goes inside the opponent's D-box and scores with headers. His ability to score with headers makes him different.

Expressing his sorrow, Sajib said, "If I had better training facilities, I could have become a much better footballer. I will not do a job after completing Masters, I want to be a good footballer."

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Policing teen delinquency needs caution

The crackdown on so-called teen gangs by police across four districts signals the government’s seriousness about addressing the growing problem of social disorder. Reports suggest that nearly two-thirds of those detained as alleged members of these groups have been handed over to their guardians, while the rest are being processed for charges in connection with various offences. The special drives, carried out in Cumilla, Chattogram, Chandpur and Noakhali on Monday, followed the tragic death of Ishiat Shahriar Oprotim, who was allegedly killed by a group of teenagers over an iPhone. In recent years, a number of media outlets have reported a surge in the so-called gang culture among urban teenagers, some of whom have allegedly been involved in crimes ranging from theft, mugging, harassment of women, to more serious offences, including extortion and drug peddling. Clearly, some of these underage, predominantly male youths are delinquent, while others may be exploited by hardened criminal ringleaders for little inducement.Strong policing against the latter group is necessary and is the right course of action. But the government needs a different strategy for the majority of these teenagers—one that places greater emphasis on social engagement and prevention. Our children need more sporting facilities, reading clubs, debating societies, cultural academies, and other opportunities that can nurture their creativity and provide constructive avenues for their energy.Furthermore, we must ask ourselves whether treating minor acts of delinquency in the sameway as more serious crimes is justifiable. Many children may be drawn by the illusion of glamour, recognition and fame offered by social media platforms, which can encourage seeking attention, experimenting with risky behaviour, and taking unnecessary and avoidable risks. A heavy-handed approach would be disproportionate and potentially counterproductive. Detaining children at police stations, regardless of the duration, can have a profound impact on their psychological well-being and expose them and their families to stigma. It may also alienate young people from law enforcement institutions for years to come.The already deplorable conditions and severe overcrowding in our three correctional facilities, despite their official designation as Children’s Development Centres, make the accommodation of additional children particularly challenging. The three centres have a combined capacity of around 500 but are reportedly accommodating nearly 1,200 children. Placing children in prisons alongside adult offenders would carry an even greater risk of exposing them to hardened criminals and pushing them further into the world of crime.Hence, it is imperative that the government devise a cautious and balanced strategy that encourages parents to take greater responsibility for their children while also creating an enabling environment in which young people.

UN seeks greater regional, int’l

Commissioner for Protection Edem Wosornu on Wednesday. “While authorities say the returns are voluntary, those returned had been held in immigration detention. This raises serious questions about whether decisions to return were genuinely free and informed. UNHCR did not have access to the individuals to assess this.”

UNHCR fully recognised Malaysia’s sovereign responsibility to manage asylum and migration. However, UNHCR urged Malaysia to ensure that all returns are subject to robust safeguards, including individual assessments and access to protection procedures.

The UN agency said decisions to return must be voluntary and assessed outside detention settings.Under the principle of non-refoulement, no one should be returned to a country where they may face persecution, torture or other serious threats to their life or freedom. UNHCR said it remains ready to work with Malaysia to strengthen national asylum and protection arrangements.

Petrobangla sees no LNG

will be sourced from the spot market, two under long-term contracts, and five under short-term contracts.Additionally, nine cargoes of LNG are scheduled for import in November. Of those, six will be brought under long-term agreements and three under short-term agreements. These cargoes have been sourced from various countries, including the United States, Nigeria and Angola.

They said LNG is being procured from diverse sources to meet domestic demand. The cargoes will arrive according to schedule and subsequently be supplied to the national gas grid.According to RPGCL data, each cargo contains about 32 lakh million British Thermal Units (MMBtu) of LNG. Based on this, the import of about 60.8 million MMBtu of LNG has been secured across the 19 cargoes scheduled for October and November.The imported LNG arrives at the country’s LNG terminals via sea routes, where it undergoes a process known as regasification - converting the LNG back into a gaseous state. Following regasification, the gas is supplied to the national gas grid through pipelines.Petrobangla Director (Finance) Mizanur Rahman said the secured shipments include cargoes under both long-term and short-term agreements, alongside purchases from the spot market. With imports secured to meet demand, no major disruptions in LNG supply are anticipated over the coming months, he said.

Petrobangla officials said the imported LNG is supplied to the national gas grid after regasification, after which the gas is used in various sectors of the country. Qatar-based QatarEnergy and OQ Trading of Omani supply LNG to Bangladesh under long-term agreements. Besides, OQ Trading supplies LNG to Bangladesh under short-term contracts. Bangladesh also imports LNG from the spot market as required.

Tk 1 Crore to Be Given for

for the people of the northern region, Mir Shahe Alam said that there are plans to implement various programmes, including family cards, farmer cards, honorariums for imams and muezzins, health cards, canal excavation, employment and development of sports.

Regarding the family card, he said that it will not be limited to any particular class of people. There are plans to bring the women heads of four crore families across the country under this programme in phases. There are also plans to provide farmer cards to approximately 21 million farmers within the next four years. Cards will be provided considering farmers in different categories, including landless, marginal, middle and higher-level farmers. There is no need for lobbying for this. Regarding honorariums for imams and muezzins, the State Minister said that there are plans to honor approximately 350,000 imams, muezzins and khadems of mosques across the country, as well as people associated with religious institutions. This programme has already started as a pilot project in various areas. There are plans to send the honorarium money to the mobile accounts of imams, muezzins and khadems during the first week of every month.

Regarding employment, he said that the government is considering introducing a third language in educational institutions. Through this, opportunities for employment at home and abroad will be created by making young people skilled.

Regarding the fuel crisis, the State Minister said that a crisis has emerged in the oil and gas market due to various reasons, including the international situation and the war in the Middle

Why cheaper credit is not enough to spur private investment

Md. Neyamul Hossain

Bangladesh’s lending rates are nowhere near zero. I would call Bangladesh’s situation an investment-confidence trap: the price of money keeps falling, and the willingness to act on it does not rise to meet it. Layer political uncertainty on top and

Layer political uncertainty on top and the arithmetic gets worse before it gets better. Investment is a bet on the next several years, not the current quarter. Ashik Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority has said investors keep citing the absence of policy continuity and political stability as their chief worry, and the IMF has made the same point about governance and transparency being prerequisites, not extras. What an investor is really pricing is the lending rate plus ordinary commercial risk plus a governance premium—a markup for not knowing whether today’s rules will survive the next transition. Cut the rate half a point while that governance premium rises by more, and the effective cost of capital has gone up even as.

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East. The government has expressed regret over the situation and informed about the temporary difficulties. If oil prices decrease in the global market, initiatives will be taken to reduce prices in the domestic market as well.

Regarding the opposition’s movement, he said, “Problems will never be solved through a long march. If you have any specific opinion, stand in Parliament and speak.” At the same time, he urged them to give the government time to evaluate its successes and failures.

Besides, the State Minister also expressed interest in naming Rangpur Stadium after Shaheed Abu Sayed. However, according to the decision of the National Sports Council, Rangpur District Stadium has already been named ‘Shaheed Abu Sayed Stadium’.

In Faridpur, mother arrested

Faridpur. At that time, the police took her two children, Abir (9) and Tabir (7), into their custody. According to sources from the Nagarkanda police station, a video went viral on social media on Tuesday evening showing a woman attempting to hang her child. As soon as the matter came to light, the police began an investigation. During the investigation, the victim’s aunt called the police station and provided details. Based on this, the police quickly conducted an operation in Radhanagar village and arrested the accused woman.

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Nagarkanda police station, Rasul Samdani Azad, stated that in preliminary questioning, the accused Bithi Akhtar admitted that her husband Abbas Ali has been in the Maldives for the past 7 years and is not returning to the country. To attract her husband’s attention and out of frustration, she staged the act of hanging her child and recorded the video to send to her husband.

The OC further stated that the police are working to uncover the real mystery and underlying reasons behind the incident. The two rescued children are being kept in police custody, and legal action against the accused mother is in process.

3,471 Indian Sarees Seized

set up a checkpoint and conducted searches in the Sarighat area of the upazila. During the operation, police searched a sand-laden truck and recovered 3,471 Indian sarees. According to police, the estimated market value of the seized sarees is approximately Tk 15 million (Tk 1.5 crore). The truck carrying the sarees was subsequently seized, and its driver was arrested.

Jaintapur Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md. Mahbubur Rahman Molla said that police operations against smuggling in the border areas are ongoing and will continue in the future.

Let Us All Together

anger, hatred, jealousy, snatching, robbery, murder, abduction and drugs. There are 18 crore people in Bangladesh. From whatever position we are in, let us attract the whole world through social media with the resources around us - from tourism to manufacturing industry, garment industry, fisheries, agriculture, leather and jute industry.

If we do this, our country will be rebuilt. Our country is naturally blessed and beautiful. If the world is attracted to us, many tourists will come to Cox’s Bazar, Kuakata, and foreigners will be interested in doing business here. Production will increase. Then everyone will say Bangladesh is not what they thought, Bangladesh is a peaceful country. We can all create such an environment from our own positions. It is just a matter of mind - if we wish a little, we can do it.

Let us all together take this country towards development.

With best wishes and request,

Md.Neyamul Hossain

Acting Editor,

The Daily Bangla Sky.

Magura PBS GM

ed customer over the phone. The minister assured the customer that the bill had already been corrected and a revised bill had been delivered.He urged the customer to inform the authorities directly if any such problem occurs in the future.According to media report, a bill of Tk 506 crore 83 lakh 11 thousand 593 was issued for September 2026 in the name of Alea Khatun, wife of retired teacher Shahidul Islam of Kechuadubi village under Magura Sadar upazila’s Moghi Union, for consumption of 235 units of electricity.After getting information about the matter, the minister immediately ordered an investigation.A preliminary investigation found that the extraordinarily high

bill was generated due to a mechanical error during meter replacement, when the digits of the meter seal number were inadvertently posted in the demand charge field.ollowing confirmation of the incident in the preliminary investigation, the minister also ordered strict departmental and disciplinary action against other officers and employees found to be involved.

The minister said the government is committed to ensuring a people-friendly and service-oriented administration.“Any electricity-related complaint will be taken with utmost seriousness, and effective measures will be taken at the earliest possible time to alleviate people’s suffering,” he said.

Bangladesh delegation visits

took part in the meeting. The meeting placed special emphasis on ‘Google for Education’ and the potential to modernise Bangladesh’s education system, enhance teacher capacity, and improve student learning outcomes through the use of technology and AI.

Uzair Hossain Sajib Wants to Be

Through the Minister Cup he wants to bring joy to all football lovers in Bangladesh. His only wish is that BKSP and all football training centres watch his game and give him an opportunity for advanced training.

In this context, The Daily Bangla Sky family draws the attention of the Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Director of BKSP and all organizations involved with football training. If talented players like Sajib, who come from remote villages all over Bangladesh, can be selected and given advanced training, then Bangladesh football will one day bring good results on the world map.

The Daily Bangla Sky family prays and wishes all the best for Uzair Hossain Sajib’s dream to come true.

Clash over hawker eviction

involved in the eviction drive. Two DNCC vehicles were later vandalised and set on fire.Two Fire Service units rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after around 15 to 20 minutes of efforts.Meanwhile, several media workers came under attack while covering the incident.

A vehicle of Jamuna Television was vandalised, while a reporter and a cameraman of Somoy TV were assaulted, said witnesses.Samakal photographer Mahbub Hossain Nabin was also reportedly injured in an attack by several hawkers.The clash also disrupted traffic on roads in Mirpur-10 area for some time . Additional police were later deployed in the area. Deputy Commissioner of DMP’s Mirpur Division Hasan Mohammad Naser Rikabdar said several police personnel were injured during the clash. “The situation is now normal,” he said.

Attack on New Gini Properties

Facebook page, Salman said the studio was completely destroyed.

He later alleged that the attackers’ main target might have been the owner of the property, who apparently refused to pay extortion money.

OC Gias Uddin said New Gini Properties, which was in possession of the land and rented out the studio space to Muqtadir, had erected a gate on the land, restricting access for others.

Quality IPOs can inject fresh dynamism into capital market: Lali

Staff correspondent

Bringing quality and promising companies to the capital market through initial public offerings (IPOs) in a fast, transparent and cost-effective manner can inject fresh dynamism into the country’s stock market, said former senior vice-president of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and former president of DSE Brokers Association (DBA) Ahmed Rashid Lali.He also suggested simplifying the IPO process and reducing the time and costs involved to create more opportunities for companies and investors in the capital market.

tor credit grew 4.47 percent. Government borrowing to cover revenue shortfalls and debt service is not, on its own, a scandal. But when sovereign paper is the safer, easier place for a bank to park money, banks have little reason to go hunting for private borrowers who look riskier by the day. Thus, bank liquidity expands, but productive investment does not. The question worth asking is not how much credit the system is creating but where it is actually going. The point is none of these factors sits still on its own axis. Treat investment as a matrix rather than a single dial: lending rates, demand, capacity, energy, bank health, public borrowing, and political risk each move, and each moves the others. Weak demand depresses expected profit, which depresses borrowing, which depresses banks’ appetite for competing on deposits, which pushes rates down further even as the underlying investment climate hasn’t improved at all. Falling rates can be a symptom of weak demand for credit as much as they can lead to a stronger demand for borrowing. Treat a falling lending rate as automatic good news, and you will misread the economy every time. The way out therefore requires more than monetary easing. Banking reform must restore credible credit allocation; energy supply must allow existing capacity to operate; fiscal pressures must keep public borrowing from absorbing too much financial intermediation; and regulatory continuity must give investors some confidence that the rules governing an investment today will still govern it tomorrow. These are not substitutes for cheaper credit. They are the conditions that allow cheaper credit to work. I am not arguing Bangladesh Bank should stop caring about the cost of credit; lower rates genuinely help existing borrowers and will matter more once the other constraints start to loosen. But a central bank cannot generate electricity, clean up bank balance sheets, or hand investors the political certainty they are actually pricing. Parvez and Chakma are right that cheaper money has failed to unlock investment. The fuller answer is that Bangladesh’s investment problem was never mainly a pricing problem. The interest rate is one input into a decision that depends on a great many things the central bank does not control, and firms are simply refusing to pretend otherwise.

Talking to BSS, Lali, managing director of Rashid Investment Services Limited, said the lengthy IPO process often discourages entrepreneurs from seeking capital-market financing as they tend to rely on bank loans and other alternative sources of funds.

He proposed completing the entire IPO approval and listing process within 45 to 60 days.“At present, 60 days are allocated only for the DSE’s scrutiny of documents. This timeframe can be reduced to a maximum of 15 days,” he said.

Lali said a faster and transparent process would encourage large local business groups and multinational companies to enter the capital market.He proposed establishing a separate ‘marketing department’ to identify promising companies and encourage them to get listed.The department could approach major local business groups, including PHP Group, Akij Group and Partex Group, as well as multinational companies, and explain the benefits of listing on the capital market, he said.

To expedite the IPO process, Lali also proposed forming a three-member committee from a panel of five chartered accountants (CAs) to scrutinise company prospectuses.“If there is any deficiency or problem in the documents, the committee can discuss the issue with the concerned company, resolve it quickly and submit its report to the DSE board within 15 days,” he said.After receiving the documents from the DSE board, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) could complete its review within 10 days and announce the subscription date, according to his proposed process.Subsequently, the Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL) could complete the lottery and refund process within five days.

“Following this process, the entire listing procedure can be completed within 45 to 60 days,” Lali said.He also suggested reducing the cost of asset revaluation to encourage quality companies to enter the capital market.

A company seeking listing has to incur substantial costs for preparing financial statements for several years and completing various regulatory procedures, while stamp duty, VAT and taxes associated with asset revaluation add to the financial burden, he said.

“These additional costs discourage many promising companies from entering the capital market,” Lali said.He explained that in the case of old industrial enterprises, land purchased many years ago may have a very low book value, while it needs to be revalued at the prevailing market price before listing.As a result, entrepreneurs may face significant financial pressure even before a company is listed, while there is no certainty that the company will be able to raise the desired amount from the capital market after listing, he added.Lali therefore suggested considering a waiver of stamp duty and other related costs on asset revaluation undertaken for the purpose of capital-market listing. He expressed hope that a faster, transparent and cost-effective IPO process would encourage more companies to participate in the capital market and create new investment opportunities.

Attack on New Gini Properties: Major (retd) Golam Mohiuddin arrested

Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has arrested Major (retd) General Golam Mohiuddin Chowdhury over the attack at New Gini Properties in the capital’s ECB Chattar area.Golam Mohiuddin was an ‘ezhar listed’ accused in the case, said deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Akhtar Hossain.However, DB did not disclose when or from where the person was arrested.Earlier, police arrested Shahrier, the suspected mastermind as of the attack and vandalism, at content creator Salman Muqtadir’s Brownfish Studio and the surrounding land at ECB Chattar in the capital.Cantonment Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Gias Uddin said the attack stemmed from a dispute between New Gini Properties Limited, owner of the land where the studio is located, and other landowners in the area.Police said Salman Muqtadir had set up the studio by renting a floor from New Gini Properties.The studio was vandalised during the attack, police said.Salman alleged that a group of people arrived in two trucks and attacked the studio late Saturday night. In a live broadcast from the Brownfish Studio Facebook page, Salman said the studio was completely destroyed.He later alleged that the attackers’.



President seeks more Chinese investment, cooperation in dignified Rohingya return

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged China to increase investment in Bangladesh and further enhance cooperation in creating conditions for the safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas. He made the call when outgoing Chinese

Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen paid a farewell courtesy call on the President at Bangabhaban this morning, President's Press Secretary Md. Sarwar Alam told BSS. During the meeting, the President praised China's constructive role in the Rohingya crisis. "China's initiatives would contribute to resolving the crisis and ensuring sustainable repa-

triation," said the President. He called for increased cooperation and investment in various sectors, including ready-made garments, electric vehicles, light engineering, high-tech electronics, semiconductors and solar energy. Welcoming initiatives for multilateral regional connectivity, including the

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Govt committed to bringing positive changes in healthcare system: Sakawat

Staff correspondent

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md Sakawat Husain today said the government is committed to bringing positive changes to the country's healthcare system and has already taken various initiatives, including recruitment of doctors, to this end. "The government has taken various initiatives to take healthcare services closer to the people," he said while speaking at a public-oriented seminar titled "Every Heartbeat is Life" at the National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute in Mirpur here.

National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh President Professor Khondaker Abdul Awal Rizvi presided over the seminar organised to mark World Heart Day 2026.

The health minister said work is underway to upgrade every upazila health complex from 50 beds to 151 beds. At the same time, he

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Home Minister unveils security plan for festive celebration of Durga Puja

Staff correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday announced enhanced security measures, increased government funding and an extended holiday for the upcoming Sharadiya Durga Puja. "Responsibilities for ensuring security and smooth celebrations have been assigned across government agencies at the national, divisional, district and upazila levels," he said. The minister came up with the plans at a press briefing following a high-level coordination meeting at the Home Ministry on security arrangements for the peaceful celebration of Durga Puja. Senior officials from law enforcement agencies and representatives of major Hindu community organisations, including the Bangladesh Puja Uddhapan Parishad, Puja Front, Kalyan Trust and Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee, attended the meeting. Salahuddin said religious and social harmony in Bangladesh had improved significantly compared to previous years. About security risks, the

minister said intelligence agencies had not identified any mandap as particularly vulnerable or high-risk so far.

However, he said law enforcement agencies would remain on heightened alert throughout the celebrations and take immediate action if any threat emerged. Government funding for Durga Puja mandaps has been increased to Tk 5 crore from Tk 4 crore following directives from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, Salahuddin said. The number of mandaps has also increased by nearly 1,500 from last year, said Salahuddin. It is learned that the number of puja mandaps across the country rose to 33,851 this year.

However, the authorities will use a mobile application previously deployed by the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center (NTMC) to strengthen monitoring during Durga Puja. The app will facilitate the rapid dissemination of information about any untoward incident and help authorities respond quickly to maintain a peaceful

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CMP Commissioner Urges Professionalism in Public Service; Farewell Accorded to 3 Retiring Police Personnel

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The monthly welfare meeting of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) for the month of September was held on Wednesday (September 30). CMP Commissioner Hasan Md. Showkat Ali presided over

Parliamentary committee recommends boosting domestic fertiliser production

Staff correspondent

Jamuna Fertiliser Factory produced fertiliser for only three days over the past two years due to gas shortages, while production at Ashuganj Fertiliser Factory has remained suspended for 19 months.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Wednesday, with Chief Whip and committee chairman Nurul Islam Moni in the chair. The committee recommended taking necessary measures to increase domestic fertiliser production, reduce dependence on imports, ease fertiliser shortages and cut costs.

The committee reviewed the activities of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) and its affiliated companies, as well as those of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC). The meeting also discussed the production, storage and distribution of chemical fertilisers by BCIC and BADC. The committee sought information on the ministry's future plans for paid-off fertiliser factories

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Current Government Will Not Bear Any Stigma in the Election, State Minister Mir Shahe Alam



Mohinul Islam Sujon, Rangpur.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) Mir Shahe Alam said that according to the

room of the District Commissioner's Office on Tuesday afternoon (September 29). Mir Shahe Alam, who is responsible for development coordination of Rangpur, Gaibandha and

announcement of the Election Commission, the local government elections will be held from next January. The current government wants to provide free, fair and neutral local elections.

The current government will not bear any stigma in the election. He said these things as the chief guest at the meeting of the Law and Order and Development Coordination Committee held at the conference

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Allegation of demanding extortion by detaining RSPL factory's worker-carrying vehicles in Mirsarai Economic Zone



M. Oliullah Nizami District Reporter, Chattogram

In the Mirsarai industrial area of Chattogram, there have been allegations of detaining vehicles used for transporting workers of the RSPL factory, demanding extortion, intimidating and threatening. In this incident, a transport businessman named Md. Sohag Hossain has filed a written complaint to the

creating various business and showing intimidation.

According to the complaint, on Wednesday (September 30) at around 5:40 am, an attempt was made to detain the vehicles carrying workers of the RSPL factory. At that time, it has been alleged by transport-related persons that there was also an attempt to forcibly transfer the workers

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Wife holds press conference seeking whereabouts of 'Picchi Raja' after his escape from prison van

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter.

Khushi, the wife of Raja alias 'Picchi Raja' held a press conference seeking information on his whereabouts following his escape from a prison van. She also accused a self-proclaimed journalist, Jahangir Alam,

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Bangladesh, Malaysia should establish binding labour deal to protect migrant workers: Fortify Rights

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and Malaysia should establish a 'binding bilateral labor agreement' governing migrant-worker recruitment that provides meaningful and enforceable protections for workers, Migrant Welfare Network (MWN) and Fortify Rights said on Wednesday. Previous bilateral memorandums of understanding (MoUs) have included safeguards for Bangladeshi migrant workers, yet workers continue to

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Highway Blocked in Charghat Rajshahi Demanding Arrest of Bakul Murder Accused

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent.

Charghat: Local residents formed a human chain and blocked the highway in Charghat, Rajshahi, demanding the immediate arrest and maximum punishment of the accused named in the FIR for the murder of Bakul. The program was held on Tuesday (September 29) at around 4:00 PM at the Halidagachi Railgate area on the Charghat-Bagha highway. Local residents, public representatives, and leaders and activists of various political parties, along

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81 Liters of Foreign Liquor Seized at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter.

81 Liters of Foreign Liquor Seized at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport In an operation conducted by the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, 81.50 liters of foreign liquor of various brands exceeding the duty-free allowance were seized from two passengers. The estimated market value of the seized liquor

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Involve All Communities for Lasting Peace in the Hills, MP Wadud Bhuiyan

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Member of Parliament for Khagrachhari (Seat 298) and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs, has called upon all communities to work together to ensure the welfare, security, and balanced development of the Chattogram Hill Tracts region.

"Sustainable development and lasting peace in the hills are impossible without involving every community in the mainstream of progress," he stated.

He made these remarks as the chief guest during a humanitarian and public welfare event organized by the Sindukchhari Zone (20 Field Regiment

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3,471 Indian Sarees Seized from Sand-Laden Truck in Jaintapur, Driver Arrested

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

Police have seized a large consignment of Indian sarees from a sand-laden truck in Jaintapur, Sylhet. The truck was seized and its driver was also arrested in connection with the incident. At around 5:30 am on Wednesday (September 30), Jaintapur Model Police

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In Faridpur, mother arrested for attempting to hang her child and recording a video

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter



In a fit of anger against her husband, who is living in the Maldives, a mother attempted to hang her own child. Not only that, she recorded the horrific scene and sent it to her husband abroad. After the video went viral on social media, the police conducted an operation and arrested the accused mother, Bithi Akhtar (29). She was arrested on Tuesday (29 September) around 11 PM from the Radhanagar village of the Nagarkanda upazila in

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Afghanistan says 41 insurgents killed after crossing from Pakistan



International Desk

Afghanistan’s Defense Ministry said its forces killed 41 fighters and captured 62 others over three days after they crossed into the country from neighboring Pakistan. The ministry said the fighters, including members of the Islamic State group, entered Afghanistan with Pakistan’s support and were targeted in Kamdesh district of northeastern Nuristan province between Sunday and Tuesday. Pakistan’s government did not immediately comment on the claim. Its Ministry of Information has rejected similar allegations in the past. The claims by both sides about casualties among fighters in recent weeks

could not be independently verified. Tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan have escalated in recent weeks, with cross-border clashes and Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan adding to long-standing disputes over militant activity along their shared frontier. The United Nations Mission in Afghanistan said last week that it had documented more than 1,100 civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan resulting from cross-border violence so far this year. Afghanistan’s Defense Ministry said its security forces would not allow anyone to undermine security in the country and warned that any further attempts would face a stronger response. Meanwhile, Afghanistan’s Foreign

Ministry said it summoned Pakistan’s chargé d’affaires on Tuesday and handed him a letter of protest over what it described as the crossing of “disruptive armed elements” into Afghanistan. Kabul accused Islamabad of hosting recruitment and training camps for fighters and sending them across the border. Pakistan has repeatedly accused Afghanistan’s Taliban government of allowing Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to operate from Afghan territory and carry out attacks inside Pakistan. The TTP is separate from Afghanistan’s Taliban but is allied with it. Kabul denies providing the group a safe haven and has rejected Pakistan’s accusations. Afghanistan has also accused Pakistan of encouraging unrest inside the country. The Afghan Defense Ministry recently alleged that Pakistan was training and sending across the border fighters who were former members of Afghanistan’s military under the previous government, which was ousted after the Taliban seized power in 2021. Afghanistan does not recognize its frontier with Pakistan as an international border. The two countries share a more than 2,600-kilometre (1,620-mile) boundary known as the Durand Line.

Eiffel Tower operator chief to step down over exclusion of female staff during Hindu group visit

International Desk

The head of the company operating the Eiffel Tower will leave his post at the end of the year following an investigation into the exclusion of female staff during a visit by a Hindu religious group. Patrick Branco Ruivo, director general of the Société d’Exploitation de la tour Eiffel, will step down after an independent investigation found several operational failures linked to the Sept. 5 visit. The company said Tuesday that the failures led to female employees being excluded from the visit, describing the situation as “unacceptable.” Ruivo has led the company since late 2018. The 330-meter (1,083-foot) Eiffel Tower, which draws about 7 million visitors annually, was closed Sept. 7 after employees went on strike. A union official said the strike was prompted by “unacceptable” management instructions. Tensions rose after management instructed employees that female workers should not have contact with members of the visiting delegation from Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha, known as BAPS.



Russian strikes target Kyiv power grid, kill four

International Desk

Russian forces continued their heavy missile and drone strikes against Kyiv and the surrounding region on Wednesday, killing four people—including a child—and damaging power infrastructure alongside a major internet exchange hub. The intensifying aerial attacks since late August have heightened pressure on Ukraine ahead of the upcoming winter, a period during which Moscow frequently targets energy networks to disrupt heating and water supplies. In Vyshhorod, within the broader Kyiv province, a child lost their life when a residential home was destroyed. Emergency workers rescued three people from the debris. Additional strikes in and around the capital claimed three more lives and left at least four others injured. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed that the barrage specifically targeted energy infrastructure in the capital and surrounding areas, noting that Moscow is attempting to overwhelm Ukraine’s air defense capabilities. He urged international partners to expedite air

defense supplies, emphasizing that protection must be reinforced ahead of the winter months. To exploit vulnerabilities in Ukrainian defenses, Russia has increasingly deployed ballistic missiles and fast, jet-powered drones. Air Force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat revealed that drone usage has surged, with over 3,170 jet-propelled drones launched in September alone, exceeding August’s total of 2,850. Ihnat stressed the urgent need for additional ammunition for U.S.-supplied Patriot systems to intercept incoming ballistic threats. While the Russian Defense Ministry claimed its strikes hit key thermal and hydroelectric power facilities, substations, energy storage sites, and a data center, Ukrainian authorities did not confirm damage to those specific facilities, reporting hits across civilian areas in at least four districts of Kyiv. The escalation comes as diplomatic efforts remain stalled. Ukrainian officials stated Moscow is ignoring U.S. peace initiatives four and a half years after the full-scale invasion began, demanding territorial concessions that Kyiv refuses to accept.

Dubai-Israel flight diverted to Saudi Arabia after cockpit incident

International Desk

A FlyDubai passenger plane traveling from Dubai to Israel made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday after an incident involving its pilots, briefly raising fears of a possible hijacking and prompting Israel to scramble fighter jets. Israeli media, citing security officials, reported that the incident was caused by a dispute between the two pilots. All passengers and crew members were safe, and the plane landed at Tabuk, which serves as both a civilian and military base. The plane had sent an emergency alert, according to publicly available flight-tracking data. About 2½ hours after leaving Dubai, the aircraft suddenly dropped from 33,000 feet to 17,000 feet within a minute. It then made an unusual turn near the Jordanian border before landing in Tabuk about an hour later, according to FlightRadar24. A regional official familiar with the incident said a fight had broken out in the cockpit and apparently involved the pilots. The cause of the dispute was not immediately known. “The crew had been questioned as part of the investigation,” the official said, without saying whether anyone had been detained. An Israeli official said authorities were investigating whether the incident could have been an attempt to target Israelis. Another official confirmed that Israel scrambled fighter jets after fearing the plane, which was carrying dozens of Israeli citizens, could have been hijacked. All three officials spoke anonymously because the investigation was ongoing. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said the situation was under control and that efforts were underway to bring the passengers home.



Passengers told Israel’s Channel 12 by phone that they heard shouting from the front of the plane during the argument between the pilots. They also said the aircraft dropped sharply before landing in Saudi Arabia. The passengers said they remained on the plane while a large number of Saudi security personnel surrounded it. FlyDubai later confirmed that flight FZ 1073, which was traveling to Ben Gurion Airport, had experienced an incident and landed safely in Tabuk. “Our teams are working closely with the relevant authorities,” the airline said, adding that further updates would be provided as confirmed information became available. Flight-tracking data showed that the aircraft was a Boeing 737 Max 8. FlyDubai, a low-cost sister airline of Emirates, operates an all-737 fleet and has nearly 100 aircraft, including 69 Max 8s. The UAE has become a popular destination for Israeli tourists since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 2020. Commercial flights between Israel and the UAE began following the normalization of ties. Incidents involving cockpit disputes are rare but have occurred before. In 2022, two Air France pilots were suspended after fighting in the cockpit during a Geneva-to-Paris flight. That plane was not diverted and completed its journey. Israel has not experienced a plane hijacking in decades but maintains some of the world’s strictest airport security measures, partly because Israeli interests were targeted in several hijackings and attacks by Palestinian militants in the 1960s and 1970s. Dubai International Airport, where the flight originated, is the Middle East’s busiest airport and handled a record 95.2 million passengers last year.

South Korea says Zelenskyy’s POW disclosure may have sought support for Ukraine



International Desk

South Korea’s spy agency said Wednesday that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s disclosure of the transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea was likely intended to build public support for greater assistance to Ukraine. Zelenskyy revealed the transfer during his speech at the United Nations last week, surprising South Korean officials and prompting strong protests from Seoul. South Korea asked Kyiv to apologize and explain what it called a breach of an agreement to keep the transfer confidential. Ukraine denied making such an agreement. The dispute has strained the traditionally friendly relations between South Korea and Ukraine, though it remains unclear whether it will have broader consequences.

The two North Korean soldiers were among thousands of troops sent by Pyongyang to support Russia in fighting Ukrainian forces in Russia’s Kursk border region. North Korea has also supplied conventional weapons to Russia as part of expanding military cooperation between the two countries. Ukraine has not responded to South Korea’s demand for an apology. South Korea’s National Intelligence Service briefed a parliamentary committee behind closed doors Wednesday. Lawmaker Yoo Yeong-ha, who attended the meeting, said the agency told lawmakers that Ukraine had not offered an apology or expressed regret through either official or unofficial channels. The agency assessed that Zelenskyy likely disclosed the transfer to encourage South Korean public support for providing weapons and other assistance to Ukraine, Yoo said. He did not explain how the agency reached that conclusion. South Korea has provided humanitarian and other support to Ukraine but has not supplied weapons, following its policy of not sending arms to countries involved in active conflicts. Another lawmaker, Yun Kun-young, said the agency told lawmakers that the two North Korean prisoners arrived in South Korea in mid-September and were in generally good health. While in Ukraine, they expressed a desire to settle in South Korea, Yun said.



Medicine prices soar in Iran as sanctions disrupt supplies

International Desk

Medicine prices are rising sharply in Iran and some drugs have become difficult to find as a US blockade and tougher sanctions put pressure on the country’s pharmaceutical industry. Some medicines have more than tripled in price, adding to the financial pressure on Iranians seven months into the country’s war with the United States and Israel. Food and other basic goods have also become much more expensive, while unemployment has increased and Iran’s currency, which hit a record low this week, has lost about half its value. The conflict has put Iran’s economy under severe pressure. Iran has sought to push up global energy prices by attacking oil shipping routes in the region, while the United States has tried to put further pressure on the Iranian economy by blockading its ports since June and imposing tougher sanctions. Iran’s pharmaceutical sector is particularly vulnerable because it depends heavily on imports. Although major medicine shortages have not yet been widely reported at hospitals, problems are increasingly being felt at pharmacies. Gholamreza Rahmani, a Tehran welder, and his wife recently spent two days visiting several pharmacies to find four medicines prescribed for their 12-year-old daughter, who was suffering from stomach problems. “Each one would have one or two items, not all of them,” Rahmani said. They could not find one of the medicines anywhere. The search also cost him two days of wages because he was unable to go to work. “My daughter’s illness and the loss of income are like scissors, cutting from two sides,” he said.

Pharmaceutical industry depends on imports

Iran produces more than 80% of its medicines domestically, according to official figures, but many of those medicines require imported raw materials. Before the war, most medicines and pharmaceutical ingredients were transported by sea. But the US naval blockade has disrupted shipping, Bahman Sabour, a member of the Tehran Pharmacies Association, told local media. Importers have turned to more expensive air freight. However, that option has also become more difficult after new US sanctions were imposed on several Iranian airlines, leading to the suspension of some international flights. US sanctions do not directly target medicines. However, long-standing financial sanctions have made it harder for pharmaceutical companies to obtain supplies because international banks and businesses often avoid transactions involving Iran over concerns about violating sanctions, said Reza Majdzadeh, a professor at the School of Health and Social Care at the University of Essex in England. “A medicine may be perfectly legal to sell to Iran, but a bank may refuse to process the payment,” he said. Companies may also decide that doing business with Iran carries too much risk. The Iranian government has not disclosed how much medicine production has declined. Officials, however, say the sector has been affected after airstrikes damaged more than 40 pharmaceutical factories, including facilities producing cancer treatments. Pharmacies are also struggling financially. Insurance companies have delayed payments to pharmacies for drug coverage by as much as nine months because of the “current situation,” said Mohammad Jamalani, a member of parliament’s health committee. Sabour said insurance companies owe pharmacies about \$270 million. Medicine supplies are also being affected by smuggling to neighbouring Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, where drugs can be sold at higher prices, state media reported.

Pharmacy prices rise sharply

“The price of almost everything has gone up, in some cases doubling, quadrupling, or even increasing sixfold,” said Mina Mohammadian, a pharmacy salesperson in Tehran. Mehdi Pirsalehi, head of the government agency responsible for setting medicine prices, said last week that prices of 2,000 types of medicines had been “amended” over the past six months because of inflation and currency problems.

International Desk

Iran’s Revolutionary Guard has urged Americans to protest President Donald Trump, saying his war in the Middle East has failed, as new US sanctions and fighting in the region continued Tuesday. The United States imposed sanctions on 10 individuals and entities in Iran, Hong Kong and Pakistan over allegations that they helped Iran obtain weapons and military equipment. The Treasury Department said the measures were part of Trump administration efforts to cut financial support for Iran’s military supply network. The sanctions came as prospects for renewed diplomacy between Washington and Tehran remained uncertain. Iran calls on Americans to protest Gen. Hossein Mohebbi, a spokesman for Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, said the war could end only if the United States accepted defeat and withdrew. Speaking at a news conference in Tehran, Mohebbi read what he described as a “letter to the American people” ahead of the Nov. 3 US midterm elections. In comments to The Associated Press, he urged Americans to reconsider their leadership and take to the streets to protest Trump’s policies. He accused Washington of using Iran’s nuclear program as an excuse to take the country’s wealth and return it to a colonial status. Iran’s currency also fell to a new low Tuesday, with traders exchanging more than 2.5 million rials for \$1. The currency has repeatedly weakened since the war began in February. Saudi oil pipeline resumes operations A major Saudi oil pipeline that was shut down earlier this month after a drone attack has resumed operations, a Saudi government official said. The official, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to comment publicly, said the 1,200-kilometre (745-mile) East-West pipeline is operating close to pre-attack levels and should return to full capacity within weeks. Saudi Arabia accused an Iran-backed Iraqi militia of carrying out the drone attack. The pipeline transports crude from oil facilities along the Gulf to export terminals on the Red Sea coast. Data firm Kpler said tankers loaded about 12.5 million barrels of oil Sunday at the Yanbu export terminal and nearby Al Muajjiz terminal, both supplied by the pipeline. Pakistan vows to support Saudi Arabia Pakistan will use “whatever means are available” to defend Saudi Arabia against Iran-backed Houthi rebels, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said Tuesday. Asif did not say whether Pakistani forces had taken part in airstrikes. He said Pakistan’s military capabilities would be available to Saudi Arabia under a new mutual defence pact involving Saudi Arabia and Turkey. “I’m not going into detail, but obviously when I say that we are bound by this arrangement to defend Saudi Arabia, that means whatever means are available at our disposal, they’ll be available to Saudi Arabia also,” he told reporters in Rome.



Heavy strikes hit Houthi stronghold Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces carried out heavy airstrikes Tuesday in the north-western province of Saada, a stronghold of the Iran-backed Houthis. Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said government forces carried out 35 airstrikes on Houthi positions over 24 hours. Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV reported earlier that at least 20 strikes hit several areas of Saada. Israeli settlers block Palestinian family from home More than 100 Israeli settlers clashed with Israeli soldiers who were escorting a Palestinian man back to his home in the West Bank village of Jalud. Mahmoud Tubasi told the AP that soldiers initially took him to his house, but rioting settlers forced him and his family to leave in a military vehicle. He said settlers have surrounded the house for about two months, preventing the family from returning. The Israeli military said the overnight operation 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 were arrested over the violence. The incident was condemned by Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Gidon Saar and President Isaac Herzog. Rights groups have accused the Israeli military of cooperating with settlers, while the military has struggled to contain a recent increase in settler violence. Israeli strikes kill four in Gaza Israeli airstrikes in Gaza killed four people Tuesday, including a Hamas commander, according to Palestinian and Israeli officials. An early morning strike on an apartment west of Gaza City killed two people and injured five others, officials at Shifa Hospital said. The Israeli military said the strike targeted Izz al-Din Bik, a Hamas commander involved in planning attacks and recruiting members. Hamas confirmed his death and said he was one of the main figures involved in overseeing the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on southern Israel, which killed more than 1,200 people. Later Tuesday, an Israeli strike in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza killed one person and injured several others, Gaza’s Health Ministry said. Another strike east of Gaza City killed one person, Shifa Hospital officials said. The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the afternoon strikes. The deaths were the latest reported since a ceasefire took effect nearly a year ago.



‘Andhar’ release delayed by over 5 months

Entertainment Desk

Raihan Rafi's horror film "Andhar" will not be released on its previously announced October 16 date, with the director announcing that the film will now hit cinemas on March 26, 2027.

Rafi said the delay is necessary to allow more time for visual effects and post-production, as releasing the film on October 16 would have compromised the quality of the work.

He announced the new release date in a video message posted on social media on Tuesday night.

"Andhar" is the film I have shot for the longest time in my career and made with the most care. I made it with a particular vision, and I want to show the audience something they have never seen before," the filmmaker said.

"We could have released the film on October 16, but the visual effects and post-production work would not have been up to the standard. I do not want to compromise on quality when it comes to the audience," he said.

Explaining the choice of the new date, he said the team also considered the release calendar around the Eid holidays.

"After considering everything, we felt that March 26 next year, Independence Day, will be the right time to release the film," Rafi added.

The film's story was developed by Shakib Chowdhury and Saidus Khaled Sumon, popularly known as Bassbaba Sumon of Aurthohin. Their long-standing interest in paranormal stories and their experience exploring supernatural incidents through the popular radio programme "Bhoutist" have contributed to the film's concept. Adnan Adib Khan is also involved in the story and screenplay development.

Directed by Rafi and produced under the banner of 221B Films, "Andhar" features an ensemble cast, including Siam Ahmed, Nazifa Tushi, Chanchal Chowdhury, Afsana Mimi, Gazi Rakayet, Mostafa Monwar and Tanjika Amin. The film will also mark the big-screen debuts of newcomers Farrukh Ahmed Rehan and Swarnali Choity.

The project has generated considerable interest since the makers began unveiling character looks and promotional materials earlier this year. Its teaser, released in September, offered glimpses of its dark supernatural world while keeping much of the story under wraps.

Indictment hearing deferred in narcotics case against Pori Moni

Entertainment Desk

A Dhaka court on Tuesday deferred the hearing on charge framing against actress Pori Moni and two others in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act with Banani Police Station in the capital in 2021.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Dhaka Special Judge Court-10 fixed 17 November as the new date following a petition by the defence, said State Prosecutor Md Moazzem Hossain.

Earlier in the day, Pori Moni's lawyer Nilanjona Rifat appeared before the court on her behalf and sought an adjournment. She said Pori Moni had suffered a leg injury a few days ago and had been experiencing pain. She sought time, arguing that it was difficult for her to move and that she could not appear before the court. Opposing the petition, the state prosecutor sought cancellation of Pori Moni's bail and an order framing charges. He also sought cancellation of her appearance through her lawyer. The court, however, allowed the time petition and fixed 17 November for the next hearing. According to the case documents, on 4 August 2021, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) conducted a raid at Pori Moni's residence and recovered alcohol and drugs. She was later arrested, and the battalion filed a narcotics case against her. She was released after spending a month in jail. On 4 October 2021, CID Inspector Kazi Golam Mostafa, the investigating officer in the case, submitted a charge sheet against Pori Moni and two others, and the court framed charges on 5 January 2022.

The other two accused are Pori Moni's manager Ashrafur Islam Dipu and her maternal uncle Kabir Hossain Hawladar. Later, Pori Moni filed a petition with the High Court seeking quashing of the case. On 1 March 2022, the High Court issued a rule and stayed the proceedings of the case against her for three months. Later, the apex court ordered the framing of charges afresh in the case.



Keya Payel opens up about marriage, web film



Entertainment Desk

Actress Keya Payel believes marriage will happen when the right time comes--and when it does, it could happen unexpectedly.

The actress sparked speculation after sharing a photo with actor Arifin Shuvoo on Facebook recently, accompanied by "Happily Married". Many fans assumed Payel had secretly married. However, the post was later revealed to promote her first web film, "Happily Married".

Directed by Zahid Preetam, the film is part of the "Ministry of Love" project and is scheduled to premiere on an OTT platform on 7 October. The announcement has generated excitement among viewers. Some fans jokingly asked when Payel herself would become "happily married" and make a similar announcement. Payel said she would certainly get married and would be happy when it happened. "I believe in destiny. So, let's see when it happens. It will happen when it is written in my fate, and everyone will know about it. But I feel it might happen all of a sudden," she told media. For now, Payel is focused on her career. Alongside dramas, she is busy with endorsements and fashion shows. She is scheduled to travel abroad in early October and return later in the month. Payel said she had received film and web-film offers for years but had been waiting for a role that would show audiences a different side of her.

Rafa's solo concert to bring 'Aurthohin' reunion to stage

Entertainment Desk

After nearly two decades of making his mark on Bangladesh's rock music scene, Raef Al Hasan Rafa is set to return with an exclusive solo concert, "Eto Boka Keno Tumi," celebrating the release of his new album of the same name. The concert will take place at InterContinental Dhaka on 2 October, bringing together some of the most familiar names from the legendary "Aushomapti" lineup of Aurthohin. Bassbaba Sumon, Raef Al Hasan Rafa, Shishir Ahmed and Ibrahim Ahmed Kamal are set to reunite on stage for what promises to be a special musical evening.

The new album features a collection of songs by AvidRafa, reflecting the band's evolving sound, ideas and experiences. Through the album, Rafa continues to explore different musical expressions while retaining the energy and identity that have defined his work over the years.

China grants singer rare exemption after unapproved tribute song

Entertainment Desk

Authorities in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu on Tuesday gave singer Na Ying a rare exemption after she performed an unapproved song at a weekend concert, drawing fresh attention to China's strict controls over the entertainment industry.

Songs and other content used in live performances, including stand-up comedy, must be approved by local authorities in advance. Artists who break the rules can face fines, bans from future performances and restrictions on public appearances.

The Chengdu Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism said Na's performance was a short part of an audience interaction rather than a full performance of the song. Therefore, it did not require additional approval.

Na, one of China's best-known female singers, performed "Curved Moon" at her concert in Chengdu on Saturday to remember fellow singer Liu Huan, who died the previous day.

"I want to sing a song he sang before on this stage, to pay tribute to him," Na told the audience, according to videos shared on social media. Dressed in black, she appeared emotional as she sang.



Some social media users described the performance as an "expensive tribute," praising Na while expressing concern that she could be fined.

Liu, one of China's most prominent musicians for nearly four decades, died Friday at the age of 63, according to an obituary published Sunday by the University of International Business and Economics.

Liu was a music history professor at the university for more than three decades before retiring. He

also performed the theme song of the 2008 Beijing Olympics with British soprano Sarah Brightman during the opening ceremony. Brightman described Liu as an "amazing talent and a true gentleman" and said he would be greatly missed in posts on Facebook and X on Sunday.

The Chengdu decision came several weeks after authorities in the central Chinese city of Wuhan fined a prominent comedian for changing the lyrics of a patriotic song during a performance.

Partha, Sadnima's Rehearsal

Entertainment Desk

Two popular artistes of this generation Partha Sheikh and Sadnima Binte Noman have paired up for a new drama titled "Rehearsal". Noted small screen director Chayanika Chowdhury is making the drama as part of celebrating 25 years of her career in directing.

Partha has previously worked with Chayanika, while "Rehearsal" marks Sadnima's first collaboration with the acclaimed director.

The story, screenplay and dialogues have been written by Chayanika's son, Anannya Pratik Chowdhury. Following its television premiere, the drama will also be available on noted playwright and lyricist Md Jamal Hossain's YouTube channel, "Rangon Entertainment".

Talking about the drama, Partha Sheikh said he always enjoys working with Chayanika and feels fortunate to be part of a drama marking her 25-year journey. He praised the script and the entire team, describing the experience as particularly enjoyable.

Sadnima said working under Chayanika's direction had long been something she looked forward to. She considers being part of the director's 25th-anniversary project especially meaningful and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity.

Chayanika expressed her gratitude to drama-loving audiences across Bangladesh, saying their continued support remains her greatest inspiration. She also praised Anannya's story, hinting that its unexpected premise would leave viewers pleasantly surprised.



Tom Cruise trades stunts for satire as toxic tycoon 'Digger'

Entertainment Desk

Tom Cruise is taking on one of his riskiest roles in decades, tackling the politics of climate change and corporate greed in new film "Digger" which sees him play an embattled, ageing tycoon. Backed by a reported budget of \$130 million and an advertising blitz, the dark comedy from multi-Oscar-winning Mexican auteur Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu hits screens from Wednesday.

Taking a break from his usual action movie roles, Cruise is barely recognisable as a mining and oil magnate facing an environmental crisis -- with the original screenplay seeing him wrestle with his own conscience and critics of his wealth and business.

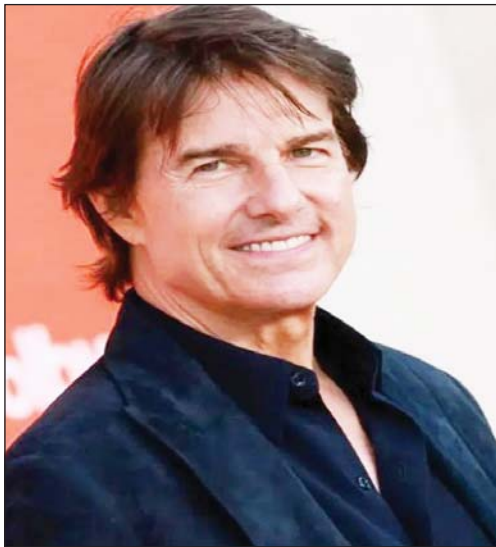
"It is the culmination of all my skills," Cruise, 64, told GQ magazine earlier this month. "It's the most challenging character ever."

After the premiere in London on September 22, initial reaction online was mixed, suggesting the melodramatic performances and Inarritu's acidic parodying of the billionaire class and climate change campaigning will divide audiences. An embargo on critics' reviews lifts later Tuesday at 16h GMT.

'Serious' role

Cruise has spent most of this century doing action movies, above all as Ethan Hunt in the eight-film "Mission: Impossible" series as well as in the Top Gun sequel "Top Gun: Maverick", or the "Jack Reacher" films. He will appear in another sequel, a "Days of Thunder" follow-up, later this year.

For film critic and author A.S Hamrah, who has written extensively about Cruise's body of work, the last roles



that harnessed the full range of his skills date back to the 1990s.

"I think Tom Cruise is looking back on his career and realising he's ageing and that, on the one hand, he still has to do things like 'Top Gun II' and 'Days of Thunder II', but on the other he hasn't really been in any serious film since 1999," he told AFP.

That was the year of "Magnolia" by Paul Thomas Anderson, as well as "Eyes Wide Shut" by Stanley Kubrick in which Cruise acted opposite Nicole Kidman, his ex-wife.

"I also think he's also probably thinking now that there's people he has not worked with that he would like to work with, and probably Inarritu is one of them," Hamrah added, referring to the acclaimed director of "Amores Perros" and "The Revenant".

Awards season player?

Shawn Robbins, the founder of US-based cinema consultancy Box Office Theory, told AFP that Cruise's decades in Hollywood demonstrated he is willing to head outside his comfort zone at times.

"Younger audiences may associate him with being a risky stunt performer and actor, but he's always prepared to go outside the box," he said, referring to his roles in movies such as "Vanilla Sky" (2001) or "Jerry Maguire" (1996). "We have to put Digger in a separate category from the typical Tom Cruise blockbuster. It's something all of its own," he added.

One interesting ponderable is the extent to which Cruise may personally embrace the political messages of "Digger": about our unsustainable lifestyles, virtue-signalling consumer behaviour and hypocritical politicians.



Albert becomes youngest US scorer in 4-2 win over Chile



Sports Desk
Mathis Albert became the youngest-ever US goal-scorer and fellow teen Julian Hall netted in back-to-back games as Mauricio Pochettino's side beat Chile 4-2 in a friendly international Tuesday at St Louis. Hall created Sebastian Berhalter's opener with a clever dummy, then became the youngest US player to score in his first two appearances before defensive stalwart Chris Richards slammed in a header. Albert, 17 years and four months old, slammed in a fourth in stoppage time, surpassing Christian Pulisic to become the team's youngest-ever goalscorer. Diego Ulloa and Maximiliano Gutierrez had briefly put Chile ahead with goals either side of half-time. A night that began with an emotional pre-game send-off ceremony to World Cup captain Tim Ream, who confirmed his international retirement, proved to be another full of promise for Pochettino's reinvigorated roster. Fresh from thumping Peru 4-1 at the weekend, when 11 players had made their debuts, Pochettino sent out the youngest line-up yet of his two-year tenure, with an average age of 23 years and 25 days. Gio Reyna was the only player retained from Saturday's win, with Antonee Robinson captaining for the first time. After scoring on debut, Hall squandered the

first decent chance of the game. Played through one-on-one by Berhalter, the 18-year old rounded Chile's goalkeeper, but blasted his shot wastefully over. Chile grew dangerous on the break. England-born Chile winger Ben Brereton Diaz lashed the crossbar with a fizzing effort, and Dario Osorio rattled the left post with a curling shot. But the US struck on their own counter-attack. Sergino Dest rolled a sideways pass across penalty spot. Hall made a brilliant dummy, letting it through his feet to Berhalter, who slammed into the bottom-left corner. In first-half stoppage time, Chile equalized. Another dangerous Osorio corner was parried twice by Brady, his second punch sending the ball back goalward. An almighty goalmouth scramble followed before Ulloa bundled it in. The game had barely resumed when Chile struck again. Gutierrez won an aerial duel on the halfway line, sprinted toward goal, cut inside, and curled a beautiful finish into the bottom corner. But barely two minutes later, Hall got his goal, leaping to steer a glancing header from Reyna's lifted cross into the net for 2-2. Pochettino rang five changes soon after the hour mark, bringing on several more experienced players from the recent World Cup campaign. Among them was Richards, who quickly slammed home a powerful header from Berhalter's pinpoint outswinging corner. Deep in stoppage time, Albert's shot rocketed into the crossbar and down across the line -- a goal that was confirmed by the referee moments later, and surpassed Pulisic's 2016 goal against Bolivia in the team history books. Tempers boiled over as both squads and coaching staff flooded onto the pitch for a bout of shoving and shouting before and the final whistle.

Injured Raphinha will miss India friendly

Sports Desk
Brazil forward Raphinha will miss the team's historic friendly against India in Kolkata on October 3 after sustaining a thigh injury during their 4-2 victory over Australia.Raphinha was substituted at half-time after feeling discomfort in his right thigh, raising concerns at Barcelona at the start of the new season.In the first



friendly against Australia, Raphinha played the full 90 minutes and provided the assist for Rayan's late equalizer and in the second match, he scored Brazil's equaliser from the penalty spot before being withdrawn at half-time. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) has confirmed that the Barcelona forward has been withdrawn from the squad for the India match following medical tests.“An imaging exam on the striker revealed a small muscle edema in the posterior region of his right thigh,” the CBF said in a statement.Raphinha is now expected to return to

Premier League confirms Man City guilty of serious financial breaches

Sports Desk
Manchester City have been found guilty of serious breaches of the Premier League's financial rules over a nine-season period between 2009 and 2018, it was confirmed on Tuesday. City were found to have arranged sham contracts with a number of commercial partners to artificially inflate the club's revenues and reduce costs, concealing the true state of their finances and avoiding breaches of Premier League and UEFA spending limits as a result. An independent commission also found the club guilty on the majority of charges in relation to their failure to co-operate with the league's investigation. No sanction has yet been imposed and City said they will appeal against the decision. But the ruling will send shockwaves through English football, with City's place in the Premier League now at risk and questions over whether titles could be stripped. “The core decision establishes the facts of what happened at Manchester City during this period. It details how the club systematically broke Premier League rules for nearly a decade,” Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said in a statement on Tuesday. “Now we have the commission's decision, we are committed to moving swiftly through the remainder of the process, to provide certainty for the league, our clubs and fans.” The commission found City arranged commercial deals whereby companies were only required to pay a portion of the relevant sponsorship fees. The remainder was funded by Abu Dhabi United Group Investment and Development (ADUG), which owned the club. Further arrangements, funded by ADUG, enabled the club to record lower operating expenses than they actually incurred. The schemes were found to have artificially inflated the club's revenues, and reduce its costs, by more than æ900 million (\$1.2 billion) during the affected period to appear to comply with financial rules.



As a result, City failed to accurately report income and expenditure for the purposes of the Premier League and UEFA's financial sustainability rules. The commission found they would have breached spending limits "by a very substantial amount" if City had reported accurately. - City set to appeal - In addition, the club were found to have "made concerted efforts to stop and frustrate the Premier League" during a four-year investigation. "It's incredibly serious, the Premier League report is incredibly stark," said the British government's culture, media and sport secretary Lisa Nandy. Since a 2008 takeover from Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, vice-president and deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, City have become the Premier League's dominant force. They have won eight Premier League titles, four FA Cups and seven League Cups over the past 15 years and also won the Champions League for the first time in 2023. But that same year they were charged by the Premier League on over 100 charges following an investigation into alleged breaches of rules. A hearing by an independent commission started in September 2024 and concluded three months later. The club expressed "surprise" at the decision and vowed to continue fighting to clear their name. "Manchester City FC will now pursue the appeal avenues open to it, on the basis that the opinion contains clear material errors, of law, principle and fact, and is unsafe," the club said in a statement. 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 likely relegation if the same penalty is applied for over 100 charges.



Brazil football clubs face massive sponsorship blow from betting ban

Sports Desk
Brazil's powerhouse football clubs are reeling after a ban on sports betting companies, their biggest sponsors, which has left multi-million dollar deals in limbo. Flush with cash from their betting sponsors, Brazilian clubs have in recent years dominated their South American rivals, winning the last seven Copa Libertadores titles. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who on Sunday is facing a tight election race against right-wing senator Flavio Bolsonaro on Friday signed a provisional measure banning online betting companies, dubbing the industry a "cancer." This is what is at stake: - How much do clubs rake in? - Fourteen of the 20 clubs in Brazil's top-flight Brasileiro have a betting company as their main sponsor. That money accounted for 34 percent of clubs' commercial revenue in 2025, or around \$200 million, according to investment firm Galapagos Capital. Flamengo, the reigning Libertadores and Brasileiro champion, has the biggest annual sponsorship deal in South American football history with Betano, worth \$46 million. That is equivalent to what the team paid this year for midfielder Lucas Paqueta, setting a new benchmark in the South American market. "How am I going to pay for Paqueta?" Flamengo president Luiz Eduardo Baptista said on a podcast following the ban. The measure "puts future revenue, the contracts we have signed and the payments we have to make at risk," he said. - What happens now? - Lula's measure orders betting adverts to be removed after October 5. A meeting between the government and clubs this week was postponed until after Sunday's first-round election, a Sports Ministry source told AFP. The Senate has 120 days to decide whether to turn the provisional measure into law. The main betting industry associations on Monday asked the Supreme Court to suspend

the measure, alleging that it is unconstitutional. Lula has doubled down saying either he "puts an end to betting, or betting will put an end to Brazil." The president argues that betting companies account for "just" seven percent of clubs' revenues. - What are the risks for clubs? - Experts warn that clubs face a possible devaluation of their commercial assets and potential legal action. "An indebted company, a company without legal certainty that cannot honor its commitments, suffers a devaluation," said Fabiana Bentes of sports industry institute Sou do Esporte. The loss is "very large," said Cruzeiro owner Pedro Lourenco. "We are looking at the situation and reviewing the accounts. It is not easy to quantify the scale of the loss yesterday," he added. The Belo Horizonte club will nevertheless receive financial support from the Minas Gerais state government, which announced assistance for local clubs that have lost their sponsors. Fluminense president Matheus Montenegro said it will not be easy for clubs to replace these sponsors. "It is obvious that this devalues the asset, because any company interested in sponsoring a football club will have almost all the clubs available at the same time," he told CNN Brasil. - How will this impact Brazil's regional dominance? - Flamengo said in a statement that revenue from online betting has "propelled Brazilian football to the point of dominating" South American competitions. Betting sponsorships of Brazilian clubs emerged in 2019, filling a space left by state-owned bank Caixa Economica Federal. Since then, 12 of the 14 Libertadores finalists have been Brazilian teams. According to specialist website Transfermarkt, nine of the 10 most valuable clubs in the region are in the Brasileiro.

BCB decides to explore untapped cricket talents in hills

Sports Desk
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to explore untapped cricket talents in three south-eastern hill districts (CHT) as the rugged terrain and lack of infrastructure visibly kept the sport beyond reach of many youngsters in the region, officials said. “The board is mulling ways to onboard more players from ethnic minority communities into mainstream cricket system,” BCB director Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir said. Alamgir, a strong advocate of the initiative, said the “biggest obstacle is not lack of their athletic ability but a lack of opportunity” and so the country's cricket structure must go beyond waiting for talented players from the hills to make their way on their own to established cricket centers. “Instead, the system needs to take the game to them as it's not possible for them to overcome all hurdles to come to the city and play cricket,” he said. BCB officials said their proposals include creating residential facilities in Chattogram, expanding training opportunities and providing financial support to promising players from remote areas of the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) to enable them to develop their skills in a professional environment Cricket experts said children in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari hill districts often grow up in rugged terrain, geographic isolation having limited access to sports facilities while reaching a cricket ground often emerge as a major challenge for them. Former BCB coach in Rangamati Mohitosh Dewan, himself a member of a minority ethnic community in the hills, knows that reality well. “It's extremely tough to manage playing cricket in the hill tracts. When life is undeniably tough, cricket is a luxury there,” Dewan said. He said young players often need to overcome significant logistical difficulties simply to reach a field and in most cases they firstly need to cross a chain of hills and waterlogged areas before reaching a cricket field. Dewan said the geographic feature of the CHT made cricket fundamentally different from some other sports which gained popularity among ethnic communities. “The physical endurance developed by life in the hills has helped produce successful athletes in football, hockey and other disciplines, but cricket requires regular access to pitches, equipment, coaching and organized competition,” Dewan said. Ethnic athletes have become prominent in several sports, with footballers such as Rituparna Chakma and Monika Chakma playing important roles in Bangladesh women's football while cricket, by contrast, so far produced only a handful of ethnic players in the country's organised system.

Champa Chakma became the first ethnic cricketer to represent Bangladesh women's cricket and later pursued a career as an umpire. Mohitosh Dewan played in the Dhaka Premier League in the 1990s before moving into coaching. More recently, Anik Deb Barman and Leky Chakma have emerged through the BCB's age-group structure. Their progress has given the BCB something which was missing for decades displaying visible examples that players from ethnic communities can enter the national cricket pathway if they are given the opportunity. Anik, a 6-foot-3-inch Tripura fast bowler from Habiganj, has already reached Bangladesh's



Under-19 preliminary setup. His route into cricket depicts the importance of access. “We have 40 families in our community in the village. No one played cricket there and hardly have any interest in this sport,” Anik said. He only received a serious opportunity after moving to Habiganj town, where a coach noticed him playing at school and helped pace his development. Leky's journey was even more difficult as she had to overcome family resistance to her ambitions and travel several kilometres to attend training sessions. Her breakthrough came through a district-level camp in Rangamati organized with the support of the local cricket association. Champa, who was involved in the camp, immediately recognized her potential. “There were 40 players in the camp. Leky showed her potential to be the next cricketer from the hill tracts. So I picked her and informed the management about her ability,” Champa said. Leky subsequently went through rigorous training to make herself available for the Under-19 level. Her progress is significant not only because of what it means for her career, but also because the BCB sees the possibility of creating a chain reaction -- one successful player could inspire many others to consider cricket. Alamgir believes the absence of such a figure has been one of the reasons cricket has struggled to

develop in the hills. “You need a hero in our locality to embrace cricket. For hill tracts people, there is no hero,” he said. He said a successful national-level player from an ethnic community could become a powerful source of inspiration for children who currently saw little connection between their communities and elite cricket. But, he said, creating that role model will require more than identifying talented youngsters and the BCB must also address the economic realities as many children naturally gravitate towards sports that require less financial investment because of their circumstances in the hills. “They are interested in less-costly games since they live under the poverty line. Daily realities of life in the hill tracts are very different from those in urban areas,” Alamgir said adding BCB now wanted to combine training with practical support for the region. Alamgir proposed using existing facilities in Chattogram to establish a dormitory where promising young cricketers from remote communities could stay and train. He also wants the board to explore financial assistance. “We can even give some a salary so that they can be motivated to play cricket. If we can prepare cricketers in this way from the hill tracts, there will be a revolution there,” he said. The concept, however, is not entirely new as during his time at the Bangladesh Olympic Association, he proposed establishing a sports centre of excellence in the hill tracts, but the project never materialized. BCB is now looks at a more targeted approach for cricket. The board also recognises that physical strength alone cannot take a player to the top since cricket demands technical ability, tactical understanding and sustained coaching. “T20 cricket is all about power” is a common perception but power alone is insufficient without the necessary skills. Intensive training is essential, Alamgir said. That makes the development of ethnic cricket a long-term project rather than a short-term talent hunt. BCB's challenge is to create a system through which children in remote communities can be identified early, given access to coaching and equipment, and then connected to the established age-group structure. The emergence of Champa, Anik and Leky has demonstrated that the pathway is possible. The next step is to make it less dependent on individual circumstances and more accessible to an entire generation. The hills have already produced athletes capable of competing at the highest levels in other sports, which cricket has lacked but BCB now wants to build that bridge. For the board, the objective is clear -- find the talent, remove the barriers and give ethnic communities a genuine route into mainstream cricket.



Discussion held in Rajshahi to raise environmental awareness



Rajshahi Correspondent

A discussion meeting was held in Rajshahi with the aim of raising public awareness to conserve the environment, control pollution and combat the adverse effects of climate change. The programme was held yesterday in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner's office, organised by the district administration and the Department of Environment, Rajshahi. The programme was organised under the project titled "Environmental Conservation and Quality Improvement and Pollution Control through Capacity Building of the Monitoring Team" being implemented by the Department of Environment with funding from the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund. Director General of the Department of Environment Dr. Lutfur Rahman attended the event as the chief guest with Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Kazi Shahidul Islam in the chair. Dr. Lutfur Rahman said, in addition to government institutions, awareness and active participation of the general public is extremely important in environmental conservation and pollution control. Along with controlling air, water and soil pollution to maintain ecological balance, environmental laws must be properly implemented. Concerned stakeholders must play a more responsible role in

preventing activities that harm the environment. He said highest priority must be given to environmental conservation to combat the adverse effects of climate change. Along with increasing the capacity of the Department of Environment, surveillance at the field level will be strengthened and necessary measures will be taken against polluters. Coordinated initiatives of government and private institutions and the public are needed to ensure environmentally

friendly development. In his presidential speech, Kazi Shahidul Islam said, protecting the environment is not only the responsibility of the government alone, it is the responsibility of every person in society. Along with increasing public awareness to prevent environmental pollution, a culture of abiding by the law must be developed, he added. He further said the district administration and the Department of Environment are working together to maintain the environmental balance of Rajshahi. Necessary steps will continue to be taken by the administration to ensure waste management, conservation of water bodies, control of air pollution and stopping activities harmful to the environment, he continued. Everyone must fulfill their responsibilities from their respective positions to ensure a livable and pollution-free environment for future generations. Director of Environment Divisional Office, Rajshahi Nilufa Yasmin, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sabur Ali, Deputy Director of Department of Environment Rajshahi Mosammat Tasmina Khatun, its Assistant Director Md. Kabir Hossain and other concerned officials were present, among others. The programme discussed various aspects of environmental conservation, pollution control, tackling the impacts of climate change and raising public awareness about the environment.

Hilsa supply rises in Lakshmipur bringing relief to buyers

Lakshmipur Correspondent

The supply of Hilsa has increased in Lakshmipur in recent days, bringing down prices by Taka 500 to Taka 700 per kilogram and bringing relief to both buyers and sellers. Hilsa is now selling at Taka 1,400 to Taka 1,500 per kilogram, compared with more than Taka 2,000 last week. After a prolonged period of poor catches, fishermen are now returning with Hilsa in their nets, bringing renewed activity to fish landing centres and fishing villages across the district. Fishermen and fish traders are also happy with the improved catches. District Fisheries Office officials said Hilsa is now being caught in greater quantities in both the sea and the Meghna River compared with the previous few days. They expressed hope that the supply will increase further, which could lead to another decline in prices. According to the district fisheries office, a 100-kilometre stretch of the Meghna from Alexander in Lakshmipur to Shatnal in Chandpur has been designated as a Hilsa sanctuary. Around 53,000 fishermen from five upazilas of Lakshmipur depend on fishing in the Meghna for their livelihoods. Although it is currently the peak Hilsa season, fishermen had not been getting the expected amount of fish. However, the situation has improved over the past few days as Hilsa have started appearing in fishermen's nets in large numbers. Most of the fish being caught are relatively small. With the increased supply, prices have also started falling. A one-kilogram Hilsa, which was selling for around Taka 2,000 to Taka 2,500 last week, is now available for around Taka 2,000, with prices varying according to size and quality. The price of a four-piece lot of Hilsa has also fallen by an average of Taka 700. Meanwhile, increased supplies of sea-caught Hilsa are also helping meet local demand. Around 30 fish landing centres in Lakshmipur are witnessing increased activity as fishermen and traders remain busy handling the fresh catches. Visiting Mujchowdhuryhat fish landing centre on Wednesday morning, this correspondent saw fishermen arriving at the ghat with Hilsa-laden boats. The landing centre was bustling with buyers and sellers with the boats.



ACC raids Rangamati DPHE office over alleged tender, project irregularities

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday conducted a raid at the office of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) here over allegations of irregularities in government development projects. A four-member ACC team conducted the operation at the DPHE office this afternoon, Assistant Director of the commission Abu Sadek told. During the raid, the ACC team questioned DPHE Executive Engineer Parag Barua about the tender process for various projects and other alleged irregularities. The team also examined documents relating to wash-block construction and other development works undertaken by the department.



Pirojpur Gets New DC Golam Rabbani

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

Pirojpur is set to get new leadership in its district administration with the appointment of Md. Golam Rabbani as the new Deputy Commissioner (DC). Md. Golam Rabbani, a Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Public Administration, has been appointed as the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Pirojpur. The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification in this regard on Tuesday (September 29). According to the notification, Md. Golam Rabbani has been appointed as the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Pirojpur. In the same order, the current Deputy Commissioner of Pirojpur, Abu Sayeed, has been transferred to Tangail and appointed as its Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate. It is worth mentioning that the current Deputy Commissioner of Pirojpur, Abu Sayeed, assumed office in the district in November 2025.

AL Leader Dies Nine Days After Assault Over Pond Fishing Dispute in Sitakunda

Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

Md. Manjur Ahmed, 40, who was critically injured in an alleged attack over fishing in a pond in Sitakunda, Chattogram, died while undergoing treatment nine days after the incident. According to his family, Manjur was attacked with locally made weapons following a longstanding dispute, and his two legs were allegedly severely injured, including claims that the tendons were cut during the assault. Manjur was the son of Abdul Monaa of Golabaria area under Ward No. 2 of Muradpur Union in Sitakunda. He was known locally as the joint general secretary of the ward Awami League and worked as a bus driver, according to his family. On September 20, Manjur was seriously injured in an attack near the pond and was admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital. After receiving treatment for nine days, he died early Tuesday, September 29. His wife, Ruma Akter, filed a murder case with Sitakunda Model Police Station naming eight people as accused. Mehedi Hasan Rana was named as the prime accused. The complainant's side alleged that some of the accused were involved in Jubo League politics. However, no statement from any leader of the organisation could be obtained regarding the allegation. The other accused are Md. Nishan, Md. Alamgir, Jahangir Hossain Rony, Ashiq, Md. Saimon, Amir Hossain and Mohin Uddin. According to the case statement and allegations made by the family, Manjur had been cultivating fish for nearly 15 years after leasing a pond owned by a local person known as Captain Rana. A dispute reportedly developed between Manjur and Mehedi Hasan Rana and his associates over the installation of a pump to drain water from the pond.



The family alleged that Tk 50,000 was demanded from Manjur in connection with the dispute. However, the allegation could not be independently verified.

According to the family, on September 20, Mehedi Hasan Rana called Manjur to the pond by phone. When he arrived, several people allegedly attacked him. He was reportedly beaten and hacked with sharp weapons, and the case statement alleges that the tendons in both of his legs were cut. Manjur's son, Abdullah Tahin, said he pleaded with the attackers to spare his father but witnessed the assault. "My father was the only earning member of our family. We are two brothers. After losing our father, we are worried about how we will manage our household expenses and education. We want a fair investigation and justice for our father's death," he said. The family also claimed that accused No. 2, Nishan, had previously spent a long period in jail in connection with a murder case and was recently released on bail. This claim could not be independently verified. Following the autopsy, Manjur's body was taken from Chattogram Medical College Hospital to his village on Tuesday evening. He was later buried at the family graveyard after the funeral prayer. Sitakunda Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md. Mahinul Islam said an argument between two groups over fishing in the pond later escalated into a physical altercation, leaving Manjur injured. "He was admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital by his relatives. Later, his family filed a case with the police station. He died early Tuesday while undergoing treatment," the OC said. The OC added that police were conducting special operations to arrest the accused named in the case and were making efforts to apprehend them as soon as possible.

Police Arrest 85-Year-Old Father of Chhatra League Leader in Zianagar

Zianagar, Pirojpur Correspondent

Police have arrested the 85-year-old, ailing father of a Chhatra League leader in Zianagar, Pirojpur. On the evening of Monday, September 28, officers from Indurkani Police Station detained him in front of a shop near his home in Kalaiya village. The detainee, Zainal Abedin Alam Munshi, is the father of Atiqur Rahman Sagir the president of the Zianagar Upazila Chhatra League and serves as the president of the local Ward No. 5 Awami League unit. According to local sources, Alam Munshi had stepped out of his house on Monday evening to pay his electricity bill and was standing in front of a roadside shop when Sub-Inspector (SI) Mohammad Sanil of the local police station detained him and took him into custody. Sahida Begum, the daughter of the detained Alam Munshi, stated that their home had been subjected to vandalism, looting, and arson on the evening of August 5, 2024. Following that incident, her father had been staying in Dhaka, where he underwent long-term hospital treatment for age-related ailments, including diabetes and heart disease. He returned home earlier this September. She noted that there were no political cases filed against him either before or after August 5, 2024. Mohammad Mohabbat Ali, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Indurkani Police Station, confirmed that Alam Munshi was formally arrested in connection with a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act and was sent to the Pirojpur Court on Tuesday.



Collective efforts can help overcome dengue crisis: KCC Administrator

Khulna Correspondent

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Administrator Nazrul Islam Manju yesterday said collective efforts could help overcome the dengue crisis and resolve various environmental problems facing the city. "Dengue infection is one such challenge for us. If everyone works together, overcoming this crisis will become easier," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion meeting here. Saburunnnessa Women's Degree College organised the programme titled "Role of Teachers in Preventing Social Degradation and Raising Awareness about Dengue Prevention" on the college premises at Gagan Babu Road in the city this afternoon. Thanking the college authorities for arranging the timely discussion, Manju said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had emphasised sports and cultural activities to reduce students' addiction to mobile phones. He said families, educational institutions and the KCC all had responsibilities in preventing violence against women, eve-teasing and child marriage. The KCC is also working to address these issues as part of its efforts to prevent social degradation, he added. Emphasising the importance of public participation, Manju urged teachers and students to clean their educational institutions every Saturday and keep their home surroundings clean at a convenient time. "If everyone comes forward from their respective positions, even difficult tasks can become easier. Such initiatives will also help keep the city clean," he added. He also stressed the need to improve the quality of education and create a safe, student-friendly and education-oriented environment in educational institutions. Professor Sheikh Jalal Uddin, a member of the college governing body, chaired the meeting. Sekendar Jafurullah Khan Satchu, president of the governing body of Saburunnnessa Secondary Girls' School, former KCC councillor Md Gias Uddin Bony, and social worker Yusuf Harun Majnu addressed the programme as special guests. College Principal Mariam Siddika delivered the welcome address. Teachers, students and guardians of the college attended the meeting.

Young Engineer Md. Arifuzzaman Sohel Leads Popularity Wave in RCC Ward 18

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Engineer Md. Arifuzzaman Sohel, a young councillor candidate, has emerged as the leading contender in Ward 18 of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), promising comprehensive development and modern civic amenities. Local residents view him as a trusted voice and a reliable friend in times of need. Engaged in social work for a long time, Sohel regularly visits its neighborhoods across the ward to listen to residents' concerns. Locals noted that his contributions—such as standing by the underprivileged, supporting education, pushing for drainage infrastructure reforms, and keeping youth away from drugs—have earned widespread praise. Due to the affection and trust of



the general public, locals often refer to him as a "friend of the poor" and a "pioneer of development." Outlining his vision for the ward's growth, Arifuzzaman Sohel said, "Serving the neglected people of Ward 18 is my primary goal. I want to focus on infrastructure development, proper drainage management, and creating a drug-free community. My dream is to leverage my engineering expertise to build a well-planned and modern Ward 18." Elderly and young voters alike feel that electing an educated and professional engineer as councillor will lead to practical, lasting solutions to local civic challenges. Placing their faith in young leadership, the people of Ward 18 are looking forward to a positive change this time.

Water lilies become livelihood source for marginal people in Shariatpur

Shariatpur Correspondent

Once celebrated mainly as a symbol of beauty of rural Bengal, water lilies have now become an important source of income for many marginal and low-income people in riverine Shariatpur. During the monsoon, water lilies grow abundantly in the district's beels, ponds, wetlands and low-lying areas. Marginal people collect the flowers from the water bodies early in the morning using boats or small watercraft and later sell them in local markets after cleaning and bundling them. A visit to different markets in the district showed that water lilies have developed a small but visible market alongside other vegetables. Large quantities are sold daily in markets in Shariatpur Sadar and different upazilas and unions, while some are also supplied to markets in neighbouring districts. Local sellers said water lilies are generally sold in bundles, with 10 to 12 flowers making one bundle. Depending on the market demand, season and variety, each bundle is sold for Taka 10 to Taka 20. As collecting water lilies requires virtually no investment, the activity has become particularly attractive to poor people who have little or no land and cannot afford to invest in businesses. For many agricultural labourers, whose regular work declines during the rainy season, collecting and selling

water lilies provides an alternative source of income. The earnings help them meet household expenses, children's education costs and other family needs.

Abdul Gafur, a water lily seller from Arigaon village in Shariatpur Sadar, said he collects water lilies from a nearby beel every morning and sells them at Palong Bazar. "I can meet my household expenses and live reasonably well with the income from selling water lilies," he said, adding that he sells around 200 flowers a day at the market. Another seller, Abul Bashar, said water lilies are available in large quantities in the beels and have considerable demand in the market. "I bring water lilies from the beel every day and sell them at Taka 20 per bundle," he said. Water lilies are also a familiar food item in the region. Local people prepare them in various ways, including as a vegetable fry, with lentils, with fish and with hilsa. Their easy availability during the rainy season makes them a common addition to the diet of many rural families. However, the economic activity surrounding water lilies remains largely informal. Most collectors sell directly to local wholesalers, middlemen or retailers and often lack organised market access. Inadequate transportation, storage and marketing facilities also force collectors to sell their produce quickly, sometimes preventing them from receiving the full market price.

