



ECNEC clears Tk 16,208cr projects including Rampal solar power plant

Staff correspondent

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Wednesday approved Rampal solar power plant and 12 other development projects involving Tk 16,207.55 crore. The projects included 10 new schemes, two revised ones and one involving an extension of the project period. The government will provide Tk 10,600.80 crore from its own funds, while Tk 4,081.85 crore will come as

project loans and Tk 1,524.91 crore from the concerned organisations' own funds. Prime Minister and ECNEC Chairperson Tarique Rahman presided over the meeting held at the Secretariat. Of the approved projects, seven are under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives. These include a project to improve road infrastructure and drainage systems in 18 wards of five newly incorporated

regions of Dhaka South City Corporation; infrastructure development in important areas of Rangpur City Corporation; rehabilitation of damaged roads in Rangpur City Corporation; and construction of roads, drains and footpaths in zones 1 to 8 of Gazipur City Corporation. The ECNEC meeting also approved a project to construct the 442MW peak solar power plant at Rampal under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. It also approved

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Betar debate competition to be expanded to regional level: Yasser

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Yasser Khan Choudhury today said initiatives will be taken to organise the Bangladesh Betar debate competition at the regional level in different districts across the country in the future. "Debates help students develop their knowledge, reasoning, information analysis and presentation skills. However, importance must be given to ensuring that debates do not become arguments merely for the sake of arguing. The information presented in debates must be accurate, reliable and knowledge-based," he said. The state minister said this while addressing the ceremony of the 'Betar Debate Competition-2026' organised by Bangladesh Betar in the capital. Yasser said students have to study various subjects and acquire knowledge to participate in debate competitions. Today's students will lead in various professions, including

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Agreement signed to buy 10 Airbus aircraft

Senior Correspondent

Bangladesh has signed an agreement to purchase 10 aircraft from European aircraft manufacturer Airbus to expand and modernize Biman Bangladesh Airlines' fleet. This marks the first time that Airbus has joined Biman's long-term new aircraft procurement plan alongside Boeing. The deal was signed at a ceremony titled 'Spreading Our Wings Together' at the festival hall of the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden in the capital on Wednesday (October 7) evening. The deal will purchase four A350-900 wide-body and six A321neo narrow-body aircraft. The agreement was signed on behalf of Biman by Rumi A. Hossain, Chairman of

the Board of Directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, and Jürgen Westermeyer, President and Managing Director of Airbus India and South Asia. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humayun Kabir, and Invest Bangladesh Executive Chairman Ashiq Chowdhury and other concerned officials were present at the event. **There are long-haul and medium-haul aircraft.** The four A350-900 aircraft in the contract are planned to be used primarily on long-haul international routes, while the six A321neos will be used to operate on regional and medium-haul routes. As a result,

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Anwar Parvez from Hossainpur Receives National-Level 'Distinguished Teacher Award'

Joni Khan, Hossainpur, (Kishoreganj) Correspondent

Md. Anwar Parvez, a teacher from Hossainpur, Kishoreganj, has received the 'Distinguished Teacher Award 2026' in recognition of his contributions to the education sector and his professional excellence. He was presented with this honor at a ceremony organized by the Ministry of Education to mark World Teachers' Day. At the event held in the capital, he was handed the award medal, a certificate, and a cheque for two lakh Taka. It is reported that 102 teachers from various levels across the country received this honor this year. Among them, Anwar Parvez secured the fifth position on the list of ten teachers selected from the secondary level. He is currently serving as an Assistant Teacher (English) at Saraju Bala Government Girls' High School in Kishoreganj. He is a resident of Tan Sidla village in Hossainpur Upazila. Anwar Parvez completed his SSC from Hossainpur Pilot Government High School and HSC from Hossainpur Government College. Later, he obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English Language and Literature from Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University. He began his career as a government

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CMP Unveils New SWAT Tactical Unit After 5-Week Intensive Training

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) has significantly bolstered its operational strength with the induction of a newly trained Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit. Following five weeks of rigorous and specialized tactical training, the selected members were awarded completion certificates before showcasing their operational readiness through a realistic combat exercise at Dampara Police Lines. The closing ceremony, certificate distribution, and tactical demonstration were held on Wednesday morning (October 7, 2026) under the overall management of the CMP's Special Response Unit (SRU). CMP Commissioner Hasan Md. Shawkat Ali attended the event as the chief guest. Prepared for Counter-Terrorism and High-Risk Missions Handing over the certificates to the trainees, the CMP Commissioner urged the

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Sea bananas readily available in Amtali, Source of nutrition, or invisible chemical risk

Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent. Sea bananas are readily available in almost all small and large markets in Amtali Upazila city of Barguna, from tea shops, grocery stores, fruit stalls to neighborhood markets. Due to its low price, easy availability and nutritional value, this fruit is on the diet of people of all ages, from children to the elderly. Many people buy bananas every day for breakfast, entertainment or to satisfy immediate hunger. However, most consumers are unaware of where these bananas are produced, what kind of fertilizers and pesticides have been used, whether the specified waiting period has been observed before harvesting, and whether the approved method has been followed for rapid ripening. This raises the



question - how safe are the sea bananas sold in the Amtali market? Bananas can vary in size, shape and weight depending on the variety. Production methods, soil fertility,

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12 KU students nominated for Prime Minister's Gold Medal

Staff correspondent

A total of 12 students of Khulna University (KU) have been nominated for the Prime Minister's Gold Medal for the academic years 2019, 2020 and 2021. This information was revealed in a notification issued on Monday (October 5) and signed by Md. Omar Faruk, Director of the Research Grant and Award Division of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh. Of the 12 KU students, six were selected for the 2019 academic year, five for 2020 and one for 2021. The six students selected for 2019 are Nazmus Sakif of Computer Science and Engineering with a CGPA of 3.96, Tamalika Bala of Business Administration (3.75), Maisha Maliha Medha of Pharmacy (3.95), Tabassum Ema of Printmaking (3.81), Sadananda Mondal of Bangla (3.50) and Mukta Akter of Economics (3.89). The five students selected for 2020 are Md Mehedi Hasan Russell of Mathematics (3.94), Alamgir Hossain of Human Resource

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Goal & Glory in District Stadium! Emerging star Uzair Hossain Sajib (05) celebrates as the whole college ground roars. From a remote village to the heart of thousands!

BMU Super Specialized Hospital to go fully operational within 2-3 months

Staff correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) Super Specialized Hospital is expected to become fully operational within the next two to three months, with the authorities planning to introduce a one-stop emergency service model similar to those of Singapore's Mount Elizabeth and Thailand's Bumrungrad International hospitals. The hospital will be operated under a private limited company aimed at making specialised healthcare more accessible and effective through coordination between

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Tree plantation program launched at RU

Staff correspondent

The tree plantation program for the current season has begun at the University of Rajshahi (RU). Today, Vice-Chancellor Professor Faridul Islam inaugurated the program by planting a sapling in the south courtyard of Syed Amir Ali Hall.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Md. Abdul Alim and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Mamunur Rashid also planted trees there. Among others present during the plantation were Acting College Inspector Professor Mohammad Amirul Islam, Proctor Professor Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Administrator of the Public Relations Office, Professor S. M. Kamruzzaman, and concerned officials of the Agriculture Project. On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Professor Md. Faridul Islam said that under the Bangladesh

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French-Japanese duo wins Nobel for solving chemical asymmetry puzzle

Desk Reports

France's Henri Kagan and Japan's Kenso Soai on Wednesday won the Nobel chemistry prize for solving the mystery of why only one version of some molecules' mirror-image forms appears in nature, a discovery decisive for the development of pharmaceuticals. The pair were honoured "for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis", the jury said. Tap here to add The Daily Star as a trusted source google-preferred-source-badge Like hands, all amino acids exist as two mirrored variants, but only one of them is found in the proteins in the body's cells. The other is rarely found

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Govt. working to make Bangladesh free of beggars: Dr Zahid

Staff correspondent

Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Prof Dr AZM Zahid Hossain today said the government is working towards making Bangladesh free from street children and beggars within the next four years. He made the remarks while presiding over a seminar titled '50 Years in Children's Dreams: Experiences in Achievements and the Bangladesh of Tomorrow', organized here to mark the Children's Rights Day 2026 and the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Dr Zahid said different departments under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs are working on development of children. The ministry also has a dedicated wing for street children, and initiatives have been taken to further strengthen it, he said. About the rehabilitation and development of street

children, the minister said merely ensuring educational opportunities is not enough but attention must also be paid to their mental, social, and cultural development. Underprivileged children must also be brought within the scope of these opportunities, he said. He said the government aims to bring all children under the same umbrella through Shishu Academy. Different departments under his ministry and Bangladesh Shishu Academy are working collaboratively for the development of children, he added. The minister further added that an environment must be created where no child feels left behind. Qual importance must be given to the training, education, and development of all children, he said. Dr Zahid expressed a desire that the term 'marginalised'

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Restore teachers’ status and dignity

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s strong assertion that the dignity of teachers in society is closely linked to the dignity and image of the state is undoubtedly a welcome and encouraging statement. Marking World Teachers’ Day on October 5, the PM stressed the need to make teaching an attractive and competitive profession so the most talented people opt for it as their first career. We laud him for his statement, which came after this daily reported in detail how the teaching profession has remained undervalued for a long time.

According to the report, primary teachers are often placed in the same pay grade (Grade 13) as drivers, clerks, and stenographers even though they require higher academic qualifications to enter the profession. Citing a recruitment advertisement for a technician in Grade 13, the report noted that anyone with SSC and HSC certificates is eligible to apply, whereas the minimum qualification for an assistant primary teacher is a bachelor’s degree.

Another report published on the same day quoted officials from the finance ministry as saying that the recent pay hike for civil servants, effective from July this year, will not immediately be available to teachers under the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme, the system through which basic salaries and portions of allowances are paid to teachers at approved educational institutions. According to the officials, the delay is because payments under the MPO system are still processed manually, while the salaries of civil servants are managed through centralised digital software. Government employees are set to receive the higher salaries, including arrears dating back to July, with this month’s pay.

This is yet another instance of the neglect that teachers—and ultimately the education system—receive in the state’s policy-making priorities. These disparities must be removed as soon as possible if the government genuinely wants to make teaching an attractive profession again. Dignity without decent pay is merely wishful thinking.

The neglect of teachers extends beyond pay disparities. They also face very limited promotion opportunities and the absence of a clear career progression path. An expert committee under the interim government proposed abolishing the post of assistant teacher and recruiting new teachers at Grade 12. They would be confirmed after two years and promoted to senior teachers in Grade 11 after another two years. Headteachers would be placed in Grade 10. The government should urgently consider these recommendations. Quality recruitment, appropriate training, and decent and attractive pay structures are essential to improving the quality of education and raising it to global standards. Without providing teachers with adequate financial support and removing existing disparities with equivalent professions, any statement about restoring their dignity will become another rhetoric.

ECNEC clears Tk

a project for developing women’s skills and creating entrepreneurs through cooperatives, a rural infrastructure development project in Sirajganj, Bogura and Naogaon districts, and the second phase of the Important Urban Infrastructure Development Project under its second revision. The Ministry of Shipping’s project for Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) was approved in its third revision. The project involves procuring 35 commercial vessels and eight auxiliary vessels and constructing two new slipways.Besides, a railway project for expanding the capacity of Bangladesh Railway by procuring 30 metre-gauge diesel-electric locomotives was also approved.The ECNEC meeting also approved a Foreign Ministry project to renovate and modernise the purchased chancery building in Paris, France, so that it can be put into use.Two projects under the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry also received approval. One involves constructing the Second Karatoya Bridge at the 15th kilometre of the Bhajanjpur (Nijbari)-Atorkhari-Mayanguri-Amtali-Mirgh-Panchagarh (Z-5060) road and the other is the second revised Thanchi-Rumaikri-Madak-Likri road construction project.Meanwhile, the ECNEC was informed about a project costing less than Tk 50 crore that had already been approved by the Planning Minister. The project involves re-excavating the Nandahar and Harabati rivers and the Nungola and Kharoa canals in Joypurhat district.

Betar debate competition

ing engineering, medicine and journalism, in the future. Therefore, they must actively participate in co-curricular activities alongside their studies, he added.He said securing good results alone is not enough in the present world; students need to be involved in various co-curricular activities, including sports, debates and cultural activities. “Such activities will reflect a student’s personality, leadership qualities and creativity in their future professional life,” he added.Yasser said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has placed special emphasis on sports. As part of this, initiatives have been taken to construct one playground in every union and one mini stadium in every upazila of the country. These activities have already been implemented in many upazilas in the first phase. Mini stadiums will be constructed in every upazila across the country in the second and third phases, he added.He said the government has taken various initiatives to nurture the talents of students across the country. Under the direction of the Prime Minister, initiatives have been taken to organise nationwide quiz competitions at the primary, secondary, higher secondary, college and university levels, as well as beyond these levels. There are also plans to broadcast these competitions on Bangladesh Television, he said.

The state minister said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Education are jointly working to further expand the initiative. Such programmes will enrich students’ talent and knowledge-building and enable them to play an important role for the country.

he state minister congratulated St Joseph School, the champion, and Shamsul Haque Khan School, the runners-up, in the ‘Betar Debate Competition-2026’. He also congratulated the other participating students, teachers and guardians. He said the courage and confidence with which the students participated in the debate competition at such a young age deserve appreciation.Moderator of the final debate and Additional Secretary of the ministry Md Shah Alam addressed the programme with Director General of Bangladesh Betar A S M Zahid in the chair.Earlier, trophies, certificates and crests were distributed among the champion and runners-up teams.

Agreement signed to

there will be opportunities to increase airline capacity on long-haul international routes and regional destinations, including Europe, North America, and the Middle East, in the future. The addition of Airbus aircraft will bring significant diversity to Biman’s fleet. Currently, most of Biman’s jets are made by Boeing. Although Biman previously operated Airbus aircraft, it has long relied heavily on Boeing for acquiring new aircraft.

Bangladesh’s interest in supply

According to the plan, deliveries of the new Airbus aircraft are scheduled to begin in 2033 and could continue in phases until 2036 or 2037. However, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat said that Bangladesh wants to bring forward the delivery schedule and start receiving the aircraft before 2030.

The minister had earlier said that besides expanding the aircraft fleet, there are plans to develop Bangladesh as a regional

The cost of leaving the LPG market to private control

Md. Neyamul Hossain

price of domestic LPG—used in households—twice. The first increase, in March, was by 60 rupees, equivalent to Tk 77, and the second, in June, was 29 rupees, or Tk 37—a total increase of 89 rupees or Tk 114 since the war began.

The price of a 14.2kg domestic LPG cylinder in India now stands at 942 rupees, or Tk 1,205, and it has not been increased since June. Based on this price, a 12kg cylinder—

Surprisingly, LPG imports into Bangladesh did not decline drastically. The country imported 1,58,000 metric tonnes of LPG in August and another 1,56,000 tonnes in September. This raises the obvious question: why did market supply decline? Unless LPG was being stockpiled, there should have been no reason for market supply to fall.India, by contrast, has an LPG market controlled almost entirely by three state-owned companies: HP Gas, Indane Gas, and Bharat Gas. Through these companies, the Indian government imports LPG and sells it at regulated prices through designated dealers. Consumers book LPG through mobile apps.

the type used in Bangladesh—would cost 796 rupees, or Tk 1,015, in India. Compared to this, the government-fixed price of LPG in Bangladesh, even before the war, was higher: a 12kg cylinder cost Tk 1,341. In reality, however, consumers often had to pay even more.

After the war began, Bangladesh raised the LPG price by a total of Tk 599 in two rounds in April. After several subsequent increases and reductions, the official price eventually reached Tk 1,837. But in reality, consumers are buying LPG from the market at much higher prices.The war in the Middle East is the same, but its impact on ordinary people in the two countries differs greatly. The reason for this difference lies in the contrasting structures and management of the two markets.In Bangladesh, the LPG sector is almost entirely dependent on a handful of private companies, over which the govern-

mixed with excess carbide can deteriorate people’s health. Symptoms such as nausea, stomach pain, diarrhea, digestive problems, dizziness, weakness, burning in the throat or stomach, shortness of breath, and severe discomfort can be symptoms of poisoning. In addition, there is a risk of serious damage to the nervous system and other organs due to prolonged exposure to high levels of carbide.

For this nutritious fruit to be a part of safe food for people, it is now most important to ensure safe food management and effective government surveillance at every stage from production to marketing and ripening.

Tree plantation program

Government’s ‘One Child One Tree’ program, around 3,000 trees - including fruit, medicinal, spice, and forest species - are planned to be planted at RU in the current season.

French-Japanese duo wins

in nature, a phenomenon known as “homochirality”, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences explained.

Chemists have long wondered how that process occurs, and the two Nobel laureates’ discoveries have “enabled chemists to drive chemical reactions that lead to homochirality”, the jury said.

"Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai have provided a solution to a chemical mystery that is over a century old: how homochirality can emerge spontaneously. The chemical reactions they have developed are spectacular," said Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

"Their discoveries have been decisive for chemists who design reactions for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals," the jury said.

Last year, the chemistry prize went to Japan’s Susumu Kitagawa, UK-born Richard Robson and American-Jordanian Omar Yaghi for developing a method of designing molecular structures.

The chemistry prize follows the physics prize, which on Tuesday honoured Belgian physicist Francis Halzen for groundbreaking work using Antarctic ice to capture particles originating in the distant cosmos.

On Monday, the medicine prize was awarded to US psychiatrist and neurologist Karl Deisseroth and German scientists Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel.

The literature laureate will be revealed on Thursday, with some pundits suggesting that the Swedish Academy could follow up last year’s award to Hungary’s Laszlo Krasznahorkai with a prize for a woman writer, possibly from Latin America. The most keenly anticipated award -- the peace prize -- is due on Friday.

US President Donald Trump lobbied intensively last year to get the prize and the committee is aware he will be watching closely again.

The economics prize wraps up the Nobel season on October 12.

The Nobel consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a 12-million-kronor (\$1.2-million) prize sum, which is shared if there is more than one winner in a discipline.

The laureates will receive their prizes at a formal ceremony on December 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of scientist Alfred Nobel, who created the prizes in his will.

CMP Unveils New

officers to execute their duties on the ground with uncompromising professionalism and dedication.

"To handle specialized law enforcement situations, conduct high-risk operations, and ensure public safety, SWAT members must remain resolute in rapid decision-making, mutual coordination, and tactical discipline," Commissioner Shawkat Ali stated. He expressed confidence that the specialized unit would add a crucial layer of security for the port city’s residents.

Realistic Tactical Demonstration

The highlights of the event were the practical combat maneuvers demonstrated by the newly minted SWAT members. The exercise reflected the intense physical conditioning, strategic movement, crisis management, and team synchronization mastered over their five-week course. Trainees showcased precision and tactical skill in neutralizing high-risk threats under simulated operational conditions.

Senior Leadership Present

Senior leadership from across the CMP attended to encourage the new tactical unit. Among those present were: Additional Police Commissioner (Administration & Finance): Wahidul Haq Chowdhury Additional Police Commissioner (Traffic): Hossein Mohammad Kabir Bhuiyan

ment has little effective control. Rather, these companies appear to exercise considerable influence over the government. Whenever they create an artificial shortage, the government ends up raising LPG prices.The same allegation has been raised over the latest price increase. The LPG Traders’ Cooperative Association says LPG-importing companies began reducing supplies to the market from September 20. Initially, supply was cut by 30 percent; later, it exceeded 50 percent, creating the LPG shortage in the market.

Surprisingly, LPG imports into Bangladesh did not decline drastically. The country imported 1,58,000 metric tonnes of LPG in August and another 1,56,000 tonnes in September. This raises the obvious question: why did market supply decline? Unless LPG was being stockpiled, there should have been no reason for market supply to fall.India, by contrast, has an LPG market controlled almost entirely by three state-owned companies: HP Gas, Indane Gas, and Bharat Gas. Through these companies, the Indian government imports LPG and sells it at regulated prices through designated dealers. Consumers book LPG through mobile apps, telephone, or SMS. Dealers then deliver the cylinders to consumers’ addresses at the fixed price, with no additional delivery charge. The delivery charge is included in the LPG price. A consumer can purchase one 14.2kg LPG cylinder per month at the government-fixed price of 942 rupees. If more LPG is required, additional cylinders have to be purchased at comparatively higher market prices.

To prevent cylinders from being diverted and sold at inflated prices on the black market, the government uses a Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) system. When a consumer books an LPG cylinder, an OTP or DAC is sent to their registered mobile number. The delivery can be marked as complete only after the consumer receives the cylinder and shares the code with the delivery worker. This makes it difficult for dealers to charge above the fixed price or divert cylinders elsewhere.For years, people in Bangladesh have been suffering from a shortage of cooking fuel because of the country’s natural gas crisis. Ensuring the availability of LPG at affordable prices, safely and reliably, could have been a solution. Clearly, this solution cannot be achieved by leaving the LPG market entirely in the private companies’.

Additional Police Commissioner (Crime & Operations): Muhammad Faisal Ahmed

Deputy Commissioners of Police (Promoted to Additional DIG): Md. Ferdous Ali Chowdhury (Headquarters), Md. Habibur Rahman Prang (South), Sheikh Shariful Islam (DB-South), Nesar Uddin Ahmed (Traffic-North), and Anindita Barua (In-Service Training).

Officials in charge of the Special Response Unit (SRU) and other senior CMP officers were also present to observe the graduation and tactical display.

12 KU students nominated for

Management (3.93), Pratyasha Shikdar of Pharmacy (3.95), T M Rafat Rahman of English (3.52) and Sudipta Debnath of Mass Communication and Journalism (3.94).Tanaz Kabir of English, with a CGPA of 3.67, was selected for the 2021 academic year.The Prime Minister’s Gold Medal is awarded to recognise outstanding academic achievements of meritorious students at the university level and encourage them to pursue higher education and research. The UGC has been awarding the medal since 2005.KU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Md Rezaul Karim congratulated the 12 students on their achievement, said a KU press release issued this morning.In a congratulatory message, he said the recognition was a significant acknowledgement of the academic excellence of students from different disciplines of the university.He expressed hope that their success would inspire other students to achieve better academic results and become more engaged in knowledge-building and research. KU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Md Harunur Rashid Khan, Treasurer Professor Dr Md Nurunnabi and Acting Registrar Professor Dr S M Mahbubur Rahman also congratulated the students.

BMU Super Specialized Hospital

the public and private sectors.A separate board of directors will be formed soon. Appointed staff members will not be permitted to engage in private practice."We hope to make the hospital fully operational within the next two to three months. It will be operated through a private limited company," Hospital Director Professor Dr Saif Ullah Munshi told BSS.Under the proposed structure, the BMU Vice-Chancellor will serve as the chairman of the company, while a pro-vice-chancellor is expected to be assigned as managing director. A person experienced in managing corporate hospitals will also be appointed as chief executive officer (CEO) from outside the university.Security, cleaning and other support services will be outsourced to competent organisations through competitive tenders.Existing BMU doctors and nurses will not work at the hospital. Qualified doctors, nurses and other personnel will be recruited from outside the university on a contractual basis through competitive examinations.

Existing government employees will also be able to join the hospital after leaving their government jobs.The authorities are also considering prohibiting doctors from engaging in private practice outside the hospital. In return, they plan to offer competitive salaries and other financial benefits.BMU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Dr Md Abul Kalam Azad told BSS that the university’s syndicate meeting will be held on October 8, after which the CEO will be appointed as soon as possible."We will launch the Super Specialized Hospital as soon as possible. However, it has to be done in phases as many things need to be renovated. We want to complete everything following the rules," he said. According to BMU officials, the university will hold a 90 percent stake in the private limited company, while the government will own the remaining 10 percent. The corporate structure is intended to ensure administrative and financial autonomy and facilitate recruitment of qualified doctors by offering competitive salaries.The officials expressed hope that the hospital would help reduce the tendency of patients to travel abroad for specialised treatment.

Govt. working to make

population’ would never need to be used in the future. The minister emphasised building a livable Bangladesh for all people, regardless of religion, caste, ethnicity, or whether they hail from hill or plain regions.Calling for ensuring children safety, the minister said it is crucial to safeguard the environment necessary for shaping children’s futures. “Incidents such as child abuse and violence are absolutely unacceptable. Merely having laws in place regarding this matter is not enough but people must be socially sensitised and actively involved,” he added.Dr Zahid said ensuring a safe environment for children is not the sole responsibility of Shishu Academy or the ministry; rather, it is the collective responsibility.



Constructive criticism, peaceful protests beauty of democracy: President

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Wednesday said differences of opinion, constructive criticism and peaceful protests are the beauty of democracy. "Politics of revenge hinders the development of democracy," he said when a delegation led by Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) Vice-

Chancellor Prof Dr M Enamullah met him at Bangabhaban. During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor briefed the President on the overall academic activities of the university. He informed the President about a government allocation of Tk 600 crore for infrastructure development of the university. The VC also sought the President's cooperation in filling vacant teaching posts and resolving the accom-

modation crisis for female students among other issues. The President assured the delegation of his cooperation in addressing the problems and urged the university authorities to maintain the quality of education while expanding higher education opportunities in the comparatively less-developed northern region of the country. When the HSTU vice-chancellor invited the President

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Bangladesh-led AI rights resolution adopted by UN council

Staff correspondent

The United Nations Human Rights Council has adopted by consensus a Bangladesh-led resolution on artificial intelligence and human rights, the first of its kind at the council, according to Bangladesh's Permanent Mission in Geneva. The resolution, titled "Implications of Artificial Intelligence for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights", was adopted in Geneva on Tuesday, a press release from the mission received here today.

Bangladesh advanced the initiative alongside fellow core group members Algeria, Austria, Egypt, Greece, Guyana, Kuwait and Nepal. The resolution seeks to promote a balanced, forward-looking and human rights-centred approach to artificial intelligence. It recognises the technology's potential to support development and innovation while

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There is a bridge in Rajarhat, but no connecting road; students and local residents suffer

Mohinul Islam Sujon

In Rajarhat of Kurigram, people of several villages are suffering severely as soil has not been placed on both sides of the connecting road despite the construction of a bridge. After traveling through mud and water for a long time, bamboo mats (chorat) have recently been placed on both sides of the bridge instead of soil. This has not solved the problem; rather, the route has become more dangerous. Students and pedestrians have to climb up and down the bridge using a nearly six-foot-high steep bamboo mat. As a result, no vehicles, including vans, auto-rickshaws and motorcycles, can move normally.

Local residents allege that although the bridge has been constructed, they are not getting the benefits of the infrastructure built with government funds because the connecting road was not properly constructed. They said, "There seems to be no life in the relief work the bridge has been built, but arrangements have not been made

for people's normal movement."

The 7.3-metre-long bridge has been constructed over a canal called Chhilarpar in the border area between Natuamahal of Rajarhat Sadar Union and Chetana village of Ghariyal Danga Union. Under the project titled "Construction of Bridges and Culverts on Rural Earthen Roads" under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the project was undertaken at a cost of Tk 29,26,282 in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Construction of the bridge began in June 2025.

Although the construction of the bridge was completed after taking a long time, local residents could not use it normally as soil was not placed on both sides of the connecting road. During the rainy season, they had to travel through mud and knee-deep water. Many were forced to travel by taking an alternative route of about 2 to 3 kilometres.

Recently, after the suffering caused by the bridge was highlighted through various media, bamboo

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Human Chain Held by Journalists in Rajshahi, Demand for Strict Action Against Propaganda and Fake Journalist

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Local media professionals in Rajshahi have expressed strong outrage against attacks on professional journalists, false cases, and smear campaigns conducted via social media. A human chain and protest rally were organized in Rajshahi city, demanding immediate security for journalists, bringing perpetrators of online propaganda to justice, and stopping the illegal activities of individuals posing as fake journalists.

Yesterday, Wednesday (October 7), at 11:30 AM, the program was jointly organized at the Alupatti intersection of Rajshahi city by the Rajshahi Barendra Press Club, Rajshahi Reporters Unity, and Rajshahi River

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M A Hannan, MP of Nasirnagar, is the current Member of Parliament for Brahmanbaria-1

Taslima Khandaker Nushrat (Staff Reporter)

Winning by a huge margin as a BNP candidate for the first time since independence from Brahmanbaria-1 constituency, he is now representing the constituency in the Jatiya Sangsad. He is the struggling President of Nasirnagar Upazila BNP and a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. Earlier, he served as the General Secretary of Nasirnagar Upazila BNP for a long time and is currently

serving as its President. He has also been elected as the Vice-President of the Central Committee of Zia Sangskritik Sangathan (JISAS). M A Hannan, who came up from student politics, was active on the streets from the

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BGB Seizes Large Quantity of Indian Syrup in Rajshahi Border

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

In line with the directions of the Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and following a "Zero Tolerance" policy against drugs, a sharp team from Rajshahi Battalion (1 BGB) is conducting special anti-narcotics drives in the border areas.

As part of these ongoing efforts, an operational team from Rajshahi Battalion (1 BGB) received secret information that drug smugglers were attempting to illegally transport a consignment of narcotics. Based on this intelligence, a team from the Yusufpur BOP set an

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Deadline for withdrawing candidacy for Thakurgaon-1 by-polls ends yesterday

Staff correspondent

The deadline for withdrawing candidacy for Thakurgaon-1 by-election is going to be ended yesterday. Election Commission (EC) officials said according to the EC schedule, symbols will be allocated to the candidates tomorrow (October 8). Voting for this constituency will take place continuously from 8 am to 4 pm on October 29. A list of valid candidates was published on September 29 in a notification issued by EC. The candidates declared valid are: Mirza Faisal Amin (nominated by BNP), Delwar Hossain (Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami), Md Abdul Alim Nizami (Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan), Md. Khademul Islam (Islami Andolan Bangladesh), and Hussain Muhammad Omar Faruq (Bangladesh Congress). Akhtar Ahmed, Senior Secretary of the EC Secretariat, said there were 507,203 voters in this constituency during the 13th national elections held on February 12 last. However, with the recent inclusion of new voters, the total number of voters in the constituency now stands at 515,525. he Thakurgaon-1 constituency

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Japan grants \$145,000 for TB screening in Dhaka slum

Staff Correspondent

Japan will provide US\$145,000 to expand mobile tuberculosis screening in Dhaka's slum areas, helping around 9,000 people annually access diagnostic services and connecting previously undiagnosed patients with medical care. Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Saida Shinichi signed the grant contracts with icddr,b at the Embassy of Japan yesterday, an embassy press release said today. The assistance is being provided under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). Under the project, icddr,b will procure a Toyota Land Cruiser and a Fujifilm portable digital X-ray unit, enabling mobile teams to take TB screening directly to communities with limited access to healthcare. The initiative is expected to support earlier detection and treatment of tuberculosis and help prevent the spread of

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Contract Signing Tomorrow with DP World to Operate NCT and OCY Investment estimated at \$205 million



Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Bangladesh is set to mark a new milestone in boosting operational efficiency and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) at Chittagong Port. DP World, a world-renowned global port operator, is being awarded the responsibility to operate and maintain the port's busiest terminal, New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT)—and the Overflow Container Yard (OCY) for the next 15 years.

The official concession agreement will be signed tomorrow afternoon at the "Invest Bangladesh" office in Dhaka. According to the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Authority, the project—worth an estimated cost of \$205 million—opens a new era of joint partnership with the UAE government. The

costs for maritime lines.

?However, local labor unions and the Port Protection Committee continue to oppose the decision. They allege that the terminal is being handed over without giving due weight to domestic capabilities. In protest, they have called for a siege of the Port Authority building on October 13. The agreement reached its final stage after successful negotiations in June by a 12-member special advisory team, clearing various legal and technical hurdles. Trade analysts believe that following Saudi Arabia's RSGT taking over operations at the Patenga Container Terminal, DP World's entry into NCT will further elevate and strengthen the country's logistics sector on the global stage.

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CUET V-C Halts Salaries for 1,087 Teachers and Staff, Employees Stage Sit-in outside Sonali Bank



Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter.

Widespread anger and resentment have erupted at chattagram University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) after the salaries for September and the upcoming Durga Puja festival allowances of teachers, officers, and staff were suspended under the directives of the Vice-Chancellor. In protest against the decision, university staff staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the Sonali Bank branch on campus on Wednesday morning (October 7).

Protesters declared that their sit-in program outside the bank would continue until the outstanding salaries and allowances are disbursed immediately. According to university sources, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Sheikh Shariful Alam sent an official letter to the manager of Sonali Bank's CUET branch on Tuesday (October 6), instructing to withhold the release of September salaries. Following this unilateral directive from the Vice-Chancellor,

the salaries and festival allowances for a total of 1,087 individuals—including 367 teachers, 208 officers, and 512 staff members—have been completely blocked. Speaking on condition of anonymity, several officials alleged that an anti-VC movement has been ongoing on the CUET campus for the past 15 days. They claimed that the Vice-Chancellor arbitrarily stopped their pay and allowances out of political vengeance because a section of teachers, officers, and staff expressed solidarity with and joined the movement.

Expressing deep outrage, Jamal Uddin, President of the CUET Staff Association, said, "By stopping the September salary and festival allowances right before the sacred religious festival of Durga Puja, the Vice-Chancellor has behaved in an extremely inhumane manner toward the teachers and employees. This unjust decision will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Our program will continue until our fair salaries and allowances are

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Unidentified Woman's Body Recovered from Gomti River in Cumilla

M A Khayer Emon, Cumilla Correspondent

CUMILLA, October 7: Police have recovered the body of an unidentified woman, believed to be around 30 years old, from the Gomti River in the Jelepura area of Durgapur Union under Adarsha Sadar Upazila of Cumilla. According to local residents, the body was spotted floating in the river water in the morning. After noticing the body, locals immediately informed the police.

On receiving the information, a team of police from Cumilla Kotwali Model Police Station, along with members of a nearby police outpost, rushed to the spot. With the assistance of local residents, the police

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Accused arrested by PBI after 5 years of Omar Ali's murder

Bioplal Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) has revealed the main mystery of the murder of Kishore Omar Ali after 5 years. An accused named Nazrul Islam has been arrested for his involvement in this incident. According to the accused's confession, Omar was killed by 5 people who tied his hands and feet, hacked and strangled him along with the wife of two accomplices on suspicion of adultery. District Police Superintendent Md. Rabiul

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Courtesy Meeting Held Between New Pirojpur Deputy Commissioner and District Bar Association

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

A courtesy meeting and exchange of views were held between the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Pirojpur Md. Golam Rabbani and members of the Pirojpur District Bar Association on October 6, 2026 at 10:00 am. The meeting was attended by the Public Prosecutor (PP), Government

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Saudi Arabia coalition says shot down Houthi missile



International Desk

The Saudi-led coalition said Wednesday it intercepted a ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthis at Saudi Arabia, as government forces backed by the kingdom battled to retake territory seized by the group in a lightning offensive.

The Iran-backed fighters claimed they struck several airports, including in Riyadh, while the Yemeni government's Saba news agency reported missiles and drones targeting Aden airport in Yemen.

The flurry of attacks came as the fighters denied being pushed back by government forces, after Yemen's military said Monday it had removed the group from the areas around the Bab al-Mandab strait, a Red Sea chokepoint, and the port city of Mocha.

Claims by both sides in Yemen have been impossible to independently verify, with the situation on the ground moving fast and access for journalists difficult.

After a four-year ceasefire, the Houthis -- who control most of northwest Yemen -- seized the entire western coastline along the Red Sea in the country's deadliest fighting in years.

The offensive reignited Yemen's long-running conflict, deepening the wider Middle East war which has roiled world energy markets and snarled trade routes.



Nepal's grim DNA puzzle to identify flood dead

International Desk

Clutching a photograph of his missing son, Rajesh Ram is pinning his hopes on DNA testing -- like thousands of others desperately seeking relatives swept away by Nepal's catastrophic Himalayan floods.

"I searched for him everywhere, but I could not find his body," 53-year-old Ram told AFP, still waiting for answers about his son Suroj Kumar, a garage mechanic in Betrawati, which was swamped by the floods.

Nepal was overwhelmed by the sheer scale of destruction from the tsunami-like wall of freezing water and debris triggered by a glacial and rock collapse on the Nepal-China border on August 26.

The scale of the identification task is immense.

With thousands of DNA profiles to process, fragmented remains and limited technical capacity and manpower, experts warn matching bodies to families could take weeks.

Nepali disaster authorities have recovered 1,454 bodies -- but around a third of those are only partial remains.

Just 112 bodies have been identified and returned to their families. A further 5,285 people are missing in Nepal, including hundreds of foreigners.

In China, the toll is 43 dead and 519 missing, according to state media -- taking the combined toll to nearly 1,500 dead and 5,800 missing.

At Nepal's two forensic laboratories, both in Kathmandu, experts are working to profile samples and build a database on a scale they have never handled before.

"In a year we would analyse 1,000 to 1,500 samples, often in case of paternity or crime scenes," said Mukul Pradhan, chief scientific officer at the National Forensic Science Laboratory. "We are now processing thousands of samples."

- 'Pain' -

A total of 3,685 forensic samples are undergoing DNA testing, including more than 1,300 collected from recovered bodies.

Blood samples are easier to profile, but those taken from teeth or bones can take several days to process.

Nepal has buried more than 1,200 bodies, carefully numbering and tagging them so they can be retrieved if a DNA match is found.

"A large number of people are missing, and the bodies that have been found are difficult to identify," said Nepali police spokesman Abi Narayan Kafle. "We understand the pain people are in, and our teams are working diligently."

Some bodies were carried far downstream by the floodwaters, further complicating the task, said Nirajan Thapa, Chief of Biology section at the National Forensic Science Laboratory.

"In an earthquake or an accident, people are recovered in a specific area, so we work in a closed scenario -- the body's DNA has to be compared to a limited number of samples," Thapa said. "But that scale has now become very large."

DNA alone cannot identify a body without a reference sample from a relative.

"Just by extracting a DNA profile is not enough to identify someone," Thapa said. "We have to extract a DNA profile from their relatives and then compare."

That means authorities must process samples from both unidentified remains and thousands of relatives before they can establish matches.

Several countries have sent in support teams, including neighbouring India and China, as well as South Korea. Fingerprint experts from the United States and Singapore are also assisting.

Thapa said that with that help, matching could begin within a few weeks.

But until the results come, the families behind those samples face a painful limbo. Some families have held symbolic cremation funerals for the missing.



Heavy casualties in Ukraine after Russian strikes

International Desk

At least 11 people were killed in Russian strikes on Wednesday, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, including five when a missile destroyed an apartment block in the north of the country.

Emergency services picked through the rubble of the destroyed five-storey building in Pryluki, in the Chernigiv region, with fears that the death toll could rise.

"There may still be people under the rubble," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a social media post.

"First responders are doing everything possible to find every person."

Two people were killed when missiles slammed into high-rise buildings in Dnipro and Kremenchuk in central Ukraine, while two others lost their lives in Oleksandriya, he added.

In the capital, Kyiv, strikes killed two people.

Zelensky had warned the public on Tuesday night that Russia was planning "massive" strikes, particularly against the country's energy infrastructure.

"The Russians wanted to strike painfully and demonstratively," he said on Wednesday, calling it "one of the most vile strikes" in the nearly five-year conflict.

Kyiv has come under increased attack in recent weeks as winter approaches, with air raid sirens wailing nearly constantly to warn of incoming Russian strikes.

Residents hunkered down in subway stations overnight, hauling duffel bags, sleeping mats and blankets, after air alerts sounded warning of attacks.

"We grabbed our things and came here, we live right next door," Iryna Rybalchenko, who works in a bank, told AFP, sitting on the platform wrapped in a dark hoodie and surrounded by bags. "The whole of Kyiv is in a state of fear. We were stuck at work yesterday and everyone -- our group chats, our bosses -- were messaging us to be careful."

Russia launched at least 50 missiles and 130 drones overnight against several regions including Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Poltava, Ukraine's air force



Eritrean troops deploy in Ethiopia's Tigray region : official, residents

International Desk

Eritrean troops have deployed in recent days around a town in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, a local official and residents said Wednesday, after two weeks of internal conflict threatening a wider regional war.

Fighting broke out between the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and Ethiopian federal forces on September 23, sparking fears of a return to the devastating civil war of 2020-2022.

Ethiopia accuses Eritrea of backing the rebels. Long-standing tensions between the two neighbours deepened last week when they severed diplomatic ties.

The Ethiopian army has successfully pushed back the Tigrayan rebels with the help of local militias and entered the regional capital of Mekelle at the weekend without a fight as the TPLF abandoned the city.

Multiple sources told AFP that Eritrean troops were in Adigrat, around 115 kilometres (70 miles) north of Mekelle on the way to the Eritrean border, and were pushing south.

Analysts say Eritrea is keen to prevent the war spilling into its territory should the TPLF be forced to retreat across the border.

"The Eritrean army has entered Tigray in uniform, equipped with heavy weaponry," said Gebreigziabher Beyene, commander of the Tigray Peace Force, the pro-government militia that has fought alongside the federal army.

"This force is being struck by drones," he said, adding Eritrea was "deliberately deploying its forces so that the fighting takes place inside Tigray rather than spilling into Eritrea".

In Adigrat, two eyewitnesses saw Eritrean

soldiers on the streets, heading southwards.

A local official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the troops had been there for days and "the population is very concerned".

One eyewitness said "Eritrean troops, loaded onto large trucks, patrol vehicles and other vehicles" were heading south.

"They are passing through, carrying heavy weaponry," the witness added.

Insecurity was also reported to the west of Mekelle, with an Adwa resident telling AFP there had been drone strikes over the weekend on hotels in the town, killing several civilians and wounding four others.

- Regional tensions -

Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 and the two sides fought a brutal border war between 1998 and 2000.

Relations improved markedly with the rise of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2018 and Eritrea even fought alongside Ethiopia during the 2020-2022 civil war against the TPLF.

But the relationship deteriorated after the war.

Eritrea fears landlocked Ethiopia plans to invade to seize direct access to the Red Sea.

Earlier this month, Ethiopia expelled 10 Eritrean diplomats and shut its embassy in Asmara, while Eritrea responded that it would "sever all diplomatic ties".

There were fears this week that the TPLF could retreat into Eritrea, giving Ethiopia a pretext to invade.

Regional expert Kjetil Tronvoll, of Oslo New University College, told AFP that "for Eritrea it is essential to maintain strategic depth and a buffer zone in northern Tigray, and to meet and fight (the Ethiopian army) on Tigrayan soil".

Mourning, war and elections as Israel marks October 7

International Desk

Israel marked the third anniversary of Hamas's October 7 attack on Wednesday with silent tributes, new strikes on Gaza and intense political debate, weeks before elections in which the country's deadliest day will be front and centre.

At the site of the Nova music festival, where Hamas militants in trucks and paragliders opened fire around dawn on October 7, 2023, family members bowed their heads in silence -- although at least one instead put on techno music in tribute to the fallen.

Both at Nova and the Kfar Aza kibbutz, another site of mass killings three years earlier, AFP reporters heard loud bangs from across the border in Gaza during the commemorations as Israel carried out new strikes, despite a ceasefire officially in place for the past year.

Gaza officials said at least two people were killed in overnight strikes in the territory, most of which has been reduced to rubble in relentless bombing in retaliation for the worst attack ever against Israel.

At the Nova site, Katia Zohar, whose daughter Bar Zohar was killed at age 23, called the start of the attack at 6:29 am (0329 GMT) "the minute that changed our lives forever".

"Sadly I remember everything," Zohar said. "The moment she called for me to come and pick her up because there were missiles in the air. Then the second time when she called from the road, screaming that they were shooting at her."

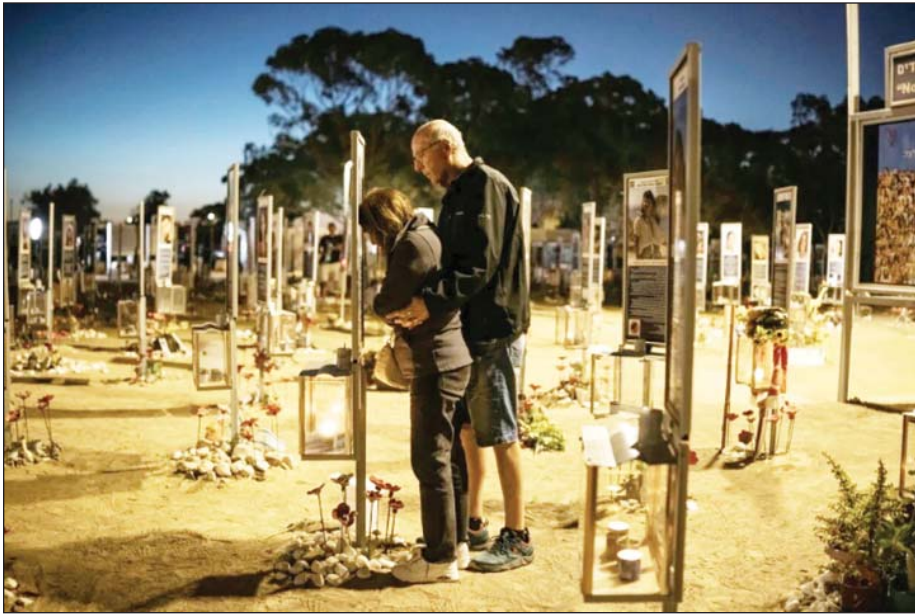
Anna Davitashvili, 53, paid tribute to her eldest son Shaun, who was killed at 25 at Nova alongside friends, by playing the last track of techno music that the partygoers were dancing to when the attack began.

"I feel him here. I'm terribly sorry that I couldn't save him, I couldn't help him get out of this massacre," she said, tears filling up her eyes.

- Eye on election -

On October 27, Israel will hold elections for the first time since the attack, with polls showing a tight race for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who in three years has ordered the massive offensive in Gaza and fought wars against Hezbollah in Lebanon as well as Iran, whose cleric-run government backs Hamas.

At the Nova site, Naftali Bennett, a former prime minister seeking to oust Netanyahu, told reporters of the attack: "This was a colossal failure of the state of Israel, which was established to defend Jews in our land."



The centre-left Democrats Party put online footage of the attack, without commentary.

"A government that for three years has not destroyed Hamas's rule is a government dangerous to Israel," Democrats leader Yair Golan said.

Netanyahu marked October 7 with official ceremonies in Jerusalem on Monday, which was closer to the anniversary on the Jewish calendar.

He said there would be "no forgiveness for the murderers" and vowed never to allow rule in Gaza by Hamas, which has faced major losses but remains in control of part of the territory.

- Shock to Israeli psyche -

October 7 delivered a deep shock to the psyche of Israel, which has prided itself on protecting its borders despite long odds.

Israelis had a more triumphant narrative last week when passengers helped foil an attack by the co-pilot of a flydubai flight to Tel Aviv, although questions were soon raised on why he was allowed to fly.

On October 7, Palestinian fighters breached the border, storming southern Israel with gunfire, rockets and grenades.

A total of 1,221 people died, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Militants also dragged 251 hostages into Gaza, 44 of them already dead.

The last live hostages were freed a year ago as part of a US-brokered ceasefire deal in which Hamas stopped firing into Israel. Israeli attacks have subsided but not stopped, with Netanyahu vowing to kill anyone involved in the attack.

Israel's military offensive has displaced nearly the entire population of Gaza and killed more than 74,200 people, according to Gaza's health ministry, which is under Hamas authority and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.



R Madhavan praises Tamil film Modha Rathiri, calls it a must-watch

Entertainment Desk

Actor R Madhavan has praised Raja Karuppasamy's latest Tamil film Modha Rathiri, calling it a "brilliant" movie and recommending it as a must-watch. Madhavan, who recently appeared in the Dhurandhar franchise, shared his review of the film on Instagram. Starring Rishikanth and Anishma Anilkumar in key roles, Modha Rathiri was released in theaters on Aug. 21 and is now streaming on Netflix. "What a brilliant brilliant film," Madhavan wrote while praising the movie. He also lauded its screenplay, visual storytelling and performances, saying he had not enjoyed a Tamil film this much in a long time. "Enjoyed a Tamil film after a really long time. Brilliant screenplay, wonderful visual storytelling, extraordinary performances," he wrote. "I laughed hard after a long, long time and cheered and

clapped as well."

Madhavan also congratulated the entire cast and crew, giving them a standing ovation and wishing them continued success.

Modha Rathiri follows a couple who marry under unusual circumstances. After they disappear on their wedding night, secrets begin to emerge, creating tension between their families. As they deal with the turmoil, heartbreak and other challenges, the newlyweds gradually develop a stronger bond.

Besides Rishikanth and Anishma Anilkumar, the film features Shelly Kishore, Chetan and Bagavathi Perumal in key roles. Meanwhile, Madhavan recently grabbed attention online after revealing a new look. In a video shared on social media, the actor appeared with messy hair, a beard and glasses. "Another day, another film, another look," he said while smiling at the camera. Madhavan was most recently seen in the Dhurandhar franchise.



Pak actor Wahaj Ali spotted in Dhaka with Nusraat Faria

Entertainment Desk

Pakistani actor Wahaj Ali, best known to South Asian audiences for playing Murtasim Khan in the hit drama 'Tere Bin', was recently spotted in Dhaka alongside Bangladeshi actress Nusraat Faria. Wahaj travelled to Bangladesh to attend the closing programme of 'Emira: The Wedding Chapter', a two-day wedding and lifestyle exhibition held at the United Convention Centre in Dhaka on October 2 and 3. The actor had announced his visit in a video message, saying he was looking forward to meeting his Bangladeshi fans. Organisers described him as a personal guest at the event. During the event, Wahaj and Faria appeared together at one of the fashion presentations. Faria later shared photographs of the two on Facebook, writing that she had walked in a Jamdani-inspired outfit and was happy to represent the country's heritage.

Mou in new drama

Entertainment Desk

Renowned Bangladeshi theatre and film director Arun Chowdhury has returned to directing after a brief hiatus with a new television drama, "Shankha Sokal Prokriti". The special drama has been made to mark Channel i's 28th anniversary, based on a story by acclaimed writer Rabeya Khatun. Arun Chowdhury has written the screenplay and directed the production. Popular



actress, model and dance artiste Sadia Islam Mou plays the title character Prokriti, while Ahsan Habib Nasim portrays Shankha and Golam Kibria Tanvir plays Sokal. The shooting of the play has been completed at various locations in the capital Uttara area. Talking about the project, Mou said, "I always strive to work on good stories and portray diverse characters. It is no different with this drama. I will only realise how much the audience enjoyed it once it airs, but I'm optimistic about the project."



Entertainment Desk

Pakistani actress and former supermodel Jia Ali has come under fire for her comments about popular actress Hania Aamir. When asked to choose between Hania Aamir and Dur-e-Fishan Saleem on the show 'Public Demand', Jia chose Hania's name. However, she also made harsh comments about Hania's behaviour. In addition to modelling and acting, Jia Ali is currently working as a yoga instructor. She started her career as a beautician. Later, she joined fashion and showbiz. Jia is currently on a break from acting. She claims that she is not satisfied with the type of scripts she has been receiving lately. Therefore, she is focusing more on working as a yoga instructor and appearing on various shows and podcasts rather than acting. On the show 'Public Demand', Jia was asked to choose

between Hania Aamir and Dur-e-Fishan Saleem. She chose Hania. However, Jia then made critical comments about Hania.

She said that Hania has gone too far out of control. At the same time, calling Hania a great actress, Jia said that she should set limits for herself.

According to Jia, Hania is the face of Pakistan and therefore should be more restrained in her behaviour.

Hania Aamir is one of the popular young stars in the Pakistani entertainment industry. She has worked in both drama and film. She also has a huge following on social media.

Hania's dramas are quite popular among the audience. Fans are also interested in her new work.

After Jia Ali's comments were published, a discussion about Hania's statement began. However, the published report did not mention any reaction from Hania Aamir after Jia's comments.

Rashmika's strategy to keep family together

Entertainment Desk

Vijay Deverakonda doesn't believe in love at first sight. The actor says that his relationship with Rashmika Mandanna also didn't happen at first sight.

Over time, their relationship blossomed into love based on friendship, understanding and care for each other.

Vijay and Rashmika recently spoke openly about relationships and love in a conversation with Prakhar Gupta.

Rashmika highlighted the importance of small daily care in maintaining a long-term relationship. Rashmika emphasises that small daily care is more important than big things to make a relationship last.

According to her, even though we try hard for our loved ones, our efforts gradually decrease when it comes to our partner. Rashmika



says, "You always have to try for the people you love. But sometimes you try more for people outside your home than for people in your own home."

She also thinks "After marriage, you may stop saying simple things like how are you or how was your

day. Then it seems that your partner already knows, so there is no need to say these things separately. No matter how old the relationship is, I consider it part of love to continue such small efforts for the partner regularly."



Entertainment Desk

Dilara Hanif Purnima is the talked about and beautiful heroine of Dhallywood. Since the nineties, her popularity has not waned even a little.

With time, this star has repeatedly come into the discussion by presenting herself in a new way.

Apart from acting, she is also quite active on social media. This time, she shared a bunch of pictures with her fans. Her beauty and tasteful fashion sense have always fascinated her fans.

This line from the song 'Rupe Achhe Nesha, Chokhe Chholona (There is intoxicating in beauty, deceit in eyes)' seems to match Dilara Hanif Purnima's recent outfit.

The heroine once again impressed her fans with her beauty in a Jamdani saree, flowers on her head and a magical expression. In the pictures, Purnima was wearing an aesthetic Jamdani saree.

The flower garland on her head, along with the delicate

Purnima's intoxicating in beauty, deceit in eyes

outfit, all combined to reveal the beauty and nobility of Bengali women in her entire look.

Naturally, after the pictures were released, her looks and fashion sense caught the attention of fans.

Purnima used a line from the movie 'Dum Maaro Dum' in the caption of the picture. She wrote, "I am a mountain flower, but no one knows. There is intoxicating in her looks, deceit in her eyes."

The comment section is also full of praise for Purnima's magical outfit. One person wrote, "What's the secret to being so beautiful day by day?" Another wrote, "The more I see her, the more I fall in love with her, I've had a crush on her since childhood." Incidentally, Purnima made her film debut with Jakir Hossain Raju's 'E Jibon Tomar Amar'.

The film was released in 1997, when she was in Class-IX. This beautiful actress won everyone's hearts with her extraordinary physical beauty right from the start of her acting career. She appeared in very revealing outfits in the films 'Miss Diana' and 'Kallu Mama' and caught the

Nisho-Mehazabien together on big screen

Entertainment Desk

The popular pair of television dramas, Afran Nisho and Mehazabien Chowdhury, are coming together on the big screen this time.

They will be seen as a pair in Vicky Zahed's movie titled 'Pulsirat'. Viewers will now have the opportunity to see this long-known pair together on the movie screen.

The title 'Pulsirat' was registered in January this year. Even though news of the movie surfaced at that time, the casting of Nisho and Mehazabien was not finalised.

On Monday night, producer Shahriar Shakil posted a picture with Nisho and Mehazabien on social media.

After that, the issue of the two stars' acting in the romantic-thriller based movie came into fresh discussion.

A source close to the production said that preparations for 'Pulsirat' are now in the final stages.

The shooting of the movie is planned to begin in early January. After that, the shooting is planned to be completed after a continuous month of shooting.

The production team also has a plan for when the movie will be released.

Sources claim that the work on the movie is being taken forward with the Eid-ul-Fitr festival in mind.

The plan is to complete the shooting in January and the

post-production work in February and release the movie on the Eid-ul-Fitr festival in March.

Accordingly, when 'Pulsirat' is released, Nisho and Mehazabien will debut as a pair on the big screen. At the same time, Vicky Zahed will also debut on the big screen as a producer.



'Pulsirat' is being produced by SVF Alpha-i Entertainment Limited. This company has produced some of the most talked about and successful films in the country in the last few years. As a result, the audience has also become interested in the new film.

Nisho and Mehazabien have previously acted together in dramas and web movies like 'Punarjanma', 'Chirkal Aaj' and 'Redrum' produced by Vicky Zahed. Now, their familiar pair will be seen on the big screen.

Emotion, tears as Messi retires from Argentina national team



Sports Desk

Lionel Messi brought the curtain down on his 21-year international career on Tuesday, bidding farewell to adoring Argentina fans in an emotional final appearance for the former world champions in Buenos Aires. In a perfectly scripted finale, the 39-year-old widely regarded as the greatest football player in history signed off with his 126th international goal in front of 85,000 supporters as Argentina cruised to a 3-0 victory over Benin. Messi, playing in his record-extending 208th international, also provided the assist for the opening goal scored by veteran Nicolas Otamendi, with Nico Paz also scoring. But the match was a footnote to the occasion itself, which saw Messi savoring the adulation of the Monumental Stadium crowd one last time for an event which had been billed as 'The Last Tango'. Beforehand, Messi wiped away tears as the bus carrying him and his Argentina team-mates made its way through crowds of wellwishers en route to the stadium. Messi took the field alongside his three children and received affectionate waves from his wife, Antonela Rocuzzo, and his mother, Celia Cuccitini, who were watching from a VIP box. Shortly before kick off, a giant Argentina jersey bearing the word "Gracias" (Thank You) above the football superstar's No.10 was laid out on the pitch as the crowd roared their approval. Messi welled up again as Falklands War veteran Fabio Santana sang the national anthem beside a banner which read -- "The Malvinas are Argentine" -- the same banner held aloft by players after their 2-1 World Cup semi-final win over England. The match was halted in the 10th minute -- in tribute to



US beat Canada 1-0 to wrap up four-win international break

Sports Desk

US teen Justin Ellis scored the only goal as Mauricio Pochettino's young team ground out victory against Canada to cap a flawless international window with four wins from four friendlies. The 1-0 win lacked the dynamism, fluidity and multiple goals of wins against Mexico, Chile and Peru, but was another vindication for Pochettino's policy of bleeding fresh talent in the post-World Cup window. Nineteen-year-old Ellis, who had scored on debut against Peru, bundled in an Alex Freeman strike midway through the first half, while Luc de Fougerolles came closest for Canada by hitting the crossbar after the break. Ellis's goal was the only US shot on target, with a high-pressing Canada spending most of the game on the front foot but unable to break through. Across four games, seven of 12 US goals were scored by teenagers, as Pochettino handed debuts to 13 new players in a major reset following his side's disappointing last-16 exit at this summer's home World Cup. "I think it was perfect, the camp. The results were there," said Pochettino. "I think if we keep that mentality, that mindset, everything is possible." The US got off to a slow start, sitting deep and soaking up a barrage of fouls from an evidently motivated Canada team. The Canadians had the early shots, though efforts from both Tani Oluwaseyi

and Jacob Shaffelburg were from range and barely threatened. A foul on teen Ellis outside the box prompted a bout of shoving between players, and Pochettino grew enraged on the sideline as the referee allowed several physical challenges to go unchecked. Ellis was left limping badly but was determined to remain on the pitch, and his doggedness paid off. In the 29th minute, Alex Freeman picked up the ball on the right flank, played a one-two with Malik Tillman, and surged into the box. He appeared to shoot, but Ellis popped up to steer his wayward effort into the back of the net. A slightly ill-tempered first-half ended with two yellow cards -- Oluwaseyi and Gio Reyna -- and Alex Freeman blazing a volley way over the crossbar. Ellis was hooked at half-time for fellow teen Julian Hall, kick-starting a raft of changes from both sides. Cole Campbell, 20, became the 13th US debutant of the post-World Cup international window. Canada pushed forward, and their best chance came in the 63rd minute. Substitute Mathieu Choiniere whipped in a free kick that De Fougerolles smartly volleyed, but his shot was tipped onto the crossbar at point-blank range by Brian Schwake. Minutes later, Nathan Saliba flashed a cross across the face of goal but nobody was there to gather, and Canada's chances began to dwindle as the game petered out.



Youth and Sports Parliamentary standing committee holds 1st meeting

Sports Desk

The first meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the 13th National Parliament, was held at the parliament complex yesterday (Wednesday) with its chairman Md Abul Khair Bhuiyan, MP, in the chair. State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Aminul Haque attended the meeting at the special invitation of the committee chairman. In welcome address, the committee chairman began by paying deep respect to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, late BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and the valiant martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the Liberation War, and prayed for the salvation of their departed souls. He also paid deep respect to the students and members of the public who were killed during the July 2024 movement and expressed profound sympathy for those injured in the movement. The meeting was briefed on the activities of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and its subordinate departments and agencies through a presentation. The committee was also informed about various initiatives taken by the ministry under the government's 180-day programme. The committee recommended extensive publicity through electronic, print and online media to promote 'Notun Kuri Sports 2026-27 (Season-2)'. It also recommended bringing unemployed youths under various training programmes and organising regular sports competitions at the upazila level across the country to keep young people away from drug abuse and engage them in sports and employment-oriented activities.

Messi says Argentina retirement is 'saddest day of my career'

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi described his retirement from international football as the "saddest day of my career" on Tuesday after playing his final game for Argentina in a 3-0 defeat of Benin. Messi, who scored a goal and provided two assists in the victory at the Monumental Stadium, took to the field after the win to express gratitude to fans and team-mates as he reflected on his 21-year career with Argentina. "It was a huge source of pride for me to defend this jersey for more than 20 years," Messi told the stadium. "Even in the worst moments we went through and that I had, I never stopped fighting, never stopped being here. "Not coming anymore is going to be deeply painful. I swear I'd like to play for the rest of my life, because playing for the Argentina national team is the most beautiful thing that can happen to you." Messi said that returning to the Monumental -- where Argentina played their first game after winning the 2022 World Cup -- was bittersweet. "Now I'm here on the saddest day of my career, which is the day I have to say goodbye to the national team, goodbye to all of you. "But now I'll be on that side (with the fans), supporting all the boys, everyone who comes in. Always united," he said. Messi though said that despite the sadness, he had no regrets about the timing of his international exit, citing the exertions of Argentina's campaign at this year's World Cup, where the South Americans battled through to the final only to lose to Spain. Messi said the emotional roller coaster of that tournament -- which included a 2-1 defeat of bitter rivals England in the semi-final -- had taken a toll. "Even though I want to be here all my life, I feel that this is the moment. The last World Cup was too much, everything I had to live through," said Messi. "We had the dream of fulfilling my dream and the dream of the whole country, of becoming world champions again. "In the last World Cup we were very close, and the reality is that nothing strange happened, as people say. The match against England took a huge toll on us physically, and emotionally it was very big. "We arrived with just enough, we fought like we always did with this jersey, with all the teammates I got to be with and share things with, not only them but also those who were around in the time when we managed to win. We were very close."



Dodgers beat Braves and Padres avoid sweep in MLB playoffs

Sports Desk

Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitched seven superb innings Tuesday to lift the Los Angeles Dodgers within one victory of advancing in the Major League Baseball playoffs, while San Diego avoided being swept by Milwaukee. Enrique Hernandez belted a two-run homer and Freddie Freeman smashed a solo homer in the fourth inning to power the Dodgers' 3-1 triumph in Atlanta, putting Los Angeles ahead 2-1 in the best-of-five National League division series. Yamamoto, a 28-year-old Japanese right-hander, struck out 10 to match his MLB career high while surrendering only one run on four hits over seven innings in a masterful performance. "I was feeling really good. I was able to control my pitches," said Yamamoto through a translator. "That's why I got the swings and misses. "My fastball was coming out of my hand pretty good so naturally I ended up relying on it." The Dodgers, who can advance to the NL Championship Series with a victory in Atlanta on Wednesday, seek a third consecutive World Series crown, something no NL club has ever achieved. San Diego's Jake Cronenworth, who had been 1-for-13 in the playoffs, hit the go-ahead homer and the Padres avoided a play-off exit with a 4-3 home victory over Milwaukee. Pitcher Michael King got the last six outs and the Padres pulled within 2-1 of the Brewers in the division series with game four to come on Wednesday in San Diego. "It was win or go home, backs against the wall," Padres slugger Manny Machado said. "We had nothing to lose but go out there and play our baseball. This group of guys stepped up like they have all year. "We're going to keep fighting until the end. These guys in here got a lot of fight left in them." The Dodgers' Yamamoto, last year's World Series Most Valuable Player, improved to 8-1 in his MLB playoff career. "He can pinpoint five or six different pitches. It's just incredible to see how he pitches and sets up hitters," Freeman said of Yamamoto. "He kind of just leaves you speechless." Atlanta ace Chris Sale started against Yamamoto. It was only the third game in



MLB playoff history, the first since 1938, with rival starters who both had closed out a World Series-clinching contest. - 'Huge for us' - Sale, a 37-year-old left-hander who shut out the Dodgers in August, struck out seven while allowing three runs on seven hits over five innings. "We didn't score a lot of runs against him but getting him out after five was huge for us," Freeman said of Sale. With Hernandez and Freeman producing at the plate, the Dodgers scored their first 10 runs of the playoffs off homers, the longest such streak to start a post-season in MLB history. The Braves' lone run came in the fifth when Mauricio Dubon scored from third off Drake Baldwin's ground out. Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani -- a four-time MVP dropped to fifth in the batting order, his lowest spot in six years -- went 0-for-2 with a walk and strikeout. At San Diego, the Padres grabbed the lead in the third on Fernando Tatis's run-scoring ground out and Machado's run-scoring single. Milwaukee's William Contreras answered with a solo homer in the fourth and the Brewers equalized 2-2 in the fifth when Cooper Pratt scored from third on Jackson Chourio's sacrifice fly. San Diego reclaimed the lead in the fifth on Cronenworth's solo homer and the hosts padded their lead to 4-2 in the sixth when Xander Bogaerts singled, advanced on a wild pitch and scored from second on a throwing error by Milwaukee shortstop Pratt. Consecutive singles by Contreras, Brice Turang and Christian Yelich drove in a run for Milwaukee in the seventh and the Brewers made it dramatic in the ninth inning. King walked Contreras and Turang but Yelich grounded into a game-ending double play.



Iyer hits ton as India hammer West Indies in T20 opener

Sports Desk

Captain Shreyas Iyer struck his maiden T20 international century to lead India to a convincing eight-wicket win over the West Indies in the opening match on Tuesday. With India chasing 172 for victory, Iyer hit an unbeaten 102 off 43 balls to steer his team home with 32 balls to spare in Lucknow. India lead the five-match series 1-0. With eight needed off 36 balls and Iyer on 95, Ishan Kishan handed his captain the strike and the top-order batter reached his ton with a six and then took a single to complete the chase. Iyer and the T20 team produced the win after they landed in India on Monday evening with an Asian Games men's T20 gold medal. While they were in Japan, a completely different India squad, led by Shubman Gill, beat West Indies 2-1 in an ODI series. Swashbuckling Abhishek Sharma gave the hosts a brisk start in his 10-ball 21 before spinner Roston Chase got the left-hander caught out. Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein then struck in his 100th T20 for the West Indies to send back Sanju Samson caught and bowled for 11. Iyer and the left-handed Kishan, who made 37, then took charge with a string of boundaries and put on an unbeaten stand of 137. Iyer raised his first half-century off 28 balls after 10 T20 innings and then changed gear for his next set of 50 in 14 balls. Spinners set up victory with debutant Naman Dhir returning figures of 3-31 to bowl out West Indies for 171. India elected to field first and despite a quick start by skipper Shai Hope, who made 52 off 37 balls, the spinners struck regular blows. Sherfane Rutherford top-scored with 56 but bowlers kept India in control. Kuldeep Yadav and fellow spinner Axar Patel took two wickets each. The second T20 is on Friday in Ranchi.

Bangladesh U-19 women beat Pakistan again

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Under-19 women's cricket team made a promising start in the tri-nation series by defeating Pakistan Under-19 women's cricket team in the opening match, though they suffered a loss to Sri Lanka Under-19 women's cricket team in the second game. On Tuesday, Sadia Islam and her team faced hosts Pakistan once again in their third match. After winning this game by 13 runs, Bangladesh Under-19 women's cricket team have effectively secured a spot in the final. Batting first at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad,

Bangladesh Under-19 women's cricket team piled up a satisfactory 139 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. In reply, the Pakistan Under-19 women's cricket team were restricted to 126 for the loss of seven wickets in their 20 overs. Bangladesh faced an early crisis, losing two wickets with just 4 runs on the board. Contributions from Ochena Jannat (17), Nishita Akter Nishi (20), Captain Sadia Islam (24), an unbeaten Sadia Akter (33), and an unbeaten Farjana Easmin (28) helped the team to post a competitive total of 139. Farjana Easmin was the most successful bowler for Bangladesh.



Preparatory Meeting of Upazila Administration Held in Bagerhat on the Occasion of Upcoming Sharadiya Durga Puja



Masum Hawlader, Bagerhat

A preparatory meeting has been held in Bagerhat on the occasion of the upcoming Sharadiya Durga Puja 2026 celebration. The meeting was held on Wednesday (7 October) at noon in the Upazila Parishad auditorium, organized by the Upazila administration. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Shahnaz Parvin Bithi, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Executive Magistrate of Bagerhat Sadar. In the discussion meeting, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shahnaz Parvin Bithi said that security measures have been strengthened for a smooth and peaceful celebration of the Durga Puja festival. She further said that from idol making to immersion, the Upazila administration and law enforcement agencies must perform their duties with caution to ensure proper management and overall security. The maximum vigilance will be maintained to celebrate puja peacefully in each puja mandap. With the combined efforts of all, the upcoming Durga Puja will be celebrated safely and without hindrance in a festive and joyful atmosphere.

Present in the meeting were Abu Shahma, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate, Sadar Upazila Fisheries Officer, Abdullah Al Mamun, Upazila Agriculture Officer Tanmoy Dutta, Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Model Thana, Upazila Social Service Officer Sohel Parvez, President of Bagerhat Sadar Upazila BNP Syed Nasir Ahmed Malek, General Secretary Sheikh Abul Kalam Azad Bulu, President of

Bagerhat Upazila Press Club Masum Hawlader, Chairman of Karapara Union Parishad of Sadar Upazila Jahangir Akon Liton, Chairman of Bemorta Union Parishad Md. Abul Kalam, Chairman of Jatrapur Union Parishad Shirin Bakul, Chairman of Khanpur Union Parishad Hawlader Kabir Hossain and secretaries of all unions, and total of 115 Puja Celebration Committee presidents and general secretaries of Bagerhat Sadar Upazila and Municipality, concerned members of the Puja Celebration Committee, political leaders, public representatives and officials of various concerned departments were present.

In the meeting, along with reviewing the overall law and order situation of the upazila and municipality, security of the puja mandaps, smooth movement of visitors, traffic control, uninterrupted power supply, fire safety, health services, cleanliness and preparation for idol immersion were discussed. Emphasis was given on effective coordination among government agencies to ensure a safe and festive environment in each mandap.



2 arrested with illegal cigarettes worth Tk 83 lakh in Rangunia

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Chattagram, The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested two youths along with 18,890 packets of smuggled foreign cigarettes worth approximately Tk 83.03 lakh during a special operation in Rangunia, chattagram

The Kaptai Battalion (41 BGB) intercepted a dumper truck carrying the contraband near the Eco Park area on the Chittagong-Kaptai highway around 4:00 AM on Wednesday (October 7).

The arrestees have been identified as Touhidul Islam (21), son of Nazim Uddin from Nishchitpur village, and Sahedur Islam Nayan (22), son of the late Mohammad Ali from Shilok village in Rangunia.

According to BGB sources, acting on a secret tip-off, a patrol team set up a special checkpoint in the Eco Park area along the Kaptai-Chittagong road and searched a suspicious dumper truck. During the drive, officers seized 17,090 packets of 'Patron' and 1,800 packets of 'Oris' brand illegal foreign cigarettes hidden inside the vehicle. The truck used for smuggling was also seized, and the two individuals on board were detained.

Confirming the incident, Commanding Officer of Kaptai Battalion (41 BGB) Lieutenant Colonel Kawsar Mehedi stated that the smuggled cigarettes were being brought from the border area via the Kaptai Lake route and were bound for Chittagong city. Legal proceedings against the arrested individuals are underway, and the process to hand over the seized evidence along with the vehicle to Rangunia Police Station is in progress.

BGB assured that alongside safeguarding the border, intelligence surveillance and anti-smuggling drives to curb crime will continue.



Popular Content Creator JK Shanto Inaugurates 'Kacchi Sardar' in Malibagh

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

A new eatery named 'Kacchi Sardar' has launched in the capital's Malibagh area. Popular content creator JK Shanto inaugurated the establishment amidst a grand ceremony.

Guests, local business owners, food enthusiasts, and people from various walks of life attended the inauguration event held in Malibagh on Tuesday (October 6).

During the inauguration, JK Shanto wished 'Kacchi Sardar' success and expressed optimism that the establishment would earn customer trust by providing quality food and excellent service.

The entrepreneurs stated that 'Kacchi Sardar' would operate with the utmost emphasis on food quality, taste, and customer service. The establishment was launched specifically with the aim of serving delicious, high-quality food to Kacchi lovers. Great enthusiasm was observed among the locals surrounding the inauguration event. Guests wished the establishment success and expressed hope for the continued prosperity of this new food outlet.

Fishermen missing in Payra River of Amtali on the day before the blockade

Amtali (Barguna) Representative

Fisherman Omar Ali Gazi (55) fell into the river while removing the nets and equipment for fishing hilsa left in the Payra River to observe the blockade. Despite three hours of effort, he could not be rescued. It is believed that he went down to the sea in the low tide. The incident took place on Wednesday at around 10:30 pm in the Payra River in the Locha area of Amtali Upazila.

It is reported that the government has banned the fishing, transportation and marketing of hilsa in the sea and river from midnight on Thursday. Fishermen Omar Ali Gazi and Jalilur Rahman from Locha village of Amtali Municipality went to remove the nets and equipment for fishing hilsa in the Payra River to observe the blockade on Wednesday at around 10:30 am. At that time, fisherman Omar Ali Gazi fell into the river. Another fisherman tried to rescue him but failed. Police, fire service and upazila fisheries department personnel have started a rescue operation after receiving the information. But even after three hours (up to 2 pm at the time of writing this report), they have



not been able to rescue him, said Md. Himel Mia, facilitator of the upazila fisheries office. It is believed that the low tide took him towards the sea. Such an incident has cast a shadow of grief among the family and people of the area.

Akkel Ali Gazi, younger brother of missing fisherman Omar Ali Gazi, said that his elder brother fell into the river while lifting nets and netting equipment in the Payra River. Then he could not get up again.

Fisherman Jalilur Rahman said, the two of us fished by casting hilsa nets in the Payra River. We were lifting nets and netting equipment from the river around 10:30 pm on Wednesday to observe the blockade. At such a moment, Omar Ali

Gazi slipped and fell into the river. We could not even try to rescue him. He was drowned in the current. Amtali Fire Station Leader Golam Mostafa said, the rescue operation is ongoing. But no trace has been found. Amtali Police Station OC Md. Yakub Hossain said, after receiving the information, we have sent police to the spot to rescue the fisherman. The rescue operation is ongoing. But it has not been possible to rescue him yet.

Coordination Meeting of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project held in Mirsharai



Mirsharai, Chattogram Correspondent

A Upazila coordination meeting under the 'BD Rural WASH for HCD' project was held in Mirsharai of Chattogram. The meeting emphasized ensuring safe and pure water and hygienic sanitation for all families in the upazila.

The meeting was held at 10 am on Tuesday (6 October) in the Mirsharai Upazila conference room at the Organization for the Poor Community Advancement (OPCA) Mirsharai office. The meeting was organized by OPCA and supported by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF).

The meeting was presided over and conducted by OPCA's Program Coordinator M A Majid, with Senior Officer of PKSF Md. Azhar Ali Pramanik as the chief guest.

Special guests who spoke at the meeting were Assistant Director of Ghashful Nasir Uddin, President of Mirsharai Upazila Press Club Rajib Majumder, Area Manager of IPSA Sanjoy Pal, Human Resource Officer of OPCA Sumi Rani Devi, Head of Accounts Department Mohammad Delwar

ties with the aim of ensuring safe and pure water supply Upazila.

The speakers said that ensuring safe water, hygienic sanitation and hygiene is one of the most important issues for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In this regard, coordinated initiatives of government and private development organizations need to be further strengthened.

At the meeting, OPCA's ongoing initiatives to ensure safe water and hygienic sanitation by prioritizing Mirsharai were highlighted. Under the leadership of OPCA's founder and executive director Md. Alamgir, the determination to continue activities for improving the living standards of poverty-stricken people with the cooperation of various private development organizations was expressed.

About 50 representatives of various organizations participated in the meeting.

Hossain, Area Manager Mohajidul Islam and Branch Manager of Mirsharai Branch Saidul Haque.

Representatives of various private development organizations including TMSS, DSK, Ghashful, IPSA, BIJ, OPCA, SIDIP, IDE, PMK, Uddipan, Mamata, VARK, DAM Foundation, Prottyashi, PAGE and Sakorika participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed various aspects of the activities, implementation progress and strengthening coordination among the concerned organizations of the 'BD Rural WASH for HCD' project. Emphasis was given to advancing the project's activities.

100% hygienic sanitation and for all families in Mirsharai Upazila.

“Crop Surveillance” is regularly ongoing in Fakirhat

S A Kalam, Fakirhat, Bagerhat

In Fakirhat Upazila of Bagerhat, "Crop Surveillance" is being conducted regularly with the aim of increasing farmers' awareness and producing safe crops. As part of this, the method of crop surveillance has been demonstrated in the paddy fields with the farmers of the Kathaltala block of the upazila's sadar union. On October 5 at 10 AM, agricultural officer Agronomist Sheikh Sakhawat Hossain provided insight to the farmers about the modern and scientific agricultural method of "Crop Surveillance." He stated that by following this method, it is possible to achieve higher profits at a lower cost while producing safe organic crops. Agronomist Sheikh Sakhawat Hossain explained that Crop Surveillance (Surveillance/Atondra Jarip) is an effective method for observing the attacks of pests and diseases at regular or specified intervals in agricultural land.

He mentioned that through surveillance, early signs of diseases and pests can be identified. It becomes possible to detect the presence of harmful pests or diseases before an outbreak occurs. As a result, by taking necessary measures in a timely manner, farmers can protect their crops from significant damage.



Additionally, based on the ratio of beneficial insects to harmful pests, pesticides can be used as needed. This reduces the unnecessary use of pesticides and also decreases the production costs for farmers and environmental pollution. Producing crops in a healthy and safe environment also makes it possible to ensure good yields.

He further informed that all officials of the Fakirhat Agricultural Extension Department are tirelessly working to increase awareness among general farmers about the benefits of "Crop Surveillance" in all areas of the 24 blocks in the eight unions of Fakirhat Upazila.

In the current season of 2026, Aman rice is being cultivated on approximately 4,600 hectares of land in Fakirhat Upazila. During this time, agricultural extension officer Md. Touhidul Islam along with 20 farmers from the Kathaltala block were present.'

Preparatory meeting on Durga Puja held in Gazipur

Gazipur Correspondent

District and police administrations have taken coordinated measures to ensure that the upcoming Durga Puja is celebrated peacefully, safely and in a festive atmosphere without any untoward incidents.

A special preparatory meeting was held yesterday at the Bhawal Auditorium of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, where detailed decisions were taken to strengthen overall law and order and ensure round-the-clock security at puja mandaps across the district.

Deputy Commissioner Md Nurul Karim Bhuiyan presided over the meeting, which reviewed the overall security strategy and preparations at the field level.

Police Superintendent Mohammad Jasim Uddin, along with officers-in-charge of different police stations under the district and metropolitan police jurisdictions, attended the meeting and presented their respective security plans for the festival.

Senior representatives of the puja celebration committees shared their views on local-level challenges, requirements and potential risks during the meeting. Representatives of the puja committees, in response, assured the law enforcement agencies of their full cooperation in maintaining law and order and ensuring security during the celebrations.

Preparation Meeting and Welcome Ceremony Held in Mohanpur for Sharadiya Durga Puja

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

A preparation meeting was held in Rajshahi's Mohanpur upazila to welcome Goddess Durga and to ensure that the Hindu community's largest religious festival, Sharadiya Durga Puja, is celebrated in a peaceful, smooth, and festive atmosphere.

Organized by the Mohanpur Upazila Administration, the exchange and preparation meeting took place on Wednesday morning (October 7) at the Upazila Parishad conference room. Mohanpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Fahima Binte Akhtar presided over the meeting.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on maintaining overall law and order during the upcoming Durga Puja, strengthening security at puja mandaps, ensuring an uninterrupted power supply, managing traffic, and forming volunteer teams to prevent any untoward incidents. Additionally, the upazila administration assured full support to ensure everyone can celebrate the festival in a joyful environment while maintaining communal harmony.

Among others present and delivering speeches were Assistant Commissioner (Land) Zobaidda Sultana, Upazila Youth Development Officer Sayeed Reza, and former Chairman of Dhuroil Union Kazim Uddin. Officials from various upazila administration departments, local representatives, law enforcement representatives, leaders of various puja celebration committees, and local dignitaries also attended the meeting.

Speakers at the meeting highlighted that Bangladesh has traditionally been a country of communal harmony. Expressing optimism, they stated that under the principle "Religion belongs to the individual, but festivals belong to all," Sharadiya Durgotsav in Mohanpur upazila will be completed beautifully, joyfully, and with airtight security through collective effort and cooperation.

Human chain and handing out of memorandum demanding re-organization of traditional "Jaseem Palli Mela" in Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

Human chains, protest rallies and memorandums have been given to the District Commissioner to demand the re-arrangement of the legendary 'Jaseem Palli Mela' of Faridpur.

This program was held in front of Faridpur Press Club on the initiative of Faridpur Sahitya Parishad and the joint banner of social and cultural organizations of the district on Wednesday (October 7) afternoon.

Speakers in the gathering presided over by the founder president of Faridpur Sahitya Parishad, Professor Abdus Samad, said that since the fair has been closed for four consecutive years, the cultured and common people of Faridpur are spending their days in extreme despair. Jasim Palli Mela is not only an asset of Faridpur, but it is an important part of the folk culture and tradition of entire Bangladesh. Centering on fairs, opportunities are created to display handicrafts and cottage industries from different parts of the country, which plays a major role in keeping the economy of small traders alive.

The program strongly demanded the government to resume the fair from next year. After the rally, the leaders took a protest march to the District Commissioner's office and submitted a memorandum to the District Commissioner demanding the opening of the fair.

Among others, brave freedom fighter Pagla Bablu Khan, eminent journalist and writer Mofiz Imam Milan, Advocate Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury, Tauhidul Islam Stalin, Mehedi Hasan Mithu, Palash Khan, Mahfuz Khan Badal, Anisur Rahman and Shamima Begum addressed the gathering. At this time, journalists of Faridpur Press Club and senior and young leaders of various organizations were present in solidarity.

