



## Factories must stop polluting rivers

As the political promises of planting 25 crore trees and digging 20,000 kilometres of canals and waterways are reiterated at review meetings and conferences, marginalised sections of our population continue to suffer multiple types of environmental pollution daily. As a report by this daily outlines, the canals in Gazipur’s industrial areas remain pitch-black as industrial and household waste flow through the Tongi canal into Turag and Balu rivers. Not only is the water uninhabitable for aquatic life, but the land around these waterways is also not conducive to farming crops. Besides, chemicals evaporate, polluting the air, corroding tin roofs and, more concerningly, affecting the health of residents. Meanwhile, in Narsingdi, a similar story of waste plagues the Haridhoa River. Here, too, the river is encroached upon and is polluted by chemical waste from surrounding industries.

In both Gazipur and Narsingdi, industries pollute nearby water bodies despite having effluent treatment plants (ETP). While a number of factories, including Leeds-certified ones run their ETPs properly, many others do not. Consequently, it impacts public health. Tests of surface water along the Turag have found lead, cadmium, chromium, nickel, and iron above permissible levels by local and global standards. Some samples recorded pH levels as low as 2 to 4, indicating highly acidic water. In some locations, the concentration of dissolved heavy metals such as iron, lead, chromium, and nickel is alarmingly high. Near the Haridhoa, locals avoid getting into the water, while those who still bathe in it often develop skin problems. The Narsingdi Sadar Hospital reportedly receives 14 to 16 patients a day with diseases caused by the river pollution.

Most concerningly, there is a severe shortage of workforce to monitor these industries and their pollution. In Gazipur district, for instance, the Department of Environment (DoE) office responsible has five staff members, only three of whom are inspectors. Meanwhile, a Tk 6.5-crore project under the Narsingdi Water Development Board to excavate the Haridhoa has only reached 15 percent completion since it began last August. We cannot allow life-giving rivers to be choked by reckless human-made corruption. Beyond individual-level plastic pollution, the government must treat industrial pollution as an emergency because it affects the daily lives of crores of people nationwide. Rivers must be revived and kept pollution-free to help life flourish as they have done for centuries.

## PM for faster implementation

Rashid Habib, Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Abdus Salam, Dhaka North City Corporation Administrator Safiqul Islam Khan, and senior officials of the ministries and departments concerned were present at the meeting.

## JS Speaker leaves Dhaka to

the IPU Governing Council will elect a new President of the organization.

The Speaker is scheduled to return home on October 11 after concluding his participation in the IPU Assembly.

## Foreign transactions

repatriating funds from Bangladesh instead of undertaking separate calculations for every transaction. The change is expected to make the investment process more convenient for foreign investors.The proposed transition to a T+1 settlement system has also sent a positive signal to international investors, Anwar said.

She added that the DSE was working to ensure professional market management, transparency and accountability while maintaining regular communication with foreign investors. The combined impact of these initiatives is contributing to increased foreign participation, she noted.DSE data show that foreign transactions fluctuated considerably during the first eight months of 2026, although the overall volume remained significantly higher than that of the corresponding period last year.

Foreign transactions stood at Tk 377.24 crore in January and rose to Tk 663.28 crore in February. The figure subsequently declined to Tk 272.04 crore in March and Tk 175.16 crore in April.

Transactions surged in May to Tk 831.70 crore, the highest monthly figure recorded during the first eight months of this year.Foreign transactions amounted to Tk 540.17 crore in June and Tk 523.15 crore in July before declining to Tk 318.57 crore in August.In comparison, foreign investors’ transactions totalled Tk 2,687.39 crore during the first eight months of 2025.Monthly transactions that year stood at Tk 181.81 crore in January, Tk 264.14 crore in February and Tk 171.96 crore in March.

The volume increased to Tk 426.94 crore in April and peaked at Tk 506.74 crore in May. Transactions then declined to Tk 285.31 crore in June before rising to Tk 491.44 crore in July and falling to Tk 371.56 crore in August.

For the whole of 2025, foreign investors’ total transactions amounted to Tk 3,920.42 crore. Against that backdrop, the Tk 3,701.29 crore recorded in the first eight months of 2026 indicates that foreign transactions have already reached nearly 94 percent of last year’s full-year total.

## Jaishankar, Riaz Hamidullah

has to be a solution, and there will be a solution,” the Indian diplomat added.

## Police obstructed while

multiple drug cases in various police stations.

After his arrest, when Sujon was being taken to court on Saturday afternoon, his relatives and hired people staged a protest march and created a disturbance in front of the office of the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Nilphamari, demanding Sujon’s release. At that time, police detained 20 people. In this incident, 35 people were named and 300 unidentified people were made accused. Later, a case was filed against them, and a total of 34 people, including those 20 people, were shown arrested and sent to court.The 34 arrested persons are Abu Sayeed (30) of Dohalpara, Dimla; Shafigul Islam alias Lebu (45) of Chhatnai Colony Miyapara; Nuruzzaman (50) of Purba Chhatnai Miyapara; Afzal Hossain (45) of Chhatnai Balapara; Saiful Islam (32) of Khagakharibari; Hridoy Islam (22) of Purba Chhatnai Omarpara; Sakira (20) of Botlagari, Saidpur; Miraj Islam (18) of Dohalpara; Milan Islam (19) of Omarpara; Ariful Islam (19); Sagar Debnath (22) of Bandar Kharibari; Naim Islam (19) of Omarpara; Mashiur Alam (36) of Bandar Kharibari; Naimul Islam (22); Saminur Islam (45) of Chhatnai Colony and Abdul Salam (25); Manjuara Begum (40) of Dohalpara; Lipon Islam (19) of Bandar Kharibari; Mim Hossain (20) of Dimla TNT Road; Shuvo Islam (19) of Purba Chhatnai Colony; Ashikul Islam (35) of Dohalpara; Gulzar Rahman (45); Shahidul Islam (45) of Khagakharibari; Alauddin (50) of Barabari Khagakharibari; Mahfuzar Rahman (19) and Sohel (21) of Dongar Bazar Khagakharibari; Anwar Hossain (19) and Islam (65) of Bandar Kharibari; Sagar Rahman (23); Kabirul Islam (25) of Dongar Bazar; Mahikul

# Paperless by December? Chattogram port must get the transition right

## Md. Neyamul Hossain

NBR’s ASYCUDA World customs system.

Installing software is different from changing the behaviour of the many people, platforms, and organisations using a port every day. Clearing and forwarding agents, shipping agents, importers, exporters, freight forwarders, truck operators, banks, customs officials, and port employees have developed working practices over decades. So when a digital procedure becomes mandatory, users need to know what happens if, for instance, a payment fails, or an approval does not appear, or one system does not recognise information entered into another. Such failures can hold up a container and trigger storage charges, detention, demurrage, missed production schedules, or missed export shipments.

The upcoming December target should, therefore, be viewed not just as a deadline for switching systems on, but as a transition-management deadline for the entire port community. CPA already provides online manuals, user guidance, and helpdesk arrangements. What is now needed is a more visible and structured change-management programme. Before an important digital procedure becomes compulsory, representative users should test it under real operating conditions. Clearing and forwarding agents should run simulated transactions; shipping agents should test documentation flows; banks should test payment interfaces during peak periods; and truck operators, ICDs, and off-docks should test their respective interfaces before mandatory integration.

Training and awareness are part of the digital infrastructure itself. CPA could conduct hands-on sessions for different user groups, establish temporary digital transition desks, issue short Bangla and English video demonstrations, and strengthen help-desk support during the migration. Where feasible, the digital channel should become visibly quicker and easier than the manual one. System reliability is equally important. Once paper disappears, the digital platform becomes critical infrastructure. Major services should have measurable standards for availability, response times, payment confirmation, and help desk resolution, together with a clear contingency protocol so that traders are not penalised when the system—not the trader—causes a delay.

There is another prerequisite: regulatory readiness. A paperless operation cannot be achieved simply by switching on digital modules if rules, manuals, forms, or standing instructions

sadly, economic hardship haunts him like a demon. Even though he has the ability to play in a good club, fortune doesn't favor him. Being poor and from a remote village, he doesn't get proper evaluation in the right places. But whether it's a district level or divisional level game, no game happens without him. So Sajib, through "The Daily Bangla Sky", wants to become a good footballer by taking training from BKSP, the highest football training center in Bangladesh, as well as from coaches of famous clubs like Abahani, Mohammedan, Bashundhara. Therefore, for the sake of wishing a bright future for such an emerging footballer, The Daily Bangla Sky draws the attention of the Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and humbly requests the Sports Minister of the present government, if he gets your cooperation, perhaps this boy from a remote village will be able to reach his dream goal and make it a reality.

## Fire Service identifies

accidents and blocked escape routes, making effective fire-safety systems an important component of overall disaster preparedness.

Fire Service officials said their inspections are confined mainly to fire-safety matters. As the agency does not have an engineering wing, it does not provide opinions or decisions regarding the structural integrity of buildings. Buildings are classified as satisfactory, risky or highly risky on the basis of a specific checklist developed with reference to provisions of the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC).Inspectors examine whether a building has the required number of staircases, whether those staircases are usable and unobstructed, and whether they extend to the rooftop where required.Blocked stairways or storage of goods along escape routes are considered serious safety deficiencies. The availability and usability of firefighting equipment are also assessed.In multistoried buildings, the absence or inadequate maintenance of fire hoses, pumps and other equipment can increase the level of risk. Inspectors also check whether trained personnel are available to operate the systems during emergencies.Required approvals and licences are another important consideration.Operating a business without necessary approvals, fire licences or trade licences can result in a building being classified as highly risky.Buildings found to have more floors than those approved by RAJUK may also be placed in the highly risky category, with the fire-safety arrangements of the additional floors subject to scrutiny.

Other inspection criteria include lightning protection systems, rooftop overhead tanks, water reservoirs and, for large establishments, underground reservoirs.Fire pump houses are expected to have fire pumps, alternative diesel pumps and jockey pumps. The absence of a pump house in industrial facilities is also treated as a safety risk.Inspectors further check sprinkler systems in multistoried buildings, fire doors in industrial establishments and whether escape routes remain free from obstruction.Among the 652 government buildings inspected in 2025, 442 were satisfactory, 185 risky and 25 highly risky. Of 473 residential buildings, 261 were satisfactory, 190 risky and 22 highly risky.The garment sector accounted for 1,533 inspections, with 853 satisfactory, 592 risky and 88 highly risky. Among 720 other factories, 434 were satisfactory, 251 risky and 35 highly risky.Of 1,053 hospitals and clinics inspected, 545 were satisfactory, 432 risky and 76 highly risky. Among 480 diagnostic centres, 328 were satisfactory, 133 risky and 19 highly risky.Restaurants recorded 1,071 inspections, of which 554 were satisfactory, 372 risky and 145 highly risky. Of 1,171 shopping malls and markets, 723 were satisfactory, 345 risky and 103 highly risky.Among 784 educational institutions, 535 were satisfactory, 223 risky and 25 highly risky. Chemical warehouses presented a particularly serious concern.Of 91 inspected, only 11 were satisfactory, while 42 were risky and 38 highly risky.

Of 101 filling stations inspected, 69 were satisfactory, 25 risky and seven highly risky. Among 2,404 establishments in other categories, 1,840 were satisfactory, 526 risky and 39 highly risky.Professor Dr Md Zillur Rahman, a teacher of Dhaka University’s Department of Disaster Science and Climate Resilience, said many buildings are constructed without fully complying with approved designs and regulations, while some are altered after construction.He said fire hydrants, extinguishers, fire-detection sensors, fire doors and emergency exits are essential, but many buildings lack such facilities. Equipment that is installed also needs regular testing and maintenance, he added.“Fire safety must be monitored regularly,” he said, noting that attention to the issue often intensifies after major fires but declines afterward.Director General of the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brigadier General Muhammad

still assume physical documents, signatures, stamps, or registers. Bangladesh already provides broad legal recognition for electronic records, and the Customs Act allows customs functions to be carried out electronically under prescribed procedures. But CPA should review its regulations, manuals, standing orders, and forms together with the relevant customs requirements, transaction by transaction.

Such a review should distinguish three things—requirements that need formal legal or regulatory amendment, procedures that can be changed administratively, and paper practices that survive simply through institutional habit. Unless all three are addressed, digital systems may coexist with paper rather than replace it.

Success must also be measured from the user’s side. Counting how many services are “online” does not show whether a port has truly become paperless. Better questions are: how many physical visits are still required? How many documents must still be printed? How often is information re-entered? How long does a digital transaction take? How frequently is manual intervention needed?

This leads to a broader distinction: a paperless port is not necessarily the same as paperless trade. CPA can digitise almost every procedure within the port boundary, while an importer may still move between customs, a bank, a shipping line, regulatory agencies, and other service providers. True paperless trade emerges only when authorised information can move electronically and securely among them.

Bangladesh’s broader performance illustrates this challenge. The 2025 UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation records Bangladesh’s paperless-trade implementation at 70.37 percent, but cross-border paperless trade at only 33.33 percent; the electronic single-window system was assessed as partially implemented.

The next frontier is, therefore, interoperability. CPA’s TOS and CPA Sky should progressively be integrated with NBR’s ASYCUDA World and the Bangladesh Single Window, as well as with banks, shipping lines, ICDs, off-docks, and other relevant regulatory systems. Information already supplied electronically to one authorised agency should, where the law and data governance arrangements permit, not have to be printed and submitted again elsewhere. Chattogram port is closer to this objective than before, and the December deadline to go paperless can become an important milestone. But declaring a system digital and making a port genuinely paperless are different.

Jahed Kamal said risky buildings could suffer greater damage and loss of life if a fire breaks out.“Buildings must be made safe both structurally and from the fire-safety perspective,” he said, stressing compliance with the BNBC and the adoption and implementation of proper fire-safety plans.

He urged all stakeholders to remain vigilant so that loss of life and property from fires can be reduced.

## Sixteen receive first ever

Year.Abu Mohammad Salahuddin (Sumon) was named Best Tourism Content Creator of the Year, while BD Tickets received Best Tourism Technology Initiative of the Year.Nurani Sharmin Afroze won Best Female Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year, and MV Malisha was named Best Tourist Vessel of the Year.Mohammad Sarwar Jahan (Mithu) received Best Tour Guide of the Year, while Seven International Limited won Best MICE Initiative of the Year, a category covering meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions.Naim Abir received the Best Tourism Journalism of the Year award.Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui spoke as the special guest.Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Fahmida Akhter chaired the programme, while BTB Chief Executive Officer Barrister Mutasim Billah Faruqui delivered the welcome address. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Chairman Md Samimuzzaman and Tourist Police Additional Inspector General GM Azizur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

## Spur of Rumors & Incitement:

sources, deploy dedicated volunteers, and strengthen fire safety measures.

Special emphasis was placed on the safety and security of women and children visiting the venues. Mandap authorities were instructed to quickly address any issues faced by female devotees and to establish designated assistance setups for children.

To maintain religious harmony and social peaceful coexistence, the SP advised forming 'Harmony Committees' in every locality, comprising local representatives, community leaders from various faiths, and members of law enforcement. Additionally, instructions were given to strictly comply with designated sound limits and time schedules for loudspeakers. Organizers were also requested to maintain interfaith sensitivity and exercise heightened care during the times of Azan and prayers at adjacent mosques.

The meeting was attended by Chittagong District Commandant of Ansar & VDP Md. Sefaful Hossain, senior district police officials, Officers-in-Charge (OCs) of 17 police stations, and central as well as local leaders of the Puja Udjapan Parishad.

## Bangladesh needs stronger economic integration with emerging Asia:

## Rehman Sobhan

### Staff correspondent

Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Prof Rehman Sobhan has said Bangladesh needs to respond to the changing global economic order by focusing primarily on its economic interests and urged the country to integrate its value chains more strongly with the growing opportunities in Asia.He said Bangladesh’s position as a relatively minor player in the global system gave it flexibility, and its interest lay in a stable world order where external factors will not frustrate its economic opportunities.“What we need, obviously, to do is to do the most obvious things, to strengthen our value chains across the world,” he said while speaking on the “New International Economic Disorder: Implications for Bangladesh” on the opening day of the three-day international conference – Bay of Bengal Conversation – at a city hotel on Saturday.Sobhan said Bangladesh has remained constrained by a narrow range of export markets, while its major import sources and, increasingly, its sources of capital are located within the Asian region.

One of Bangladesh’s major advantages, he said, is its location between China and India, which he described as two major economic powers. “In fact, in another decade or so, China will be the largest economy. India will be the third largest economy. We have not fully exploited this opportunity,” he said.Although Bangladesh has integrated parts of its manufacturing process into the value chains of China and India.



## Free, fair polls, space for opposition essential for democracy: President

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Sunday said democracy is a culture that is built gradually through regular practice, stressing the need for free, fair and impartial elections as well as adequate

space for the opposition and political rivals to make democracy effective. "Democracy is a culture that develops step by step through regular practice. Free, fair and impartial elections are essential for this," he said. The President made the remarks when a

delegation led by Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr ABM Obaidul Islam paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban. President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam briefed reporters after the meeting. The President

◆ see page 7

287 voters register for postal voting in Thakurgaon-1 by-polls

Staff correspondent

A total of 287 voters have registered to cast their ballots by post in the by-election to the Thakurgaon-1 constituency. Of the registered voters, 29 are expatriates, while 258 are government officials and employees residing in the country and voters engaged in election duties, according to the officials of the Election Commission (EC). Meanwhile, the deadline for filing appeals against the returning officer's decision in the scrutiny of nomination papers for the Thakurgaon-1 by-election ends today, EC officials said.

According to the EC schedule, the appeals will be disposed of on October 6. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is October 7, while electoral symbols will be allocated among the candidates on October 8.

Voting in the constituency will be held continuously from 8 am to 4 pm on October 29. A notice signed by District Election Officer

◆ see page 7



## Furnace Accident at Far-Mac Steel in Mirsarai Claims Three Lives Including Chinese Engineer

Jwel Nag, Mirsarai Correspondent.

Three people, including a Chinese engineer, have died after molten metal splashed onto workers following a furnace malfunction at the Far-Mac Steel Limited factory in the Mirsarai Economic Zone in Chattogram.

The accident occurred on September 28. Of the four people who suffered burn injuries in the incident, three died while undergoing treatment. The remaining injured worker, Jewel, 36, is receiving treatment at the Burn Unit of Chattogram Medical College Hospital and is reportedly out of danger.

The deceased have been identified as Chinese engineer Zengling Hong, 53, and workers Shariful Islam, 27, and Monir Hossain, 27.

Shariful Islam and Zengling Hong died while undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, while Monir Hossain died at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

According to Yubraj, an HR and Administration officer at Far-Mac Steel, a

malfunction occurred in the furnace around noon on September 28, causing molten metal to splash onto the workers and the engineer. They were rescued and initially taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for treatment.

As their conditions deteriorated, three of the injured were moved to the intensive care unit. Later, Shariful Islam and Chinese engineer Zengling Hong were transferred to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka for advanced treatment.

Shariful Islam died at around 11:30am on October 1 while undergoing treatment at the Dhaka institute. Later that night, at around 9:30pm, Monir Hossain, a resident of Hazariganj village in Char Fasson upazila of Bhola, died at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

The latest death was that of Chinese engineer Zengling Hong, who died at around 11:50am on October 2 while receiving treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka. Suman Hossain, who was coordinating with the Chinese nationals,

◆ see page 7



Patuakhali-4 Constituency MP Alhaj ABM Mosharrarf Hossain provided various materials including 34 secondary school education materials in Kalapara

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

114 Patuakhali 4 Member of Parliament BNP Central Executive Committee Training Affairs Secretary ABM Mosharrarf Hossain provided sports materials to 34 secondary school teachers in Kalapara

◆ see page 7



Training of Trainers (ToT) Begins in Khagrachhari for Family Card Scheme 'Not individuals, but families are the core unit of development'

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

A two-day 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) program has commenced in the hill district of Khagrachhari to equip data collectors and supervisors with the necessary skills for the smooth and successful implementation of the Family Card scheme. Under the theme

◆ see page 7



Two Dengue Deaths in 48 Hours, 137 Under Treatment at RMCH

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Two more dengue patients have died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) over the past two days. While one patient died in the last 24 hours, the death toll reached two over the 48-hour period. Dengue Shock Syndrome was listed as the cause of death for both patients. According to the latest dengue update from RMCH on Sunday (October 4), 30 new dengue patients were

◆ see page 7

9.34kg gold seized from shoes of two airline employees at Dhaka airport

Staff correspondent

Customs intelligence officials recovered 80 gold bars weighing around 9.34 kg from the shoes of two airline staff members at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) deployed a team at the airport and intercepted the two staff members as they arrived on Emirates Airlines flight EK0582 from Dubai, according to a press release.

The gold bars were recovered from their shoes during the operation. 9.34kg gold seized from shoes of two airline employees at Dhaka airport Each gold bar weighed around 117 grammes, while the total estimated market value of the seized gold is around Tk 16.25 crore, according to customs officials. The gold bars were allegedly concealed inside the shoes using a special method in an apparent attempt to evade customs checks. The CIID is investigating those involved in the smuggling attempt, the origin of the gold and its intended recipient, the release said.

◆ see page 7

Prosecution to file appeal seeking enhanced sentence for Inu

Staff correspondent

The prosecution of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is scheduled to file an appeal this week seeking an enhanced sentence for Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu, who was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a case over crimes against humanity committed during the July-August 2024 mass uprising. Confirming the matter to newsmen, prosecutor Gazi MH Tamim said an appeal will be filed with the Supreme Court this week seeking enhancement of the sentence handed down to Hasanul Haque Inu.

The ICT-2 on June 30, 2026, convicted and sentenced former Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu to 10 years' imprisonment for crimes against humanity committed in connection with the killings of six people in Kushtia during the 2024 July Mass Uprising. The second tribunal sentenced Inu to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment under charge No. three, 10-year jail and a fine of Taka one lakh under charge No.

◆ see page 7

## SVS's Student Scholarship Examination Held in Mirsarai



Special correspondent, Mirsarai Chattogram

The Student Scholarship Examination was held under the initiative of Sanatan Vidyarthi Sangsad (SVS) Mirsarai Upazila Branch in

Mirsarai, Chattogram. The examination was held simultaneously at six centers in the upazila at 3 pm on Friday (2 October). A total of 2,587 students participated in it.

◆ see page 7

## Court Order Leads to Eviction of Alleged Illegal Occupants in Chandina



Chandina (Cumilla) Correspondent:

An eviction drive was carried out in Chandina upazila of Cumilla to implement an order issued by the Land Crime Prevention and

Court-2, Cumilla, seeking legal remedy over the possession of the land.

After hearing both parties and recording evidence, the court

◆ see page 7



Interaction Held with Trainees of the 81st Basic Training Course

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

An interaction meeting was held on Sunday (October 4) with trainee officers of the 81st Basic Training Course from the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) as part of their field attachment programme with the Pirojpur District Police. The meeting was held at the conference room of the Police Superintendent's Office, Pirojpur and was chaired by Muhammad Talebur Rahman, PPM-Service, Superintendent of Police, Pirojpur. Upon their arrival, the trainees were welcomed

◆ see page 7

3 more children die with measles-like symptoms

Staff correspondent

Three children died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours until 8:00am on Sunday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 1,125 this year.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has classified all three latest fatalities as suspected measles deaths, saying no confirmed deaths from the highly contagious airborne disease were reported during

◆ see page 7



Land Minister Announces to Bear Full Cost of Medical Treatment Including Surgery; Seeks Prayers for Child's Speedy Recovery

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Land Minister Md. Mizanur Rahman Minu has taken full responsibility for the medical treatment of Fardin Raihan, an eight-year-old orphan child suffering from congenital heart disease. He has directed that all

◆ see page 7



Initiative to Reopen Abandoned Mogholhat Land Port in Lalmonirhat

Mohinul Islam Sujon

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu has said that an initiative will be taken to reopen the abandoned land port at Mogholhat in Lalmonirhat, and work on the necessary infrastructure

◆ see page 7

SRB Officer Killed in Lorry Hit While on Duty in Feni

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

A Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) of the Special Response Battalion (SRB) was killed after being struck by a reckless lorry while performing duty on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Feni.

The victim was identified as Md. Alamgir Hossain, 55, son of the late Nur Uddin Ahmed from Monakia village in Kendua Upazila, Netrokona. The fatal accident occurred around 12:37 AM on Saturday night in front of the Beacon Model College Road, adjacent to the Star Line Filling Station in the Fatehpur area along the highway.

Alamgir, a father of five, was a Warrant Officer in the Bangladesh Army. He joined the elite Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) on April 30 last year and assumed charge as a DAD at the Feni SRB-7 camp on May 17 this year.

According to eyewitnesses and SRB sources, Alamgir was stationed at a highway checkpoint alongside a 15 to 16-member team at midnight. A Chattogram-bound fast-moving lorry from Dhaka lost control and violently hit him while he was standing by the roadside. His colleagues rushed him to Feni General Hospital, where the attending doctor declared him dead at around 1:00 AM.

Dr. Saifur Rahman, a physician at the emergency department, stated that Alamgir had passed away before reaching the hospital, having sustained severe crush injuries from the waist down. The body has been kept in the hospital morgue for an autopsy. Expressing

◆ see page 7



# Brazil's Lula, Bolsonaro campaign in key Sao Paulo state ahead of presidential vote



International Desk

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and opposition presidential candidate Sen. Flavio Bolsonaro campaigned Saturday in the key state of Sao Paulo, seeking to rally supporters and win over undecided voters a day before Sunday's presidential election.

Lula, seeking a fourth nonconsecutive term, joined a traditional pre-election parade in Sao Paulo city, while Bolsonaro, the son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, campaigned in the countryside cities of Santa Barbara d'Oeste and Americana.

Sao Paulo is Brazil's most populous and economically powerful state, with about 46 million residents and around 34 million eligible voters. Its annual gross domestic product is about 3.4 trillion Brazilian reais, or \$650 billion.

Addressing supporters near Paulista Avenue, Sao Paulo's main thoroughfare, Lula described the election as a crucial battle over Brazil's future.

"On one side, we have democracy and sovereignty; on the other, barbarism and corruption," Lula said, repeating key themes of his campaign.

Former President Jair Bolsonaro was sentenced by Brazil's Supreme Court last year to 27 years in prison for attempting a coup after losing the 2022 election to Lula. Observers say he could potentially be released if his son wins the election.

Lula's campaign has also portrayed Flavio Bolsonaro as a threat to Brazil's sovereignty because of his close ties

with US President Donald Trump. Trump last year imposed a 50 percent tariff on Brazilian imports over Jair Bolsonaro's trial, which Trump described as a "witch hunt."

Daniella Fernandes, a 32-year-old secretary at a public school in Sao Paulo, said she had initially wanted another Workers' Party candidate to run instead of Lula but changed her mind during the campaign.

"I wanted some renovation, but Lula is the only one who can appeal to everyone — even those who are not on the left," she said, wearing several Lula badges.

"The Bolsonaros are still strong, Brazil is a conservative country. Only Lula can win this one," Fernandes said.

About 140 kilometres from Lula's campaign event, Flavio Bolsonaro travelled through Santa Barbara d'Oeste and Americana on a sound truck, accompanied by a long procession of supporters wearing yellow and green and riding motorcycles.

"I'm convinced that we can win in the first round," Bolsonaro told supporters, who shouted "mito," or "legend," a term used by his father's supporters.

"So let's get out of our houses to vote (...) because Bolsonaro is going to be president," he said.

Bolsonaro was accompanied by Sao Paulo Gov. Tarcisio de Freitas, who had previously been considered a possible political successor to Jair Bolsonaro before Flavio said last December that his father had chosen him to contest the presidential election.

Voters on Sunday will also elect federal

and state lawmakers, governors and some senators. In Sao Paulo, de Freitas is seeking re-election against opposition candidate Fernando Haddad, who lost the 2018 presidential election to Jair Bolsonaro and later served as Lula's finance minister. De Freitas holds a substantial lead in opinion polls.

Twelve candidates are contesting the presidency, but Lula and Flavio Bolsonaro are widely seen as the only candidates with a realistic chance of winning.

If no candidate secures more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two will face each other in a runoff on Oct. 25.

The two leading candidates represent sharply different political positions, with contrasting approaches to issues including organised crime and Brazil's relations with the Trump administration.

Lula, a former factory worker and trade union leader, lost his left pinky finger in a workplace accident at age 19. He has long enjoyed strong support among sections of the population.

He spent more than a year in prison after being convicted on corruption charges, but those convictions were later annulled. He subsequently won a third nonconsecutive presidential term in 2022.

Lula has pledged to ensure Brazilians benefit from the country's rare minerals and natural resources, protect the Amazon rainforest and continue his flagship Bolsa Familia welfare programme.

Flavio Bolsonaro has largely adopted his father's ultra-conservative agenda while at times using a more moderate tone to attract centrist voters.

His campaign has placed strong emphasis on tough security measures, which polls indicate have significant public support.

He has pledged to combat organised criminal groups by building megaprisons modelled on those in El Salvador, follow the Trump administration's approach of designating transnational gangs as terrorist organisations, and lower the age of criminal responsibility to 16.

## Kenya road crash leaves 17 dead, mostly Catholic pilgrims

International Desk

A crash involving multiple vehicles on the highway to the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa on Saturday killed 17 people, most of them pilgrims on the way to a prayer site, officials said.

The crash in the Salama area happened after midnight when a truck driver tried and failed to overtake another truck, police said. That caused a collision with vehicles including a van carrying pilgrims, police said.

The van's driver and 16 passengers, most of them women, died at the scene, police said.

The pilgrims were going to a prayer site in Nakuru County, west of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, said Martin Kivuva, archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mombasa.

The archbishop said in a statement that he and others were "saddened with lots of grief" over the deaths.

President William Ruto offered condolences to the families, friends, parishioners and the entire Catholic community "who are mourning this painful loss."

Road crashes are a problem across Africa. In Kenya and elsewhere in the region, the crashes often are blamed on poorly maintained vehicles, excess speed and poor road conditions.

Kenya's National Transport and Safety Authority called upon all motorists to exercise extreme caution, avoid dangerous overtaking and strictly observe lane discipline. The government agency said that the stretch where the crash happened was a so-called black spot and that recommendations to address safety concerns had been made.



# Spain housing protests grow after eviction of 87-year-old woman

International Desk

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets across Spain on Saturday demanding affordable housing and greater protection for renters, a day after parliament rejected emergency measures proposed to address the country's housing crisis.

Large crowds marched in Madrid, where protesters called for a general strike and affordable housing. In Valencia, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets after demonstrators broke through a security perimeter around the City of Arts and Sciences, where a real estate summit was taking place.

Images showed clashes between police and protesters, with officers using batons and demonstrators throwing barriers. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The protests intensified after the eviction of 87-year-old María del Carmen Abascal, known as Maricarmen, from her Madrid home of seven decades on Sept. 23.

About 1,000 protesters have camped for the past week at Madrid's Puerta del Sol, demanding government action to protect tenants. A similar camp has been set up at Barcelona's Plaza Catalunya.

Abascal, who uses a wheelchair, was carried from her apartment on a stretcher after police cordoned off the street. Images of the eviction triggered protests across the country.

"I haven't managed to defend my home, but I have fought so that others can learn to fight for what's theirs," Abascal said in a video recorded from a hospital bed.

The real estate company seeking to evict her so it could rent the property at a higher price later reached an agreement allowing her to return, according to her lawyer. Abascal was "happy," the lawyer said, although she has not yet been discharged from hospital.

The incident has become a symbol of Spain's housing affordability crisis, with protesters carrying signs reading "Not even one more Maricarmen!"

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's progressive government had proposed measures to restrict evictions, curb property speculation and give renters indefinite leases. But conservative opposition parties joined forces in parliament on Friday to reject the measures.

The defeat has increased pressure on Sánchez, who faces a national election next year, and fueled speculation that he could call an early election to rally left-wing voters around the housing issue.

Spain's housing shortage has been worsening for years, particularly affecting young people and low-income households who cannot afford to buy homes and face a limited rental market.

Average rents have nearly doubled over the past decade, with the average price rising from 8.20 euros per square meter in 2016 to 15.10 euros this year, according to real estate website Idealista.

The government says 26 percent of Spaniards who rent spend an average of 40 percent of their income on rent and utilities, compared with 18 percent across the European Union. Spain also has one of the smallest stocks of government-owned rental housing among OECD countries, accounting for less than 2 percent of available homes, compared with an EU average of 8 percent.

Housing protests have periodically taken place in major Spanish cities, with demonstrators blaming property speculation and tourist rental platforms such as Airbnb for driving up rents. The latest demonstrations have given the issue renewed momentum, with protesters saying Maricarmen's case shows the need for stronger tenant protections.



## Crews find debris from missing medical flight carrying six over Atlantic

International Desk

Search teams have found a debris field off the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, from an air ambulance carrying six people that went missing over the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday while flying from Bermuda to Boston, the US Coast Guard said.

Four Canadian nationals and two Bermudian nationals were aboard the aircraft. Their next of kin have been notified as search operations continue, the Coast Guard said in a statement. One of its cutters will remain in the area overnight and continue searching into Sunday.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) informed the Coast Guard that the Gulfstream G100 lost contact early Saturday morning, according to the statement.

Air traffic control recordings suggest the aircraft may have been approaching the coast without proper visibility or navigation assistance as a storm moved into its path shortly before it disappeared.

The pilot reported electrical problems and declared an emergency as the jet approached the Massachusetts coast, according to audio recordings posted on LiveATC.net. A controller was heard asking the pilot to confirm whether the aircraft was approaching "blind".

Mary Schiavo, a former inspector general of the US Department of Transportation and an aviation attorney, said the aircraft may have lost its navigational instruments as a storm moved across its path.

Preliminary data from flight-tracking website FlightRadar24 showed that the plane descended sharply from its cruising altitude of around 24,000 feet to approximately 10,000 feet.

Schiavo said the sudden loss of altitude, combined with the storm and possible instrument failure, could have left the crew disoriented.

The Canadian-registered medical jet had four crew members and two passengers aboard when it departed L.F. Wade International Airport in Bermuda for the overnight flight to Massachusetts, the airport's operator, Skyport, said in a statement.

Canadian Transport Minister Steven MacKinnon said authorities were closely monitoring the situation and working with other agencies on search and rescue efforts.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it was gathering information about the incident but did not immediately confirm whether it would launch an investigation.

## Merz visits Kyiv as Russia intensifies attacks on Ukrainian cities

International Desk

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arrived in Kyiv on Sunday to reaffirm Germany's support for Ukraine as Russia steps up attacks on Ukrainian cities.

The air war has intensified, with Russia targeting cities across Ukraine with ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones that are difficult to intercept. Ukraine, meanwhile, has been attacking Russian oil facilities and businesses.

Merz said his visit, his second to Ukraine since becoming chancellor, was aimed at demonstrating Germany's continued support for the country.

"If Russia is not stopped, its war machine will sooner or later turn against us," he said in a statement on Sunday, assuring Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Germany would continue to provide assistance.

Merz also highlighted cooperation between the two countries, saying their partnership was not one-sided. He pointed to joint efforts by German and Ukrainian companies to develop technologies that benefit both sides.

"This makes us safer and stronger," he said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybhiha said discussions would focus on strengthening Ukraine's defence capabilities, resilience and shared European security.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that Moscow would continue carrying out what it called "mass retaliatory strikes" on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities. It also urged foreign nationals and diplomats to leave Ukraine, repeating a warning issued in May.

A Russian drone struck Kyiv's Northern Bridge over the Dniro River again on Sunday morning. Videos circulating on social media showed the drone hitting the bridge and an explosion as vehicles crossed it. There was no immediate information about casualties.

The latest attack followed Russian strikes earlier this week that forced the full or partial closure of three of Kyiv's six road bridges over the Dniro River, disrupting traffic and causing long queues.

Russia has also targeted apartment buildings, supermarket warehouses, gas stations and data centres in previous attacks. Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than four and a half years ago, but there are still no clear signs of a possible peace agreement.

Fighting along the roughly 1,250-kilometre front line stretching across northern, eastern and southern Ukraine has remained largely deadlocked in recent months.



## Houthi claim attack on Saudi oil refinery near Riyadh; Yemeni forces report heavy casualties in counter-strikes

International Desk

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed to have launched a combined ballistic missile and drone attack on a major Saudi Aramco oil refinery near Riyadh on Saturday, causing fires at the facility. Footage from the scene showed flames and thick plumes of smoke rising from the refinery as firefighters worked to contain the blaze. Neither Saudi authorities nor Aramco have issued an official statement regarding the cause of the fire.

Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree stated on X (formerly Twitter) that the strike was carried out in retaliation for approximately 60 Saudi air raids launched over the past 24 hours against Houthi-controlled territories, including the capital, Sanaa. Meanwhile, forces aligned with Yemen's internationally recognized government announced a massive military offensive against Houthi positions.

Brigadier General Majid Abdullah Al-Nuzaili, spokesman for the Yemeni military, confirmed on X that government forces executed 97 "precision operations" across the Al-Tawwahi front in Taiz province and the Al-Baha district in Lahij province. Utilizing aircraft, drones, artillery, missiles, and snipers, the operations neutralized at least 260 Houthi fighters and destroyed numerous military and supply vehicles.

The announcement followed earlier strikes by government-aligned forces targeting Houthi strongholds across Sanaa, Midi, Baqim, al-Jawf, Marib, Al Bayda, Lahij, and Taiz. Military officials claimed those combined air, artillery, and missile attacks resulted in more than 700 Houthi casualties. The battlefield claims could not be independently verified.

## Pro-Ukraine coalition wins 35% of vote in Latvia's parliamentary election

International Desk

Latvia's pro-Ukraine Prime Minister Andris Kulbergs' four-party coalition secured 35% of the vote in the parliamentary election, with lawmakers expected to begin negotiations on forming a new government on Sunday.

A political crisis in May over the government's handling of stray drones suspected to have come from Ukraine led to the collapse of the previous governing coalition, which had also faced disagreements over several other issues. Parliament, known as the Saeima, subsequently approved a new coalition led by Kulbergs of the centrist United List party, which had previously been in opposition. Latvia, along with its Baltic neighbours Lithuania and Estonia, strongly supports Ukraine in its fight against Russia's invasion. The country shares borders with Russia and Belarus, a close ally of Moscow.

Saturday's election took place as Latvia, a small country on NATO's eastern flank, faces growing concerns over the possibility of Russian aggression. Election data showed voter turnout exceeded 51%. Nearly 1.56 million people in the country, which has a population of more than 1.8 million, were eligible to elect 100 members of the single-chamber parliament for a four-year term. The United List party is expected to secure 42 seats in parliament. However, the fragmented political landscape means the formation of a multiparty coalition will be necessary to govern. Political parties must secure at least 5% of the vote to win seats in parliament.



## Iran open to diplomacy but threatens tougher response to military action

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday the country is still ready to achieve a "just and honorable" solution through diplomacy, but it will give a "more crushing" response if the "enemies" once again resort to military actions.

Araghchi also highlighted Iran's seriousness and decisiveness in both defending itself and advancing diplomacy at a meeting with foreign ambassadors and diplomats in Tehran. He expressed hope that the United States would choose the path of wisdom and rationality.

"There is no military solution, nor any solution based on further sanctions. Only a solution based on negotiation, justice, fairness, and diplomatic dignity can prove effective and provide a definitive resolution to end this war and the illegal and unjust aggression launched against Iran," he said.

Iran has received and replied to the U.S. proposal in response to its proposed plan to end hostilities, while some additional points are yet to be communicated to the United States, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Iran conveyed a proposed seven-day plan on Sept. 22 to cease hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz to the United States through mediators on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

On Feb. 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and U.S. bases and assets in the region, and tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz. The United States has also imposed a naval blockade as well as new sanctions on Iran.

A ceasefire was achieved between the warring parties on April 8. On June 18, Iran and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ending the war in the region on all fronts.

Under the MoU, the two countries were scheduled to hold negotiations within 60 days, ending on Aug. 17, to reach a final agreement. However, the two sides failed to make sufficient progress toward a deal as tensions continued to escalate.



## Musicians raise voice against child marriage through ‘Koinya’

### Entertainment Desk

Three musicians from different genres have joined hands to raise awareness against child marriage through an experimental folk-fusion song and music video titled “Koinya”.

National award-winning musician and composer Emon Chowdhury, rapper Aly Hasan and folk singer Aleya Begum collaborated on the track, produced by BBC Media Action as part of its “Child, Not Bride” campaign. The music video has been released on social media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube.

Child marriage remains a major social problem in Bangladesh. According to the Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNICEF, nearly one in two women in the country were married before the age of 18.

The practice affects girls’ education, health, safety and future prospects while increasing their risks of early pregnancy, violence, poverty and lifelong inequality. Emon said he joined the project because he believes music, particularly when combined with visuals, can effectively communicate social messages and reach a wide audience.

“I feel music, when it comes with video, is an important medium to raise awareness as it can touch people emo-

tionally through both melodies and visuals, so the information and messages given stay in their minds for long. As musicians, we are liable to mankind for its well-being,” he said.

Emphasising the adverse impact of early and child marriage, Emon said families should prioritise the dreams of girls rather than destroy their futures through early marriage.

For “Koinya”, Emon blended soulful folk melodies with the energetic pulse of hip-hop in an effort to engage audiences across the country.

He said one of the challenges was creating a musical package that could carry a strong social message while blending Bengali folk with fast-paced rap. However, the artists enjoyed working together for the cause.

Although Emon had previously worked with Aleya Begum on several projects, “Koinya” marks his first collaboration with rapper Aly Hasan.

“Aly has a natural instinct for putting a rhyme to raw local words, turning those into engaging rhymes instantly, which is really interesting,” Emon said.

The song uses simple and memorable lyrics to convey its message against child marriage, while the music video presents the issue through a localised storyline aimed at making it relatable to rural audiences and younger generations.



## Bangladeshi vocal group wins national selection for inaugural Eurovision Asia

### Entertainment Desk

Beatmosphere has been selected to represent Bangladesh at the inaugural Eurovision Song Contest Asia, after winning the country’s national selection with their performance of “Tumi Ele”.

Eurovision reported that 10 performers competed in the first National Selection Show for Bangladesh on Wednesday, with the winner decided through a combination of jury, public and international votes.

A professional jury accounted for 40 percent of the result, while the Bangladeshi audience contributed another 40 percent. The remaining 20 percent came from a Rest of the World vote.

Beatmosphere emerged at the top of the final standings, followed by Pulak Adhikary in second place and Vintage Theory in third. The group will perform in Bangkok on Nov 14, Eurovision said. Beatmosphere was formed in 2009 and is known for combining a cappella singing and beatboxing without conventional instruments or electronic equipment. According to Eurovision, the group uses layered vocals, body percussion, vocal effects and theatrical performance to create sounds ranging from drums and basslines to melodies and electronic textures. The group normally performs with nine members but will appear as a six-member ensemble for the national selection. Ishtiyak Zobayer and Sayed Ahnaf Tahmid will perform lead vocals and harmony, alongside Sidratul Mursalin Bhasha and Mahi Bin Ashraf on harmony. Moktadir Dewan will provide harmony, vocal bass and baritone, while Mahi Hossain Khan will perform beatbox and vocal percussion. Eurovision added that the national selection is available to watch on its YouTube channel, where the selection shows for Eurovision Asia are being streamed.

## ‘THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN’ ON DHAKA’S STAGE

### Entertainment Desk

The popular German folktale “The Pied Piper of Hamelin” will be staged at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital this evening. The production will be staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the academy at 7:30pm. Organised by theatre and drama education organisation Friday Theatre School and supported by Alliance Française de Dhaka, the production has been written by renowned playwright William Glenon and directed by noted Bangladeshi theatre director and actor Ashish Khondker. The story revolves around a town plagued by rats, a mayor’s promises and a mysterious piper whose magical music offers an unexpected solution. This well-known tale will be presented in English, giving the audience a fresh theatrical experience.

## Bigg Boss 20: Salman Khan hints at Rhiti Tiwari's possible return

### Entertainment Desk

Bigg Boss 20 host Salman Khan has hinted at a possible return of Rhiti Tiwari to the reality show, a day after she was evicted in a mid-week elimination.

In a newly released promo for the upcoming Weekend Ka Vaar episode, Salman addressed Rhiti’s eviction and suggested that another twist could be in store for the contestants.

“You think she is gone, I think she is gone, Bigg Boss thinks she is gone. But iss season ka theme kya hai?” Salman said, referring to the season’s theme.

Gullu then responded, “Tathas-two,” prompting an excited reaction from Kanika Mann.

The promo subsequently showed Salman inviting someone to join him on stage, while Rhiti’s familiar “Aaaye haayee” could be heard in the background.

The moment has fuelled speculation that Rhiti could return to the Bigg Boss 20 house. However, the promo did not confirm whether the voice was actually hers.

Following the hint, Kanika Mann,



Amrapali Dubey, Mary Kom, Love Gill and Gullu were seen clapping and appearing excited, while Mahhi Vij and Qazi Touqeer looked shocked.

Rhiti, daughter of actor-politician Manoj Tiwari, was evicted mid-week after Mahhi Vij, Uditi Singh and Yung DSA voted to remove her from the show.

Salman had earlier pointed out that the contestants had not given Rhiti enough opportunity to demonstrate that she had changed, despite her apology for

her earlier conduct.

Rhiti’s stint on the show has been marked by controversy. She recently had a confrontation with Qazi Touqeer and Uditi Singh. During a diss battle, she made derogatory remarks about Uditi, which led to a verbal altercation with Qazi.

Later, during a Weekend Ka Vaar episode, Salman reprimanded Rhiti over her behaviour and criticised her for invoking her father’s name to threaten other contestants.

## Shazia Omar explores grief, healing in 'Being Water'

### Entertainment Desk

Bangladeshi author Shazia Omar launched her third novel, Being Water, at Bookworm in Shahabuddin Park, Gulshan-2 on Saturday, closing the weekend literary festival organised by Bookworm in collaboration with HerStory.

The launch featured a conversation with Professor Firdous Azim, Chair of the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University, who also moderated the launches of Omar’s first novel, Like a Diamond in the Sky, and second novel, Dark Diamond, in 2016.

The conversation brought together the writer and the academic who had followed.

## Shabana Azmi joins Cockroach Janta Party's Mumbai protest

### Entertainment Desk

Veteran actor Shabana Azmi joined the Cockroach Janta Party’s (CJP) Jail Bharo protest at Mumbai’s Shivaji Park on Friday. Addressing the gathering, she spoke about the right to vote and backed the organisation’s demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar’s resignation over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The actor, who had earlier taken part in a students’ protest at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, told the crowd that people should protest through democratic means if their names are removed from electoral rolls. The Mumbai gathering also saw several familiar names from the film and music industry, including Naseeruddin Shah, Vishal Dadlani, Vishal Bhardwaj and Rekha Bhardwaj.

Speaking to the reporters before reaching the stage on Friday evening, Shabana said, “Voting is our right. If anyone tries to take away our right to vote, we will do what is necessary through democratic means.”

She later addressed those gathered at Shivaji Park in Mumbai and said, “A very, very warm greeting to all of you. Since I am from Mumbai, seeing all of you present here in such large numbers brings me immense happiness.”

Our vote is our right, it is our voice, we have been hearing this since childhood. But when our right is snatched away from us, when our names are removed from the electoral rolls, what will we do? We will protest. This is our right. Yesterday, look around and see how far your eyes can reach, this is the victory of democracy. Because we have recognised our own strength, and we have realised that we do not have to tolerate anything wrong, because this is our country, our Constitution has given us this right. So, many congratulations to all of

## Tania Brishty set to return to shooting after nine-month break

### Entertainment Desk

Popular television actress Tania Brishty is preparing to return to acting after staying away from shooting for nearly nine months due to illness.

Tania fell ill in February this year after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. She underwent surgery that month to remove the tumour before travelling to Chennai, India, on March 9 for further treatment, where she underwent another surgery. She returned to Bangladesh in the first week of April and has since been undergoing treatment and taking rest. With her condition improving, Tania is now preparing to return to work. During a Facebook Live on Saturday afternoon, the actress spoke about her health and ongoing treatment, saying she is doing considerably better than before.

Responding to a viewer’s question, Tania said, “I am currently undergoing chemotherapy. Three months of the six-month course have been completed, and I am now in the fourth month. After another two months, I will undergo some tests. The doctor will then determine the next course of treatment.” Despite her ongoing treatment, Tania said she hopes to resume shooting this month. “I want to. I would like to start shooting from this month. Discussions are under way. Once I start shooting, I will definitely let everyone know,” she said. Reflecting on her prolonged absence from work, Tania added, “I haven’t shot for around nine months because I was ill. I still am, but my condition was worse then. I am much better now. I am making this decision after giving it careful thought.” The actress also acknowledged the support she has received from her fans throughout her illness.



leave.

Song’s supervisor at the social service centre was also given a suspended jail sentence for helping him dodge his duties, including falsifying records to make it look like Song had reported to work.

The conscription of South Korea’s entertainers has long been a topic of national public debate.

Gangnam Style singer Psy famously had to enlist twice, once in 2003 and another time in 2007, after a Seoul court ruled that he had neglected his duties by continuing his showbiz activities during his first national service stint. Steve Yoo, one of the country’s biggest pop stars in the 1990s and early 2000s, was embroiled in a national scandal after he was found to have evaded military service in 2002. South Korean authorities banned him from the country after he renounced his citizenship and became a US national shortly before he was due to serve in the military.

Going on hiatus to serve in the military is often a threat for budding careers in South Korea’s fast-moving entertainment industry. But the evasion of military service also comes with intense public scrutiny and legal repercussions. Ahead of the ruling on Thursday, Song told reporters that he regretted his actions and was “sorry toward the people who gave me so much love”, Seoul Economic Daily reported.

But he did not answer a question about whether he would re-enlist to serve the mandatory duty.

## Torsa set for big screen debut with ‘Cut-Piece’

The film will be released in theatres on Durga Puja

### Entertainment Desk

Rafah Nanjeba Torsa, known for her glamorous presence on the ramp and for representing Bangladesh at the Miss World pageant, is set to make her big-screen debut with a very different role. She will appear in the upcoming Dhallywood film “Cut-Piece”, a gritty story exploring the dark world surrounding the garment waste, or “jhut”, trade. Produced and directed by Ifat Jahan Mom under the banner of Black Papers Films, Cut-Piece revolves around money, power, dominance and conflict within the jhut business. Torsa plays the central character, Mala, in the film.

The movie delves into the multimillion-taka business built around discarded garments and fabric scraps. Behind this seemingly ordinary trade lies a complex network involving local politics, organised crime and battles for control. The movie was shot for 11 consecutive days at real locations in Mirpur’s jhut market, adding authenticity to its setting. For Torsa, portraying Mala was a major challenge. Talking about the film “Cut-Piece”, Torsa said the largely unexplored world of the jhut market attracted her. She chose the role because she wanted to move beyond conventional romantic-heroine characters and establish herself as a versatile actress through a



strong, realistic performance.

Newcomer Shifat Amin Shuvo plays Taj opposite Torsa. Imran Ahmed Saudagar appears as the antagonist, while Elina Shammi, Bappi Ashraf, Saiful Kabir and Shahzada Samrat feature in other important roles. Initially planned for release during this year’s Eid-ul-Fitr, “Cut-Piece” is now scheduled to hit cinemas on 16 October, coinciding with the festive Durga Puja season



# Primary Teachers' Gold Cup Football Tournament Final Held in Kaukhali

**Kaukhali,Pirojpur Correspondent**

'Teachers United' emerged as champions by defeating 'Central Command' 5-2 in the thrilling final of the Primary Teachers' Gold Cup Football Tournament-2026, held in Kaukhali, Pirojpur.

In the final match held on Saturday (October 3) afternoon at the Kaukhali Government Boys' School grounds, both teams played attacking football from the very beginning. Ultimately, Teachers United secured the title with a 5-2 victory. Ejaz Ahmed of the winning team scored two goals and was named the Player of the Match.

Following the match, prizes were distributed among the players of the champion and runner-up teams. Speakers at the event noted that such sporting events play a vital role in fostering mutual harmony, a sense of brotherhood, and physical well-being among teachers. They urged for the continuation of such events in the future.

Speakers at the prize-giving ceremony included Md. Rafiqul Islam, Member Secretary of the Upazila Sports Association; Al Mamun Khan, Headmaster of Uttar Hogla Government Primary School; and Mohammad Sohag, Head of the Tournament Organizing Committee and Assistant Teacher at



Badarpur Government Primary School. They highly praised the successful organization of the tournament and called for similar events on a larger scale in the future.

Also present at the event were Riad Mahmud Sikdar, President of the Kaukhali Press Club and journalist; Liton Krishna Kar and Asim Kumar, Assistant Teachers at Kaukhali Model Government Primary School; Asaduzzaman, Acting Headmaster of Bashuri Government Primary School; and teachers from various other government primary schools. 'Sebanin Builders Limited' was the title sponsor of the tournament. Great enthusiasm and excitement were observed among local teachers and sports enthusiasts regarding this tournament, which featured the participation of teachers.

## Sabalenka swept out of China Open in third round

**Sports Desk**

Aryna Sabalenka was swatted aside in straight sets by 34th-ranked Nikola Bartunkova in the third round of the China Open on Sunday, leaving the event without its top two seeds. Czech player Bartunkova, 20, sent down four aces to beat the former world number one 6-4, 6-3 in one hour and 35 minutes. "I focused on myself, to be calm," Bartunkova said. "She's a legend... so I'm really happy that I won the match," she said of the four-time Grand Slam champion. Bartunkova next faces Austria's Sinja Kraus in the round of 16.

Second-seeded Sabalenka squandered five chances to break serve in the sixth game of the first set, with Bartunkova strong on defence and firing deep. The 28-year-old from Belarus threw on a cap for the eighth game of the first set as the women switched between playing in the shade and the sun, but it did not turn the tide in her favour. A frustrated Sabalenka tossed her racquet at a break down in the fourth game of the second set, and lost on the first match point when she returned into the net. Top seed Elena Rybakina -- who weeks earlier replaced Sabalenka as World No. 1 -- was ousted by Alina Charaeva in the second round on Saturday.

## Journalism is not limited to publishing news only; at the monthly meeting of Bagerhat Upazila Press Club

**Bagerhat Correspondent**

The monthly meeting of Bagerhat Upazila Press Club was held. The meeting was held on Sunday (4 October) afternoon at the Press Club office on Rail Road in the town.



Under the chairmanship of Bagerhat Upazila Press Club President Masum Howlader, present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents Azad Rashidi, M A Wadud, Joint General Secretary S M Mahmud Hasan, Finance Secretary Mahabubur Rahman Badal, Office Secretary Abul Kalam Asad, Sports & Culture Secretary Jahangir Sheikh, Executive Member Sheikh Asadur Rahman and other members of the press club. In the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the overall organizational activities of the press club, progress of implementation of decisions of the previous meeting and future action plan. At the same time, emphasis was placed on improving the quality of journalism

at the local level, presenting information-based and objective news and performing professional duties with highest importance to public interest. In the meeting, the members present gave opinions on strengthening mutual cooperation and cordial relations among members as well as increasing the professional skills of journalists. Training of journalists, social and public welfare activities and taking various initiatives related to mass media were also discussed. Speakers at the meeting said, journalism is not limited to publishing news only; journalists have an important role in protecting people's rights and public interest by highlighting irregularities, problems and potentials of society.

Therefore, professional duties must be performed remaining steadfast to truth, justice and objectivity. Various important decisions and proposals were adopted in the meeting with the aim of making the organizational activities of the press club more dynamic and effective. At the same time, emphasis was given on making the organization stronger by maintaining unity, cooperation and professional harmony among members. At the end of the meeting, the members present expressed their determination to build Bagerhat Upazila Press Club as a strong, united, professional and people-oriented journalists' organization.

## Md. Hasan Completes Holy Quran Memorization (Hifz)

**M. Waliullah Nizami**

After long dedication, perseverance and close supervision of his teachers, Md. Hasan (Father: Md. Harunur Rashid), Uttar Haitkandi (Joripukuria), Mirsarai, Chattogram, has completed the memorization (Hifz) of the Holy Quran.

Hasan, a student of the Hifz Department of Al-Jamiatul Arabia Qasemul Uloom Kazirhat Hifzkhana, was admitted to the Hifz department after completing his primary stage of education Nurani education in this institution. Through long perseverance and guidance of his teachers, he finally achieved the fortune of completing the Hifz of the Holy Quran.

On this occasion, a short Hifz completion and Dua ceremony was organized yesterday after Esha prayer in the madrasa premises. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mohammad Fahad, a student of the Hifz Department. The program was conducted by Senior Ustad of the madrasa, Maulana Mufti Ismail.

Maulana Md. Ridwanul Haque, Executive Director of the madrasa, spoke at the event. Later, Dua and Munajat was conducted by Senior Ustad of the madrasa, Maulana Rezaul Karim. Teachers, students, guardians and local musullis of the madrasa were present at the ceremony. Everyone prayed for the new Hafiz Md. Hasan.



Durga Puja preparations near completion at 1,317 mandaps in Dinajpur

**Dinajpur Correspondent**

Preparations for the celebration of Sharadiya Durga Puja, the biggest religious and cultural festival for the Bengali Hindu community, at 1,317 mandaps across 13 upazilas of the district are nearing completion. According to district police and the district Puja Udjapan Parishad, idol-making and other preparations are underway at 167 mandaps in Sadar upazila, 112 in Biral, 166 in Parbatipur, 63 in Phulbari, 158 in Chirirbandar, 81 in Bochaganj, 132 in Khansama, 21 in Hakimpur, 166 in Birganj, 41 in Birampur, 61 in Nawabganj, 97 in Kaharole and 40 in Ghoraghat upazila. Police Superintendent Md Zedan Al Musa confirmed the information to BSS on Saturday night, saying the figures were compiled from the Special Branch of the police and leaders of the district Puja Udjapan Parishad.

## Allegation of Attempted Land Grabbing in Mirsarai, Remedy Sought at Press Conference



**Jwel Nag, Mirsarai (Chattogram) Correspondent**

A family has held a press conference seeking remedy, alleging an attempt to grab their long-occupied land in Mirsarai, Chattogram. The press conference was held at Mirsarai Upazila Press Club on Saturday morning.

In a written statement, Jahangir Alam said that there is a hundred-year-old property left by his foster father in Ward No. 5 of Madhyam Mayani area of the upazila. He has filed two civil cases in court regarding that land. The cases are under trial.

Jahangir Alam alleged that although the court has issued an injunction against trespassing and construction of illegal structures on the disputed land, an influential quarter is trying to occupy the land. He also alleged that his three expatriate sons are being threatened with being implicated in false cases if they return to the country. However, regarding the allegation, Mohammad Hasan said that to determine the

actual ownership and possession of the land, it is necessary to verify the deeds, court documents, registry records, mutation and khatian including relevant documents. Only after verifying these will the real facts be known.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Safin of Mirsarai Police Station said that after receiving the court's order, a notice was issued accordingly and the matter was informed to the court. As the case regarding ownership and possession of the land is ongoing, the resolution of the dispute depends on the decision of the court.



## Police Lead Novel Initiative to Keep Chhagalnaiya Footpaths and Zero Point Hawker-Free, OC Taher Holds Exchange Meeting with Traders

**Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter**

In a unique awareness initiative aimed at easing traffic congestion and preserving the aesthetic appeal of key roads in the sub-district headquarters, the Chhagalnaiya Police Station has taken steps to clear footpaths and the central Zero Point area of floating hawkers. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Chhagalnaiya Police Station, Mohammad Abu Taher, held a special exchange meeting with local shop owners and traders to discuss the matter.

Addressing the traders, OC Mohammad Abu Taher said, "Zero Point is the heart of Chhagalnaiya. Ensuring smooth movement for the general public, alleviating traffic jams, and maintaining a healthy market environment is our collective responsibility. A permanent solution cannot be achieved solely through eviction drives or legal enforcement;

it requires genuine awareness and cooperation from everyone."

He urged business owners to keep the frontage of their respective shops clear and requested their assistance in preventing floating vendors from setting up stalls indiscriminately on sidewalks.

Welcoming the initiative, local merchants noted that unauthorized street vendors at Zero Point had long been causing severe traffic gridlocks and hindering pedestrian movement. Expressing optimism that this direct, proactive outreach by the police would restore order to the area, the traders pledged their full support.

Local observers believe that if such direct engagement and supervision between the police and business community continue, Chhagalnaiya Zero Point will soon transform into a clean, traffic-free model area.

## Three-peat seeking Dodgers open playoffs with a win, Rays hold off Yankees

**Sports Desk**

The Los Angeles Dodgers, chasing a rare World Series three-peat, opened their Major League Baseball playoff campaign with a 5-3 win over Atlanta on Saturday as the Tampa Bay Rays rode a one-hit gem from pitcher Drew Rasmussen to a 1-0 win over the New York Yankees. Six strong innings from pitcher Tarik Skubal and home runs from Teoscar Hernandez, Kyle Tucker and Max Muncy propelled the Dodgers over the Braves.

Skubal, the reigning two-time Cy Young Award-winner acquired from Detroit at the trade deadline in August, delivered in his first post-season start for the Dodgers, settling down after surrendering an opening single to retire 15 straight batters. In sizzling, 100-F (38c) temperatures at Dodger Stadium, Skubal gave up just two hits, including a solo homer to Sean Murphy in the sixth, and had ample support from the Dodgers offense as Los Angeles seized a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five National League division series. "I think I was just trying to match the temperature out there," said Skubal, whose fastball hit 101 mph in the second inning. "It was a hot one." Hernandez gave the Dodgers a 2-0 lead with a 431-foot fourth inning blast off Atlanta relief pitcher Victor Mederos, who had walked Freddie Freeman. Tucker doubled the lead with a two-run shot into the Braves' dugout in the sixth inning with Muncy adding a solo homer two batters later. Ozzie Albies belted a two-run homer for the Braves to slice the deficit to 5-3 in the ninth inning before the Dodgers closed it out. The game was one of four second-round series openers on Saturday. In Florida, Rasmussen held the Yankees without a hit through eight and two-thirds innings. Yankees catcher Austin Wells broke up his bid for just the fourth no-hitter in MLB post-season history with a double down the first-base line with



two out in the eighth. But Wells's inexplicable attempt to reach third saw him thrown out on a perfect relay from Victor Mesa Jr to shortstop Taylor wells to third baseman Junior Caminero.

"Just obviously not a good decision there," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "But (the) biggest issue is just Rasmussen shutting us down." With Yankees star Aaron Judge sidelined for the series by a nagging calf injury, New York sent slugger Giancarlo Stanton to the plate as a pinch hitter in the ninth -- his first at-bat since April. But Rays reliever Ryan Baker retired all three batters he faced in the ninth to secure the victory.

Rasmussen struck out 10 and walked two over eight innings in front of a raucous 40,000-strong crowd at Tropicana Field to make Jonathan Aranda's third-inning home run off Gerrit Cole stand up. "Honestly my heartbeat was about a thousand beats a minute," Rasmussen said. "I just let (catcher) Liam (Hicks) call the game and did my best to try and execute the pitches he called."

The Chicago White Sox, fueled by a two-run home run from Munetaka Murakami, beat the Guardians 3-0 in Cleveland for a 1-0 lead in their AL division series. Murakami belted his first MLB post-season homer to give the White Sox a 2-0 lead in the fourth inning, launching a pitch from Parker Messick 440 feet to the right-field seats at Progressive Field.

## When Ireland play Israel tonight, where does Finn Azaz belong?

**Sports Desk**

He was born in England and grew up in the Midlands. His father, Tim, is from Cork and went to school in Dublin. His great-uncle Brian Murphy is one of the best-known names in Irish sport, having won All-Ireland medals in both Gaelic football and hurling. His mother's family has a different history. His grandfather was the Israeli sculptor Nehemia Azaz. His grandmother, Yaffa, became the family matriarch after Nehemia's death in 2008 and had served as a general in the Israeli Defense Forces. His grandfather was the Israeli sculptor Nehemia Azaz. His grandmother, Yaffa, became the family matriarch after Nehemia's death in 2008 and had served as a general in the Israeli Defense Forces. For most of Azaz's life, those things were simply parts of who he was.

Then football put them in the same room. Ireland's first game against Israel came last Sunday in Debrecen, Hungary, after days of intense debate and calls for the fixture to be boycotted. The Ireland squad held two votes on whether to play. Azaz was among the players who wanted the match to go ahead. Ireland won 3-0. Azaz watched from the bench. The following days brought reports that he was considering his international future, while Ireland prepared for the second match of an exhausting four-game Nations League spell. Then, before Thursday's 2-2 draw with Austria in Dublin, manager Heimir Hallgrímsson spoke publicly about the midfielder: "I think Finn has shown incredibly emotional control, emotional awareness," Hallgrímsson said. "Probably in my mind at the moment he is one of the persons that I admire the most, in how he conducted himself in all of this." Hallgrímsson said Azaz had gone "the extra mile" to remain with the squad and stressed the respect he commands inside the dressing room. It was only a moment, but perhaps that is what made it matter.



## 4 detained including two women on charges of anti-social activities in Sherpur

**Suvo, Sherpur, (Bogra) Correspondent**

Police have detained four people, including two women, on charges of involvement in anti-social activities in Sherpur, Bogura. Later, a case was filed against them under Section 34 of the Police Act and they were sent to court.

Those sent to court are Md. Jewel Rana (28) and Md. Zahidul Islam (48) of Khottapara area of the upazila and two women of Ramchandrapurpara area.

According to local sources, suspecting that anti-social activities were going on in a rented house in Jagannathpara area of Sherpur municipal town, several local residents went there. At that time, they detained five people including a person named Mamun and informed the police. Later, the police went to the spot and brought them to the police station.

However, Mamun claims that he went to that house to settle the matter. Seeing the incident there, he informed the police. Claiming that he was misrepresented, he said that the allegations brought against him are false and baseless.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Ataur of Sherpur Police Station said that the four detainees have been sent to court on charges under Section 34 of the Police Act. As the preliminary investigation did not find Mamun's involvement in the incident, he has been released.





# Allegation of schoolgirl picked up in microbus in broad daylight, case against 5



Suvo,Sherpur, Bogura Correspondent.

Allegation has been raised that a 10th-grade schoolgirl (16) was picked up in a microbus in broad daylight on her way to school in Sherpur, Bogura. The incident occurred on 29 September. Even after four days, the missing student has not been found. In this incident, on the night of 3 October, the student's mother filed a case against five people including prime accused Md. Riyad Hossain at Sherpur Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. Police are conducting an operation to rescue the missing student. According to the case statement and family sources, the missing teenager is a 10th-grade student of Sherpur Majibur Rahman Majnu Girls' High School. According to the complaint, Md. Riyad Hossain (20), son of Saiful Islam of

Chakpota village of the upazila, had been harassing her for a long time with love proposals. It is mentioned in the statement that when the student's guardians informed Riyad's family about the matter, they became angry and threatened to upset the student. According to the statement, on 29 September at around 8 am, the student left home for school as usual. When she reached in front of Jamadar's shop in Chakpota village, Riyad and his associates, who were already positioned there, forcibly picked her up in a white microbus, it is alleged. As she did not return home or school at the scheduled time, family members searched at various places. However, not finding her anywhere, on the night of 3 October, the student's mother filed a written complaint at Sherpur Police Station. Later, based on that complaint, the case was registered under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. The accused in the case are Md. Riyad Hossain (20) of Chakpota village, his mother Mst. Farida Begum (40), Md. Hafizar Rahman (55) of the same area, Riyad's brother Md. Jihad Hossain (25) and Mst. Kahinur Begum alias Jesmin (40). Inspector (Investigation) and Officer-in-Charge (OC) in charge of Sherpur Police Station Joydul Abedin said that a case has been registered under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act based on the written statement of the complainant. Police operations are continuing to quickly rescue the missing schoolgirl unharmed and arrest the accused.

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# In Zorarganj Thana police operation 09 accused sent to the learned court



M. Oliullah Nizami Chattogram District Correspondent

In Zorarganj Thana police operation, 01 drug dealer with 30 pieces of Yaba tablets, 01 drug dealer with 1 bottle of foreign liquor, 01 accused under GR warrant and 06 persons under Section 151 of CrPC, a total of 09 accused sent to the learned court. Under the leadership of Officer-in-Charge of Zorarganj Thana Mr. Mohammad Abdul Halim, ASI (Unarmed) Rasel Khan along with accompanying force, while conducting anti-narcotics operation, arrested drug dealer 1. Md. Karim (38), Father- Abul Kashem, Mother- Sabira Khatun, Village- Raghunathpur, VDP Abul Kashem's house, Ward No. 4, 8 No. Durgapur UP, Thana- Zorarganj, District- Chattogram with 30 pieces of Yaba tablets and seized cash of Tk 5,200/- (Five thousand two hundred) from the sale of narcotics, from inside a tea shop named Karim Traders on the west side of Dhaka-bound lane of Dhaka-Chattogram Highway at Thakurdighi Bazar under 8 No. Durgapur UP under Zorarganj Thana at 22.50 hours on 02/10/2026. At the time of arrest, drug abuser/dealer 1. Md. Ismail fled in the darkness of night. Operation to arrest absconding accused is ongoing. ASI (Unarmed) Johir Hossain along with accompanying force, while conducting anti-narcotics operation, arrested drug dealer 1. Nur Hossain alias Manik (40), Father- Late Foyez Ahmed, Mother- Late Jarina Begum, Village- Baddha Geramara, Ward No. 9, 1 No. Karerhat Union, Thana- Zorarganj, District- Chattogram with 01 bottle of foreign liquor at 00.40 hours on 04/10/2026 from the road in front of Nur Hossain Manik's house at Baddha Geramara under Ward No. 9, 1 No. Karerhat Union under Zorarganj Thana. At

the time of arrest, drug abuser/dealer 1. Sirajul Islam Tipu fled in the darkness of night. Operation to arrest absconding accused is ongoing. ASI (Unarmed) Rasel Khan along with accompanying force arrested GR-148/23 warrant accused Nur Alam alias Manik, Father- Md. Foyez, Mother- Late Jarina Akhtar, Village- East Hinguli, (North Islampur), Ward No. 9, 2 No. Hinguli UP, Thana- Zorarganj, District- Chattogram from his own house at 02.30 hours on 04/10/2026. ASI (Unarmed) Md. Johir

Hossain along with accompanying force conducted operation and arrested 1. Ripon alias Miron (30), Father- Late Nur Mohammad, Village- West Mirsarai, Ward No. 5, 2. Raihan Uddin Jony (30), Father- Faruk Mia, Mother- Hasina Begum, Village- Nowapara, Ward No. 3, both Mirsarai Municipality, Thana- Mirsarai, District- Chattogram under Section 151 CrPC at 03.30 hours on 04/10/2026 from the paved road in front of Chinki Astana High School at North Sonapahar under Zorarganj Thana. ASI (Unarmed) Rasel Khan along with accompanying force conducted operation and arrested Niloy Dutta (23), Father- Rabi Dutta, Mother- Jinu Dutta, Village- Kadamtali, Ward No. 8, 02 No. Hinguli Union, Thana- Zorarganj, District- Chattogram under Section 151 CrPC at 03.30 hours on 04/10/2026 from beside the railway line on the east side of Baraiyarahat Municipality under Zorarganj Thana. ASI (Unarmed) Md. Abdul Wahid along with accompanying force conducted operation and arrested 1. Mobarak Hossain (28), Father- Abu Taher, 2. Jahid Islam (20), Father- Khoshed Alam, both Village- Damur Para, Ward No. 4, West Jodda UP, Thana- Nangalkot, District- Cumilla under Section 151 CrPC at 01.45 hours on 04/10/2026 from Mobarakhghona (Bangla Bazar) area under Dhoom UP under Zorarganj Thana. ASI (Unarmed) Md. Abdul Momin along with accompanying force conducted operation and arrested Niloy Dutta (23), Father- Rabi Dutta, Mother- Jinu Dutta, Village- Kadamtali, Ward No. 8, 02 No. Hinguli Union, Thana- Zorarganj, District- Chattogram under Section 151 CrPC at 01.30 hours on 04/10/2026 from the south side of Thakur Dighi Bazar under Zorarganj Thana. The accused have been handed over to the learned court under proper police escort.



# Without development of rural people, urban development is not possible District Council Administrator Sirajul Islam

Taslima Khandakar Nusrat (From Sarail Upazila)

"I firmly believe that without the development of the rural people, urban development is not possible," said Alhaj Md. Sirajul Islam, Administrator of Brahmanbaria District Council and General Secretary of Brahmanbaria District BNP. He said this in his speech as the chief guest at Sarail Sadar Union Parishad on Saturday (October 03) during an exchange of views with the chairmen and members of various union parishes of Sarail Upazila. He said, the District Council and the Union Parishad are closely related to each other. The work of the Union Parishad is to work for the development of the rural marginal people, and the work of the District Council is the same. He said the Union Parishad plays an important role in rural infrastructure development. Therefore, I want to coordinate the District Council with the Union Parishad. The District Council is cooperating in rural infrastructural development by constructing mosques, madrasas, graveyards, roads and bridge culverts in the area for the development of the marginal population. He further said, I want that if the marginal population of the village develops, with their cooperation the city will develop, with the cooperation of the city the division will develop, with the cooperation of the division the capital will develop. For the purpose of holding an exchange meeting of the District Council Administrator with the members of various Union Parishads of Sarail Upazila, an exchange meeting was held on Saturday afternoon in the hall room of No. 9 Shahjadapur Union Parishad under the chairmanship of Administrator Mr. Parvez Ahmed. The chief guest at the meeting was Alhaj Sirajul Islam Siraj, Administrator of Brahmanbaria District Council and General Secretary of Brahmanbaria District BNP. Other guests present were Sarail Upazila BNP General Secretary Advocate Nuruzzaman Laskar Tapu, Upazila BNP Vice President Ashraful Karim Ripon, President of Journalists Union Brahmanbaria Niaz Mohammad Bitu, President of Sarail Sadar Union BNP Md. Kanchan Mia, member of Sarail Upazila Press Club Ashim Chandra Das and all members of Sarail Sadar Union Parishad. During visits to various union parishads, he visited Shahjadapur, Shahbazpur, Kalikachha, Noagaon, Sarail Sadar and Panishwar Union Parishads of Sarail Upazila.

# Colorful Rally and Street Meeting Held by Jatiyatabadi Muktiyuddher Projonmo in Gowainghat

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

A colorful rally and street meeting were held in Gowainghat of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktiyuddher Projonmo. With the slogan "1971 is the identity of my nationhood" as its central theme, the program was held on Sunday (October 4) afternoon in Gowainghat Upazila headquarters. The rally paraded through the main roads of the upazila and ended in front of the Gowainghat Press Club. A brief street meeting was held there afterward. The street meeting was chaired by Kamrul Islam, Convener of the newly formed Gowainghat Upazila unit of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyuddher Projonmo, and conducted by Mahmudul Islam, Member Secretary. Among those who addressed the meeting were Senior Joint

Convener Moinul Islam, Joint Conveners Nurul Amin, Nazrul Islam Swapan, Khasrul Islam, Saidur Rahman, Abu Hanif, Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, Ziaur Rahman, Imam Hossain, Russell Hasan, Sahnur Ahmed and other leaders of the organization. Speakers said they would work unitedly to strengthen the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), upholding the spirit of the Liberation War of 1971 and the ideals of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country. They further said that the newly formed committee would play a leading and active role on the streets in restoring democracy and protecting the country's sovereignty in the days ahead, and would make any sacrifice's necessary to achieve these goals. The speakers also called upon the organization's leaders and activists to remain united and work together.



# DNCRP fines 4 business establishments in Ctg Chattogram Correspondent

Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, in a raid, fined four business establishments a total of Taka 221,000 in the Bahaddarhat area of Chattogram city on Sunday afternoon, over various irregularities. The drive was led by Md. Faiz Ullah, deputy director of the directorate's Chattogram office. M R Consumer Products received the largest fine Taka 200,000 for producing counterfeit ghee. The remaining three establishments were fined for failing to display price lists and not properly maintaining purchase and sales vouchers. In the drive, Arif-er Fol Bitan was fined Taka 1,000, Parvin Traders Taka 10,000 and an LPG cylinder sales outlet Taka 10,000. Md. Faiz Ullah said such drives will continue in order to protect consumers' interests and ensure product quality in the market.

# Humanitarian Gesture by Mohalchhari Zone Reignites 13-Year-Old Mina's Dreams

Staff Reporter

The hardship of financial crisis had almost halted a vibrant childhood and a heart full of dreams. "The family cannot afford it, so your studies must end"—these few words from her parents were enough to shatter the innocent heart of 13-year-old Mina Chakma. Hurt and disillusioned, the schoolgirl from Mohalchhari, Khagrachhari, left home for an uncertain destination. However, the dark clouds have cleared, and a new light of hope now shines in her eyes. The Bangladesh Army's Mohalchhari Zone has taken full responsibility for sustaining the dream of this resilient and talented student, who aspires to become a doctor. On Sunday (October 4), around 12:30 PM, a delegation from the Mohalchhari Zone visited Mina Chakma's home in the Korolyachhari Mukh area under No. 3 Keyanghat Union. Beyond providing assurances, the delegation handed over BDT 10,000 in cash to Mina on the spot. Furthermore, the army promised all necessary support to help make the family self-reliant in the future. Prominent local figures present during the visit included Rupendu Dewan, Chairman of Keyanghat Union Parishad; Hemanta Bikash Chakma, UP Member of Ward No. 4; Nehar Bindu Talukder, Karbari of Mouza No. 249 Keyanghat; alongside other local dignitaries and media representatives. Mina Chakma (nicknamed Jhina) is a seventh-grade student at Myschhari High School in Khagrachhari. Struggling to cope with household expenses, her parents recently expressed their inability to finance her education. Fearing that her ambitions would be crushed, she left home in emotional distress on September 21. As soon as the matter came to light, Mohalchhari Zone authorities contacted the family and began looking into her situation. Rescued from the brink of dropping out, Mina is now looking forward with renewed enthusiasm.



siasm. "I want to study hard and become a doctor," she shared, overwhelmed with emotion. "Hearing from my parents that my studies would stop broke my heart, and I left home in distress. Yesterday, Mohalchhari Zone has taken full responsibility for my education. I am dreaming again, and I will focus entirely on my studies now." Relieved of the anxiety surrounding his daughter's future, her father, Nayan Kishor Chakma, expressed his gratitude. "Our financial condition is dire, and funding my daughter's education was becoming impossible," he said. "The way Mohalchhari Zone stood by my daughter and pledged support to help our family achieve solvency has earned our eternal gratitude." Local public representatives hailed the Mohalchhari Zone's initiative as an exemplary act of humanity. Rupendu Dewan, Chairman of Keyanghat UP, remarked, "It is heartbreaking when a promising child's education comes to a halt due to poverty. Mohalchhari Zone acted swiftly and ensured her path to education remains clear. This assistance will play a significant role in maintaining an encouraging educational environment in the area." The Bangladesh Army's continued support for the indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has not only brought smiles to one family but has also inspired hope among other children in the region. Mohalchhari Zone authorities reaffirmed that such humanitarian activities will continue in order to promote peace, harmony, and educational development across the hills.

# Mystery of Theft at Two Temples in Fatikchhari Solved, 4 Arrested

M Oliullah Nizami, District correspondent Chattogram

In a swift operation, Fatikchhari Thana Police has arrested 4 persons and recovered stolen goods and important evidence. Police in Fatikchhari, Chattogram district, quickly investigated two separate temple theft cases and arrested 4 persons. At that time, various stolen goods, cash, and a CNG auto-rickshaw used in the theft were recovered as important evidence. The thefts occurred on September 22, 2026, at around 05:00 AM at the Sarbajanin Sri Sri Shiva and Magadheshwari Temple in Sundarpur Union under Fatikchhari Thana, and on September 30, 2026, at around 02:00 AM at the Sri Sri Maa Mangal Chandi Temple in Lelang Union. Separate cases were filed at Fatikchhari Thana against unknown accused in these incidents. Immediately after the incidents, Fatikchhari Thana Police took the thefts seriously and started an investigation. In the course of the investigation, the persons involved in the thefts were identified through analysis of various information and necessary inquiries. Later, conducting operations, 4 persons were arrested and stolen goods and important evidence were recovered from their custody. The recovered items include 3 brass pots (ghot), 2 brass Panchabati lamps, 2 tridents, 1 brass bell, 6 brass sarai, 6 small and large steel plates, 2 spoons, 1 large brass pot, 2 brass kosha, 1 badna, 1 kansa bowl, 1 glass, 6 small brass plates, 1 arati lamp, 1 Durga idol, 4 brass bowls, Tk 1,200 cash from the donation box, and 1 CNG used in the theft. The arrested are.1. Md. Yusuf (32) Father - Late Joydul Abedin, Mother - Late



Majeda Begum, Village - Kalakuna, Maligaon, Thana - Daudkandi, District - Cumilla.2. Md. Hashem (42) Father - Rafiqul Alam, Mother - Late Jahanara Begum, Village - Uttar Dhurung, Siddik Chowkidar Bari, Thana - Fatikchhari, District - Chattogram. 3. Md. Sahab Uddin (41). Father - Late Belayet Hossain, Mother - Rezia Begum, Village - Uttar Rangamatia, Hamza Tila, Ward No. 01, Fatikchhari Municipality, Thana - Fatikchhari, District - Chattogram.4. Ruhul Amin (29). Father - Late Jamir Hossain, Mother - Asma Begum, Village - Chandrapur, Thana - Kasba, District - Brahmanbaria. Present address - Sholoshahar, I Colony, Panchlaish, Chattogram. In the preliminary investigation, police found information about the involvement of the arrested in thefts of donation boxes and other goods from various mosques and temples. Further investigation is underway and it is being examined whether anyone else is involved with this gang. Legal action against the arrested is under process. Fatikchhari Thana Police has continued surveillance and operations to prevent theft and crimes committed in religious institutions.

# Housewife Murdered and Valuables Looted in Kaukhali; Nude Body Found in Home

Kaukhali,Pirojpur Correspondent

Police have recovered the body of a housewife named Jasmine Begum (50) from her home in Kaukhali, Pirojpur. The body was recovered on Sunday morning (October 4) from the Bandakanda area of ??Shiolkathi Union. The deceased, Jasmine Begum, was the wife of the late Keramat Ali and the daughter of Afzal Hossain. According to local sources, Jasmine Begum was alone in the house on Saturday night. Miscreants attacked the isolated house, which had no immediate neighbors, during the night. The next morning, a local teenager arrived to harvest betel nuts and called out to Jasmine Begum. Receiving no response, he went to the back of the house and saw the housewife's nude body lying on the bed inside. The household belongings were found scattered and in disarray. Locals suspect that the miscreants broke in through the back

door sometime during the night. They likely killed Jasmine Begum—either because she resisted the looting or because she recognized them—and left her body in a nude state.



Upon receiving news of the incident, the Pirojpur District Superintendent of Police, a CID investigation team, and senior police officials promptly visited the scene. A CID technical team has collected evidence to help identify the perpetrators. Regarding the incident, Md. Anwar Hossain, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kaukhali Police Station, stated: "We arrived at the scene immediately after receiving the news and recovered the housewife's body. The body is being sent to the Pirojpur Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. Legal proceedings and the process of filing a case are underway. Efforts are being made to quickly identify and arrest those involved."