



PM urges to spend every penny of public funds in national interest

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today urged the government officials to ensure that every penny allocated for development projects is spent properly in the interest of the country and the welfare of the people. "Almighty Allah has given us the opportunity to work for our country and its people. We should all make sincere efforts to fulfil our responsibilities

to the best of our ability," he said. The Prime Minister was addressing a meeting to review the activities of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the progress of various development projects at the ministry's conference room at the Bangladesh Secretariat, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. At the meeting, officials briefed the Prime Minister on the ministry's ongoing activities, progress in imple-

menting development projects, and future action plans and targets. The Prime Minister said, "You have undertaken many projects and set many targets. The government will certainly allocate budgets to achieve those targets. But this is public money. I hope all of you will pay attention to ensuring that every penny of public money is spent properly in the national interest and for the welfare

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Speaker returns home after joining IPU Assembly in Tanzania

Staff correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikrom, returned home today after participating in the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Arusha, Tanzania. The Speaker assumed office as chairman of the IPU Asia-Pacific Group (APG) on October 5, receiving the responsibility from Bhutanese Speaker Tempa Dorji. On the same day, Barrister Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was elected as a member of the IPU Executive Committee representing the Asia-Pacific Group. These appointments have strengthened Bangladesh's representation in international parliamentary diplomacy, said a press release issued by the JS Secretariat today. The APG comprises 37 member countries. Bangladesh's leadership in the group is expected to strengthen the country's role in international parliamentary affairs. A parliamentary delegation, led by the

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Businesses see DP World deal boosting port efficiency, foreign investment

Staff correspondent

The involvement of global port operator DP World in operating Chattogram Port's New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) is expected to improve port efficiency, reduce trade costs and send a positive signal to foreign investors, business leaders have observed. They said the international expertise, modern technology and improved management practices of the Dubai-based company could help reduce vessel waiting times and container congestion, accelerate cargo handling and strengthen Bangladesh's competitiveness in international trade. Business leaders further observed that improving the efficiency of Chattogram

Port, the country's principal seaport, is closely linked to industrial growth, export expansion and overall economic development.

Md Fazlul Hoque, administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said DP World's experience in port management could have a positive impact on both imports and exports if effectively utilised at Chattogram Port. He said the overall benefits to the national economy should be given greater importance than the port's revenue alone.

"Improved port services can reduce import costs, facilitate exports and save time in cargo transportation, benefiting producers, importers

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Banshari Wadud Football' Begins in Khagrachhari: MP Wadud Bhuiyan Announces Female Football Academy

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Amid vibrant song, dance, and a festive atmosphere, the 'Banshari Wadud Inter-Upazila Football Championship 2026' officially kicked off in Khagrachhari on Sunday. Alongside the tournament's opening, a key announcement was made regarding the establishment of a full-fledged 'Female Football Academy' to boost women's football in the hill district. Wadud Bhuiyan, Member

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Iconic footballer rising from a remote village with magic in his feet. Practicing at his local college field, his dream is to become a global star one day. -Ujser Hossain Sojib

EPB trains farmers, entrepreneurs to boost agricultural exports from Khagrachhari

Staff correspondent

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) has organised a day-long training programme for farmers and entrepreneurs in Khagrachhari to enhance their skills and capacity to export agricultural products, aiming to diversify Bangladesh's export basket and expand access to international markets. The training programme titled "Enhancing Skills of Entrepreneurs and Farmers and Developing Export Capacity in Agricultural Products" was held at the Manikchhari Upazila Parishad conference room

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Former Chhatra Dal Leader Killed in Attack in Gowainghat, One Injured

Naeem Ahmed, Sylhet.

A former Chhatra Dal leader, Badrul Alam, 32, was killed in an attack by assailants in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet. Another man, identified as Sadek Mia, who was with him at the time, was seriously injured. He is currently receiving treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. The incident took place at around 4:30 am on Sunday, October 11, in front of Sona Mia's house beside a road in Guragram village under Bisnakandi Union of Gowainghat upazila.

The deceased, Badrul Alam, was a former organizing secretary of the Rustampur Union unit of Chhatra Dal. He was the son of the late Maulana Tajammul Ali of Hadarpur village in Rustampur Union. The injured Sadek Mia is the son of the late Abdul Jabbar of Lama



Hadarpur (Bhairabi Basti) village.

According to police and local sources, Badrul Alam was involved in the sand business and operated a cattle farm alongside his political activities.

Sources said that around the time of Fajr prayers on Sunday morning, local resident Sona Mia heard Sadek Mia shouting for help and rushed to the scene. He claimed that he saw two men, identified as Tuhin and Shahin, attacking Badrul indiscriminately with sharp chulfi weapons. Sona Mia said he tried to stop the attackers, but they ignored his intervention.

Sona Mia later attempted to contact the local union chairman and other prominent residents by phone. When he could not reach them, he informed his relatives. Family members subsequently rescued

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Five Dhaka-bound, outbound flights cancelled after Riyadh airport closure

Staff Correspondent

Five flights involving Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have been cancelled following the closure of Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport after a Houthi attack on October 10. The airport is scheduled to remain closed until 3am Bangladesh time on October 12. Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) public relations official Kausar confirmed the cancellations. The affected flights are Saudia SV804/805 and SV806/807, Biman Bangladesh Airlines BG339 and BG340 and Riyadh Air RX763/764. Saudia flights SV804/805 were scheduled to arrive in Dhaka at 11:05pm on October 10 and depart at 12:45am on October 11. Biman's Dhaka-Riyadh flight BG339 was scheduled to depart at 2:05am on October 11. Saudia flights SV806/807 were scheduled to arrive at 9:45am and depart at 11:25am, while Riyadh Air flights RX763/764 were scheduled to arrive at 7am and depart at 8:30am. All times are local. Meanwhile, US-Bangla Airlines flight BS381, which departed on October 10, was diverted,

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Joint Operation in Sitakunda to Protect Mother Hilsa; 5 Drift Nets and 35 kg of Hilsa Seized

Crime reporter, Chittagong

The Upazila Fisheries Office, Bangladesh Coast Guard, and Naval Police conducted separate operations in Sitakunda, Chittagong, to conserve mother Hilsa fish, seizing five drift nets and 35 kg of Hilsa.

The operation took place on Saturday (October 10, 2026) between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM in the Sandwip Channel off the Kumira coast. Sitakunda Upazila Fisheries Officer Motasim Billah led the drive.

Five drift nets were seized during the joint operation conducted by the Upazila Fisheries Office and the Bhatiari station of the Bangladesh Coast Guard. The nets had a combined length of approximately 15,000 meters and an estimated market value of around Tk 5 lakh. The seized nets were subsequently destroyed by burning them in public.

Separately, the Naval Police seized 35 kg of Hilsa fish during their own operation. Two formal cases were filed against four individuals in connection with this incident. The seized Hilsa fish were distributed among local orphanages and destitute, needy, and impoverished people.

Concerned authorities stated that operations and surveillance would continue to ensure the safe breeding of Hilsa, conserve mother Hilsa, and protect the country's fisheries resources.

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Dhaka condemns Riyadh airport attack killing two Bangladeshis

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh today strongly condemned the deadly Houthi attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh that killed two Bangladeshi nationals, and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and protection of civilians. The Bangladesh mission in Riyadh is in contact with Saudi authorities to obtain details of the deceased and injured Bangladeshis and facilitate necessary assistance to those affected, said the Foreign Ministry in a statement. The attack on October 10 caused casualties and left numerous people injured, many critically, it added. Bangladesh extended its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, including those of the Bangladeshi victims, and prayed for the swift and full recovery of all the injured. "Attacks endangering civilian lives and targeting civilian infrastructure are unacceptable and must cease immediately," the statement said. Bangladesh reiterated

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A traditional rural Bengali boat race was held on the Kumar River in Faridpur

Crowds on both sides in the mood of the festival

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

The roaring jingle of Baitha on the banks of the river, the singing of rowboats and the clapping and cheering of thousands of people on both banks - all in all, the centuries-old tradition of rural Bengal came back to the Kumar river in Faridpur. An eye-catching boat race and village fair was held in the presence of Faridpur-2 Constituency Member of Parliament and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam Ringku. People flocked to both banks of the Kumara river for this event, creating an unprecedented festive mood.

The boat race was held on Saturday (October 10) from afternoon to evening across Kumar River between Kandi village of Kaichail Union of Nagarkanda Upazila and Munchurabad of Bhanga Upazila.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam Ringku was present in the river by trowler to enjoy the competition directly. He supervised the competition, encouraged the contestants and waved greetings to the beleaguered commoners standing on both banks

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Rooppur nuclear power plant moves closer to reactor start-up

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant located at Rooppur in Ishwardi of Pabna has made significant progress towards initiating nuclear fission in its first unit after regulators approved the results of safety valve tests, paving the way for the next phase of commissioning. If work proceeds according to plan, the plant could begin supplying electricity to the national grid on a trial basis as early as next month, project officials said. The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant has two

units, each with a generation capacity of 1,200 megawatts (MW). Once both units are fully operational, they are expected to contribute a combined 2,400 MW to the national grid, diversify the country's energy mix and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Officials concerned with the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) said the initiation of heat production through nuclear fission in the first unit had initially been planned for September. However, technical defects identified during safety valve testing

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Is social media use getting out of hand?

Whenever we think of “doomscrolling”—defined as the compulsive habit of spending a huge amount of time viewing negative, distressing, or alarming content on social media—we usually blame ourselves for lacking the self-restraint to

A Bangladesh-based study, conducted in 2024 involving 440 young adults aged 18 to 35 years, found that spending more than four hours a day on social media was associated with a higher likelihood of depression and anxiety. The findings point to a broader relationship between excessive social media use and mental health difficulties.

stop. While we do bear some personal responsibility for avoiding harmful habits, it would be naïve to let social media platforms off the hook entirely. These platforms invest considerable effort in keeping users hooked, employing research-backed mechanisms to increase engagement and time spent on social media. What may seem like a straightforward pursuit of profit maximisation has translated into serious consequences for users’ mental health. A Bangladesh-based study, conducted in 2024 involving 440 young adults aged 18 to 35 years, found that spending more than four hours a day on social media was associated with a higher likelihood of depression and anxiety. The findings point to a broader relationship between excessive social media use and mental health difficulties. These can, in turn, contribute to internet addiction, sleep problems, poor concentration, and irritability, among other challenges. Easy access to digital devices and a lack of digital literacy have exacerbated the problem, as parents often hand smartphones to very young children, without setting clear limits on screen time or monitoring the content they consume.All this points to a grim reality for Bangladesh’s overall mental health. The last national mental health survey, conducted in 2019, found that at least 18.7 percent of adults aged 18 years and above and 12.6 percent of children between the ages of 7 and 17 years had a mental disorder. The toll on young people is reflected, in part, in reports of student suicides, with at least 224 students dying by suicide up until September this year. There may also be links between deteriorating mental health and the reported rise in teen gang violence across the country.

PM urges to spend every

of the people.”Calling on officials’ to view their public service roles as a valuable opportunity to work for the people, Tarique Rahman said, “Compared with the country’s overall population, those serving in government positions are privileged and should use this opportunity to work for the welfare of the people.”He added, “Let us sincerely carry out whatever work we have the opportunity to do. We must all make that effort.”The Prime Minister said opportunities to serve in public positions did not last forever, and everyone should make the best use of their time in office to serve the country and its people. At the end of the meeting, he again urged officials to discharge their duties sincerely. “Let us all try to make proper use of the time we have in our respective positions to work for the people and the country,” he said.Tarique Rahman also encouraged officials to share their views more actively, saying their field-level experience and observations could play an important role in government decision-making. Expressing his intention to review the ministry’s progress again in the future, he hoped officials would speak more openly at subsequent meetings and share their experiences, observations and opinions.Fisheries and Livestock Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid, State Minister Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Secretary Md Delwar Hossain and senior ministry officials were present at the meeting.

Speaker returns home

Speaker, arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, where officials from the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed them. The Speaker was accompanied by Members of Parliament Barrister Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, Sayeed Al Noman, Sanjida Islam Tulee, Sarwar Jamal Nizam, A. E. Sultan Mahmud Babu, Md. Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, S. K. Azizul Bari, Humam Quader Chowdhury, Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem, Sunсила Jabrin and Rokeya Begum, along with Parliament Secretariat Secretary Barrister Md. Golam Sarwar Bhuiyan.

Businesses see DP World deal

and exporters,” he said. Haque also noted that the involvement of a globally recognised port operator could encourage other foreign investors by demonstrating Bangladesh’s potential for investment. However, he stressed that improved services should not lead to unreasonable increases in port charges. The benefits of greater operational efficiency should be reflected in better services and lower business costs, he added. Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), welcomed the government’s agreement with DP World to operate the terminal.

He said the initiative could increase the port’s handling capacity, create opportunities to reduce operational costs and contribute to economic growth.

Hatem called for constructive engagement from all stakeholders, saying any concerns about the agreement should be raised with specific evidence and addressed through discussions with the government.

He said the country’s economic interests should be the primary consideration in evaluating the initiative.The need to improve port efficiency is underscored by the existing operational challenges at Chattogram Port.

According to the 2025 Container Port Performance Index, Chattogram Port ranked 364th among 400 container ports worldwide. World Bank data cited by the sources indicate that vessels may have to wait up to three days for cargo handling, compared with around 15 to 24 hours at many comparable ports.The average container dwell time at Chattogram Port is around nine days, while it is no more than two and a half days at comparable ports.

Such delays impose substantial costs on businesses. Estimates cited by the sources suggest that the economic loss amounts to around Tk 10 crore per day, or approximately Tk 3,650 crore annually.

According to a World Bank estimate, reducing container dwell time by one day could increase Bangladesh’s trade through Chattogram Port by around 7.5 percent.

The New Mooring Container Terminal is one of the four operational container-handling facilities at Chattogram Port and handles around 44 percent of the port’s total container throughput.

Improving the terminal’s operational performance could therefore contribute significantly to enhancing the port’s overall capacity and accelerating the country’s import-export activi-

New NCT deal must deliver measurable gains for Bangladesh

Md. Neyamul Hossain

The debate over the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) at Chattogram port has entered a new phase after Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and UAE-based DP World signed a 15-year concession agreement on Thursday, October 8, for the operation, maintenance, and modernisation of NCT and its overflow container yard. Ownership of the terminal, land, and core infrastructure remains with the port authority, while Customs, Immigration, the Navy, Coast Guard, and other security functions remain under the control of the relevant state agencies.

Now that the deal has been signed, following a lengthy process marked by controversy and protests, the debate should move beyond the binary question of “foreign versus local.” The more useful question for our trade and economy is: what measurable additional value will the concession produce, and how will that value be verified?

NCT is not a new facility being built from scratch. It is an established public asset that has been operating since 2007 and already handles around 44 percent of the port’s container traffic. So, a concession involving such an asset cannot be judged by whether it maintains existing service levels; it must demonstrate additional gains in productivity, reliability, technology, service quality, and public revenue.Some important parameters are already publicly known. According to Invest Bangladesh, DP World will pay an upfront fee of approximately Tk 600 crore and invest more than Tk 1,000 crore over the first 10 years in modernisation, equipment, and technology. CPA will also receive a revenue share and a fixed annual fee. The agreement establishes key performance indicators (KPIs) and requirements for regular reporting, CPA monitoring and audits, along with financial penalties for missed targets. These provisions make the concession’s performance measurable, but they alone cannot guarantee whether it will ultimately deliver value for money. The real test lies in implementation.To assess the results, the first priority should be to establish a performance baseline before the full operational handover. If vessel turnaround, berth productivity, crane moves per hour, truck turnaround, equipment availability, container dwell time, and yard utilisation are expected to improve, their starting levels should be documented. Otherwise, future gains may be difficult to distinguish from changes resulting from trade growth, new infrastructure, or wider port reforms.As it is, Chattogram port’s current performance leaves much room for improvement. It ranked 364th among 400 ports in the 2025 Container Port Performance Index, while container dwell time exceeds nine days and ves-

ties.

Under the 15-year agreement, DP World will be responsible for operating NCT, including coordinating vessel schedules, preparing for cargo handling, unloading containers from ships, storing them in yards and facilitating their movement out of the terminal after customs clearance and other formalities. The handling of export containers will also be covered by its operations.

The initiative aims to reduce congestion and cargo handling times through modern equipment, automated systems and improved operational practices.

Faster cargo clearance could reduce additional expenses related to transportation, storage and vessel waiting times. More reliable delivery schedules would also help Bangladeshi exporters meet international buyers’ requirements.Under the financial terms of the agreement, DP World will provide an upfront payment of around Tk 600 crore to the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA).

The CPA will receive 40 to 67 percent of the terminal’s gross revenue from cargo handling, which is calculated before deducting operational expenses and is not a share of net profit.

The agreement also includes an investment of more than Tk 1,000 crore in terminal modernisation and development during the first 10 years, along with a minimum annual payment of Tk 10 crore.

DP World operates more than 80 ports and terminals across more than 40 countries and is also involved in inland terminals and supply chain operations. Its international experience in container handling, port management and cargo transportation could support improvements in NCT’s operational efficiency and service quality.Former Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) president SM Fazlul Hoque said business leaders wanted to cooperate with the government in the interest of the national economy.He expressed confidence that the government had taken the decision after careful consideration and said the business community intended to support the implementation of the initiative.Russell Mahmud, chief operating officer of Bay-Berth Maritime, said faster cargo delivery could strengthen Bangladesh’s export capacity, reduce import costs and improve the country’s competitiveness in international markets.He said utilising DP World’s operational experience at NCT was important for the country’s commercial interests, given the existing limitations in port capacity and the economic costs associated with container congestion.People familiar with the agreement said assigning a foreign operator to manage a terminal for a specified period did not mean transferring ownership of the port. Under the arrangement, DP World will operate NCT, while ownership and sovereign control will remain with the Chattogram Port Authority and Bangladesh.

They said the success of the initiative would depend on proper implementation of the contractual terms, improved service quality, cost control, transparency and accountability. If the expected improvements are achieved, the agreement could help reduce vessel and container waiting times, lower business costs and expand trade. It could also support the modernisation of Bangladesh’s port infrastructure and strengthen the country’s prospects for attracting foreign investment.

Banshari Wadud Football'

of Parliament for the Khagrachhari constituency and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, inaugurated the tournament on Sunday afternoon (October 11) at the Khagrachhari Government High School ground by hoisting the national flag and releasing peace doves.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration, MP Wadud Bhuiyan said, "There is no alternative to expanding sports and healthy entertainment to keep the youth away from the grip of drugs." He urged people from all walks of life in the hills to unite and build a social resistance against drug abuse. During his speech, the lawmaker pledged to establish a modern female football academy in Khagrachhari.

The opening match featured Manikchhari Sunflower Sporting Club against Matiranga Pourashava XI. A total of nine teams from across Khagrachhari are competing for the title in this year’s tournament.

Among others present at the inauguration ceremony were Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Md. Anwar Sadat, Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Mrasathwai Mamma, senior officials from the local administration, and leaders of the District Sports Association.

Former Chhatra Dal Leader Killed

Badrul and Sadek from the scene and took them to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. There, the attending doctor declared Badrul dead.

The deceased’s elder brother, Akhlakul Ambia, said that at around 4:45 am, Sadek Mia, who was with Badrul, called their younger brother Mahbub on a mobile phone and desperately pleaded for help. The phone had been switched off ever since. He said that after receiving the call, they rushed to the scene and rescued the two men before taking them to the hospital, where doctors declared Badrul dead.

Akhlakul Ambia further alleged that several individuals, including Shahin, Tuhin and Mamun of Guragram village, intercepted his brother’s motorcycle and killed him while he was returning from Monartal Bazar with business proceeds. Meanwhile, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gowainghat Police Station Md. Omar Faruk visited the scene with a team of police officers after receiving news of the incident. Police recovered and seized the TVS motorcycle used by Badrul and Sadek.

OC Md. Omar Faruk said that Badrul and Sadek were attacked after their motorcycle was intercepted around the time of Fajr prayers on Sunday. Badrul was killed in the attack, while Sadek is receiving treatment at the hospital.

“Several eyewitnesses have provided the names of multiple individuals. However, the motive behind the killing and the identities of those involved are still being investigated. Police operations to arrest those responsible are ongoing,” the OC said.

Dhaka condemns Riyadh airport

its firm solidarity with the government and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia in the face of the attack.It called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and a peaceful resolution of the ongoing crisis through dialogue and diplomacy in the interest of regional peace, security and stability.

A traditional rural Bengali

of the Kumara river. Under the direction of State Minister Shama Obaid and under the supervision of Abul Hasan Titu, the former joint convener of Dhaka Metropolitan North Youth Dal, this grand festival of folk culture and rural fair was organized.

On the occasion of boating, lakhs of people from all walks of life, including men and women, children and teenagers gather from different areas including Nagarkanda and Bhanga upazilas. The speedy movement of the colorful boats to the beat of the drums and the rhythm of the gathering together with the sailors caught the attention of the visitors. Along with the competition, traditional village fairs are held on the banks of the river, where folk add extra life to the event.

Visitors to the fair and locals said that boating is not only a means of entertainment; It is the main driving force of the harmony, unity and folk culture of rural Bengal. They thanked Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid for conveying this river-centered tradition to the new generation. Besides, they strongly demanded to maintain such folk organization regularly every year. This magnificent day-long festival ended with the waves of Kumar river and thousands of people cheering, capturing the culture and history of riverine Bangladesh.

Five Dhaka-bound, outbound

with its actual arrival recorded at 3:10am.Biman Bangladesh Airlines has advised affected passengers not to proceed to the airport until further notice. The airline said it would provide updates on rescheduling and flight status through its official website and communication channels. Passengers can also contact its call centre or visit the nearest sales office for assistance.Meanwhile, Bangladesh today strongly condemned the October 10 attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which killed two Bangladeshi nationals and left numerous others injured, many critically, the foreign ministry said.The Bangladesh mission in Riyadh is in contact with Saudi authorities to obtain details of the deceased and injured Bangladeshis and facilitate necessary assistance.Bangladesh extended condolences to the bereaved families and wished all those injured a swift and full recovery."Attacks endangering civilian lives and targeting civilian infrastructure are unacceptable and must cease immediately," the ministry said.Bangladesh reiterated its solidarity with Saudi Arabia and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and a peaceful resolution

trade-facilitation systems. A digitally advanced terminal should not become an efficient island surrounded by paper-based processes. What matters to an exporter or importer is not merely how quickly a crane moves a container, but how predictably cargo moves from vessel to factory, or from factory to vessel.Labour transition should also be part of the performance equation. The government says local employment will continue and that modern technology and international training will strengthen skills within the port and logistics sector. There remain some concerns among sections of workers, however, and these should be addressed through a structured workforce development programme covering retraining, safety, new technical skills, and opportunities for local professionals to take on increasingly sophisticated roles.There is also an opportunity to make accountability visible. Since the agreement already provides for KPIs, regular reporting, CPA monitoring, and audits, CPA could publish a concise quarterly performance dashboard without disclosing commercially sensitive information. Indicators such as throughput, berth productivity, vessel and truck turnaround, dwell time, equipment availability, safety performance, and investment delivered would show whether promises are being translated into results.Such transparency would benefit both sides. If DP World achieves substantial productivity gains, objective data will demonstrate the value of international operational expertise. If performance falls short of agreed commitments, the same system will allow CPA to intervene early.Bangladesh has legitimate reasons to engage experienced global terminal operators. Technology, operational discipline, maintenance practices, and international standards can strengthen the competitiveness of the country’s trade gateways. That said, the signing of the agreement itself should not be regarded as success. For exporters and importers, the desired outcomes are shorter logistics times, greater predictability, and more efficient cargo movement. For CPA and the state, what’s expected is a fair and verifiable return from a public asset as well as the preservation of effective regulatory oversight.So, the most constructive approach going forward would be to properly establish the baseline, measure contractual commitments, monitor investment and performance, enforce agreed standards, and report the results. If NCT becomes faster, more reliable, and technologically stronger while Bangladesh receives a fair return and CPA retains effective oversight, the concession will make its own case. If those improvements do not materialise, the country should be able to see that just as clearly.

through dialogue and diplomacy.

EPB trains farmers, entrepreneurs

on Saturday under the EPB’s export product diversification initiative, said a press release.EPB Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Hasan Arif attended the programme as the chief guest, while Manikchhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Tahmina Afroze Bhuiyan chaired it.EPB Director Kumkum Sultana, President of the Bangladesh Fruits and Vegetable Growers Association, Chattogram, Mohammad Kamal Uddin, officials of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and local farmers and entrepreneurs also attended.

Addressing the programme, Hasan Arif said Khagrachhari and the adjoining hill districts had significant potential for producing and exporting a variety of agricultural products, including mangoes, pineapples, oranges, bananas, coffee, jackfruits, cashew nuts, dragon fruits and papayas.Expanding the presence of these products in international markets could help diversify the country’s export basket and create opportunities to increase farmers’ and entrepreneurs’ incomes, he said.However, ensuring product quality and safety at every stage, from production and harvesting to storage, grading, packaging and transportation, is essential for competing in international markets, he added.He stressed the need to promote market-oriented agricultural production, modern orchard management, post-harvest handling and efficient value chains to reduce wastage and increase value addition.Farmers and entrepreneurs also need greater knowledge of international market analysis, foreign buyer identification and export documentation to tap new overseas markets, he said.The training covered production techniques for export-oriented horticultural crops, post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables, value chain development, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), grading and packaging, export procedures, international market analysis, foreign buyer identification and export-related documentation.

Rooppur nuclear power

delayed the next stage of work.

Following two rounds of high-pressure testing, the results were submitted to the regulatory authority, which approved them last Thursday, the project officials said.

The tests assessed whether the control valves were functioning according to prescribed standards. Fire safety and radiation protection arrangements were also examined as part of the process. The approval allows the project to proceed with further reactor commissioning activities. However, the officials said that achieving first criticality, gradually increasing reactor power, starting the turbine and supplying electricity to the national grid are separate stages, each requiring the completion of relevant technical and safety checks.

The next major milestone is ‘first criticality’, when a controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction is established inside the reactor. A series of tests and observations will follow - a process that could take around a month. Reactor power will then be increased gradually.Initially, the plant is expected to supply around 300 MW to the national grid on a trial basis. Further testing and technical assessments will be required before the facility reaches commercial operation.Built with technical assistance from Russia, Rooppur uses third-generation VVER-1200 reactor technology. Project estimates suggest that the plant could meet around 10 percent of Bangladesh’s electricity demand when both units will be operational at full capacity. Its actual contribution will depend on national demand, plant performance, maintenance schedules and grid conditions.Unlike coal-, oil- or gas-fired power plants, nuclear facilities generate heat through the fission of uranium atoms rather than by burning fossil fuels. The heat produces steam, which drives a turbine connected to an electricity-generating system.Rooppur is designed for an operational life of 60 years, potentially extendable by another 20 to 30 years, subject to technical upgrades, safety assessments and regulatory approval. Routine maintenance and fuel replacement will remain essential, with refuelling potentially required approximately every 18 months.Sheikh Mohammad Touhidul Islam, joint secretary (Nuclear Power Wing) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, told BSS that Rooppur was not merely an electricity generation project but also a major opportunity to strengthen Bangladesh’s technological capabilities and develop skilled human resources.He said the first unit was in the final stages of preparation for generation, while uranium for the second unit had also arrived at the project site.



President urges media unity to safeguard professional interests

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir today called upon journalists and media workers to remain united to protect their professional interests and rights. The President made the call when a 44-member delegation of Thakurgaon Journalists Forum, Dhaka, led by its President Manik Muntasir and General Secretary Delwar Hossain, paid a cour-

tesy call on him at Bangabhaban this afternoon, President's Press Secretary Md. Sarwar Alam told BSS. The President said, "Without ensuring job security, a fair pay structure and other facilities for media workers, it will be difficult to create an environment for independent, impartial and responsible journalism." He called upon media workers to work together, putting aside all divisions, to protect their profession-

al interests. "Journalists play a very important role in the welfare of the state and society," he said. In this connection, he said, "Journalists must be fearless and responsible in reporting the truth and bringing irregularities, corruption and injustice to public attention." Mirza Fakhrul Islam noted that mainstream media and professional journalists could play an important role in preventing

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Dhaka, London agree to strengthen cooperation against immigration crime

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and the United Kingdom (UK) have agreed a new framework to strengthen cooperation in tackling organised immigration crime and protecting citizens from criminal networks that exploit vulnerable people through fraudulent migration schemes. The framework establishes a mechanism for cooperation between the UK and Bangladesh, said the British High Commission in Dhaka on Sunday. It will support closer collaboration on identifying, disrupting and addressing organised immigration crime, including document and visa fraud and other forms of criminal activity linked to irregular migration. The new partnership reflects the longstanding and close relationship between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom and their shared commitment to protecting Bangladeshi citizens from

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133 km of Atrai's 359 km Road Network Remains Unpaved

Nazmul Haque Nahid, Atrai (Naogaon) Correspondent

Out of a total road network spanning approximately 359 kilometers in Naogaon's Atrai Upazila, about 133 kilometers remain unpaved. These neglected rural roads have caused immense suffering for locals regarding travel and the transportation of goods; furthermore, daily life becomes unbearable due to mud during the monsoon season and dust during the dry season. Consequently, the improvement of the residents' quality of life has stalled. However, according to the Upazila LGED Engineer, proposals for paving several key roads have been submitted. Work will commence once the projects are approved at the ECNEC meeting and funds are allocated. Data from the Upazila Engineer's office indicates that the Upazila has a total road network of 358.57 kilometers. Of this, 176.96 kilometers are paved. The remaining network consists of 41.73 kilometers of Herringbone Bond (HBB) roads, 4.99 kilometers of concrete roads, 2.42 kilometers of Uni-block roads, and 132.47 kilometers of unpaved earthen roads. Inquiries across various areas of the

Upazila reveal several unpaved sections: a stretch of about 2.5 kilometers from Bhangajangal Bazar to Bisha on the Atrai-Singra paved road; approximately 3.5 kilometers from Hingalkandi Bazar intersection to Dharmapur on the Patisar-Samaspara paved road; about 1.75 kilometers from the north side of Chhotadanga Bridge to Jhanjhan; roughly 1.25 kilometers from Chhotadanga Bazar to Taratia; about 2 kilometers from Jamal's house in Hatkalupara to the Old Jame Mosque in Chakshimla Uttarpara; and approximately 1.5 kilometers from Chakbazar to Ganger Dhar. These sections, along with the Parkasunda-Bilgalia road, make up the 133 kilometers of unpaved roads in the Upazila. Jamal Uddin Sheikh, a resident of Bisha Uttarpara village, stated that for the past 40 years, he has heard promises that the earthen road stretching from Bhangajangal to Bisha School would be paved, yet it remains unpaved to this day. He noted that thousands of people from at least five to seven villages rely on this road for travel and the transportation of goods. During the monsoon season, even light rain turns

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Chhatra Dal submits memorandum to CU administration demanding solar power installation in residential halls

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The Bangladesh Nationalist Student Party (Chhatra Dal), Chattogram University (CU) branch, has demanded the installation of solar power panels in all residential halls to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and build an eco-friendly campus. On Sunday (October 11), Md. Shafaat Hossain, Joint General Secretary of CU Chhatra Dal, submitted a formal memorandum

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BRTA organized road safety awareness workshop at Faridpur

Bioplak Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

On the occasion of National Road Safety Day-2026 celebration, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Faridpur Circle has organized special workshops and seminars to increase traffic law and road awareness among students. An awareness seminar and discussion meeting was held on Sunday (October 11) afternoon at the traditional 'Sarda Sundari Mahila College' premises of Faridpur with the theme of "Safe Road Rich Country, Bangladesh first". In the workshop students, teachers and parents of the college are given a detailed understanding of traffic signs, signals and various rules of road crossing safely.

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BGB Seizes Large Quantity of Indian Drugs and Smuggled Goods in Separate Raids Along Rajshahi Border

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Representative

In accordance with the directives of the Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), BGB personnel from the Rajshahi Battalion (1 BGB) have been performing their duties with high professionalism, enhancing intelligence surveillance and patrolling along the border areas to prevent illegal smuggling, narcotics trafficking, and unauthorized crossing. As part of these ongoing efforts, today, October 11, 2026, between approximately 00:00 hours and 06:00 hours, operational teams from Char Majhardia and Talaimari BOPs under Rajshahi Battalion (1 BGB) conducted raids based on secret intelligence. During the operations, they successfully seized 2,750 pieces of unclaimed Indian Tapentadol tablets. The process of handing over the seized narcotics to the respective police station is currently underway.

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Psychosocial initiatives vital to tackling social crises: Zahid

Staff correspondent

Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Prof Dr AZM Zahid Hossain today said lasting solutions to social crises and crimes require psychological transformation and coordinated community-level psychosocial initiatives, rather than relying solely on law enforcement, court trials and institutional expansion. "Unless we thoroughly analyse the underlying social and familial causes behind crimes and ensure lasting remedies, no problem can truly be solved," he said. The minister was speaking as chief guest at a national seminar organised by the Clinical Social Workers Association of Bangladesh (CSWAB) at the Alumni Association Auditorium of Dhaka University's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban. Highlighting Bangladesh's demographic challenges, Zahid said women account for 51 percent of the population, while 34 percent are under the age of 18. He stressed the need for targeted psychosocial interventions for these groups. Expressing concern over the country's 51 percent child marriage rate, he said

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Jailor dismissed, DNC chemical examiner compulsorily retired over graft

Staff correspondent

The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken disciplinary action against two senior public officials over allegations of corruption, financial irregularities and document forgery. According to separate gazette notifications issued here today, former jailor of Panchagarh District Jail Md. Abdul Fattah has been dismissed from service over alleged embezzlement of Taka 1.33 crore from prison food supply funds. Meanwhile, Dr. Dulal Krishna Saha, chief chemical examiner of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), has been ordered into compulsory retirement over fraudulent travel allowance claims amounting to Taka 3.15 lakh, the notification added. Both decisions followed departmental inquiries and recommendations from the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC), under the Government Servants

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Japanese Company Marubeni keen to expand investment in Bangladesh



Staff correspondent

Japanese multinational Marubeni Corporation has expressed interest in expanding its existing investments and exploring new industrial ventures in Bangladesh, particularly in fertilizer production, information technology, energy, ship recycling and automobile manufacturing. Commerce, Industries, Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar said the company of all-out government support, saying the government was working to simplify business procedures, remove administrative complexities and ensure an investment-friendly environment for foreign investors. He made the remarks at a meeting with a delegation led by Marubeni Corporation President and CEO Masayuki Omoto at the Ministry of Commerce at the Secretariat today. Industries Secretary Abdun Naser Khan was also present at the meeting. The discussions covered potential investment in fertilizer production, information technology, energy, ship recycling and Toyota-branded automobile manufacturing, alongside progress towards signing and implementing

shipbuilding and ship recycling, automobiles, agro-based industries and high-tech sectors as areas offering opportunities for joint ventures, adding that the government was advancing reforms to facilitate investment in these industries. On jute diversification, Mukhtar said the government was encouraging the production of higher-value products beyond conventional jute goods. He highlighted initiatives to develop new products by blending jute fibres with cotton, viscose and polyester, stressing the importance of international technological cooperation and investment. During the meeting, Omoto highlighted Marubeni's longstanding business presence in Bangladesh and discussed opportunities to modernise the Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO), improve the efficient use of natural gas and increase fertiliser production capacity. He also expressed interest in new investment and technological cooperation in the production of diammonium phosphate (DAP) and triple superphosphate (TSP) fertilisers, highlighting the potential of Bangladesh's

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2 Bangladeshis killed in Riyadh airport attack, 4 in ICU: Shama Obaed

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Sunday said two Bangladeshis were killed and four others are receiving treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU) of a hospital following an attack at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. The State Minister said the government is working to identify the deceased, determine their districts of origin and collect information about their families so that they could be contacted without delay. "Our mission is working closely with the Saudi government to identify those killed and injured, as nationals of many countries have been affected amid the conflict situation," she told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Shama said the identities of the four Bangladeshis undergoing treatment in the ICU at King Khalid Hospital are being verified, a process that could take time. She said Bangladesh's missions in Riyadh and Jeddah

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Awami League sitting in Delhi and Jamaat in the country are conspiring, Rashed Khan

Md. Saddam Hossain Munna, Narayanganj, Correspondent

The fallen fascist Awami League sitting in Delhi and the anti-state Jamaat-e-Islami staying in Bangladesh have started a new conspiracy against the country, said Rashed Khan, Political Assistant to the Prime Minister. He made these remarks in response to various questions from journalists at the Narayanganj District Council office on Sunday (October 11) afternoon. Referring to the historical context, Rashed Khan said, Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami had joined hands in the

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Pujas will be held in 17 puja mandaps in Kalapara the work of making idols has been completed

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent.

In Patuakhali's Kalapara, the main religious festival of the Hindu community, Shariya Durga Puja, is the main religious festival of the Hindu community. The puja ceremony will begin on October 16 through Shasthi Puja, and the puja will end on October 21 through Vijaya Dashami. This time Goddess Durga will arrive at Ghot, will travel by boat.

On Sunday, it can be seen that the organizers of the puja are roaming around in various shops, houses, offices and courts to collect money. The police

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Inauguration of 322-Kilowatt Solar Project in Thakurgaon; Electricity to Be Supplied to the National Grid

Mohimul Islam Sujon

A 322-kilowatt solar panel project has been inaugurated in Thakurgaon. On Saturday morning (October 10), District Administrator Md. Rafiqul Haque inaugurated the solar panel project installed at Laxmi Cold Storage in Rahimanpur Union of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila. The organizers said the initiative was taken to ensure energy efficiency and encourage people to increase the use of renewable energy. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Ashrafur Alam Khan, General Manager of Thakurgaon Palli Bidyut Samity. Among

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Youth arrested with 90 grams of marijuana in Amtoli

Amtoli (Barguna) Correspondent

Police have arrested a person named Md. Saiful Islam Musulli (30) with 90 grams of marijuana in a special anti-drug operation in Amtoli, Barguna.

According to police sources, the operation was conducted at Pagla Selim's market in Dakshin Chawla area of Atharogachia Union under Amtoli Police Station around 5 pm on Saturday.

Based on a secret tip-off, a police team led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Md. Jalil Hossain working at Gazipur Police Outpost conducted a raid on the road in front of Selim's shop. At that time, Md. Saiful Islam Musulli was arrested red-handed with 90 grams of marijuana from there.

Arrested Saiful Islam Musulli is the son of Md. Tota Musulli of Purba Chunakhali village of Kukua Union No. 2 of Amtoli Upazila.

Amtali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md. Yakub Hossain said that a regular case has been filed against the accused under the Narcotics Control Act in this incident and the arrested person has been handed over to the court later.

Amtali Police Station Police will continue its special drive to prevent drug abuse and illegal trade.

President urges media

yellow journalism, misinformation and disinformation on social media.Expressing love and affection for his hometown Thakurgaon, the President said, "I want to remain connected to the roots from which I came and from which I grew up."He sought active cooperation of journalists to keep Thakurgaon free from communal clashes and drugs.The President congratulated the forum's members for serving in important positions at various national media outlets and expressed gratitude for playing a positive role in the development of the country and Thakurgaon and standing alongside the struggle to establish people's rights.He urged the forum's members to be vigilant on various development activities undertaken in the district and highlight the district's successes and achievements at the national level.

During the meeting, leaders of Thakurgaon Journalists Forum congratulated Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on assuming the office of President.

They apprised the President of various professional problems and challenges and sought government cooperation in establishing journalists' fair rights and ensuring necessary training.They also outlined the necessity for a permanent office for the organisation and emergency medical treatment for seriously ill members.The President assured them of necessary cooperation and wished prosperity for the organisation and its members.

Dhaka Stream CEO Sohel Rana, BSS Chief News Editor (CNE) Md. Manikul Azad, Prothom Alo journalist Tuhin Saifullah, BSS journalist Mahabur Alam Shohag, Star News Senior Producer Mahbub Alam Raj, Khabla journalist Shafiqul Islam and Channel 24 journalist Masudur Rahman Rana spoke at the event on behalf of the forum.President's Military Secretary, Secretary and Press Secretary, among other senior Bangabhaban officials, were present at the meeting.

Dhaka, London agree to

exploitation by criminal networks that profit from unsafe and irregular migration routes.Under the agreement, both countries will enhance information sharing and operational cooperation, hold regular engagements to review progress, and discuss cases of mutual interest.British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke said Bangladesh and the United Kingdom enjoy a strong and enduring partnership built on mutual respect and close people-to-people ties.

"This agreement demonstrates our shared determination to protect citizens from organised criminal groups that seek to exploit migration for financial gain," she said.

The High Commissioner said through closer cooperation, both countries will work together to address organised immigration crime, support lawful migration, and strengthen efforts to protect individuals and families from fraud, exploitation and trafficking.

133 km of Atrai's 359 km

the road into a quagmire of knee-deep mud, causing immense hardship for school-going students, pregnant women, and the sick, as well as making the transport of agricultural produce and other goods extremely difficult. Consequently, Jamal Uddin Sheikh has urged for the road to be paved quickly to improve the locals' quality of life and alleviate their suffering.

Mokhlesur Rahman, a resident of Lalpara village, mentioned that the road from Hingalkandi Intersection to Dharmapur spans approximately 3.5 kilometers. While the first half-kilometer from the intersection has been paved, the remainder of the road is still unpaved. He added that although the locals have taken initiatives several times to have the road paved, it has not yet been completed.

Nitish Kumar, the LGED Engineer for Atrai Upazila, stated that several roads in the Upazila—identified as important and sources of public hardship—have been submitted as project proposals to the relevant authorities. Work will commence once the projects are approved at the ECNEC meeting and the necessary funds are allocated. However, the official assured that all these roads would eventually be paved in phases.

Chhatra Dal submits mem

in this regard to the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Dr. Mohammad Al-Amin.

The memorandum stated that installing solar power in the residential halls will reduce the university's dependence on the national grid while significantly cutting down annual electricity expenses. Especially in the current context, this initiative will play a positive role in sparing students from load-shedding hassles, enabling them to continue their studies and daily activities without disruption.

The leaders further mentioned that this step will not only solve students' immediate problems but also establish a long-term and sustainable energy management system, helping to build a green and eco-friendly campus.

A large number of leaders and activists from the university branch of Chhatra Dal were present during the submission of

the memorandum. They urged the administration to promptly accept this rational demand and take effective administrative steps.

Psychosocial initiatives

legal enforcement alone could not eliminate the practice without changing social attitudes and raising awareness about its harmful effects on the physical and psychological well-being of mothers and children.The minister also underscored the shortage of trained frontline social workers and called for a stronger grassroots workforce to deliver social services. Citing the agricultural and health sectors as examples, he stressed the need for a similar community-based network for social welfare.He said the government was working to transform existing institutions into people-centred organisations and urged NGOs, researchers and academics to collaborate with the government.

Speaking as a special guest, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M A Muhit stressed the need to raise public awareness about mental health, noting that depression can affect people who appear healthy and function normally in their daily lives.He identified adolescent mental health, digital addiction and parental separation as emerging concerns requiring greater attention. He also called for a stronger focus on intimate partner violence, domestic trauma and perinatal and postpartum depression.CSWAB President Prof Tahmina Akhtar presided over the seminar, while Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr ABM Obaidul Islam attended as a guest.

BRTA organized road safe

On the occasion, BRTA, Faridpur Circle Assistant Director (Eng.) Mr. Palash Khisa gave important guidance to the students as the main speaker. He said, "We all need to be aware to prevent road accidents. When crossing the road as a pedestrian, one should always use a zebra crossing. If there is no footpath, it is important to walk on the right side of the road and look first to the right and then to the left while crossing the road." He urged everyone to obey traffic laws.

BRTA Faridpur Circle Motor Vehicle Inspector Mr. Saiful Islam and Faridpur District Police Traffic Inspector (TI) Arup Kumar Saha spoke as special guests and speakers. Besides, college faculty and other officials of BRTA were present in the meeting.The speakers requested the students as well as the parents to obey the traffic laws. In particular, the obligation to wear helmets for both motorcyclists and riders and responsible behavior on the road is emphasized. Later, the day-long workshop was concluded by urging the students to ensure traffic awareness.

BGB Seizes Large

BGB's intelligence efforts remain active to identify the individuals involved in this incident and take appropriate legal action against them.

The total estimated value of the seized items is BDT 2,75,500

Jailor dismissed, DNC

(Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2018.According to the departmental investigation, Fattah was found responsible for irregularities involving 37 allegedly fraudulent bills linked to three supplier names: Baba Mayer Doya, Nur Store and Shuvo S-Mill.

Investigators reportedly found that inflated food ration requisitions were submitted despite low inmate numbers while procurement and payment procedures were bypassed.

The investigation also identified alleged collusion involving several officials responsible for prison administration and financial processing.

The inquiry found that Taka 1,33,20,000 was involved in the irregular transactions. The report further stated that the money was deposited through 39 treasury challans at Sonali Bank's Panchagarh branch, including Taka 80 lakh deposited personally by Fattah.The ministry initiated Departmental Case No. 12/2025 against him on charges of misconduct and corruption.

Following the inquiry and BPSC concurrence on September 27, 2026, the ministry imposed the penalty of dismissal from service under Rule 4(3) (d) of the 2018 rules.

In a separate case, Dr. Dulal Krishna Saha, a senior official of the Department of Narcotics Control, was ordered into compulsory retirement over allegedly fraudulent travel allowance claims totalling Taka 3,15,757.

The departmental inquiry found that Saha had allegedly used forged court summonses and witness attendance certificates to claim travel allowances without attending the relevant court proceedings.

He was also accused of falsifying travel itineraries and forging signatures to bypass the required departmental approval process.

According to the allegations, the irregularities involved claims for air travel over the period from June 2000 to January 2023, despite his lack of the required administrative entitlement.

The ministry brought the charges under Departmental Case No. 14/2025.Following the inquiry and BPSC recommendation, the authority imposed compulsory retirement under Rule 4(3) (b) of the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2018.The cases highlight disciplinary action against alleged corruption involving public funds in two separate government departments.

While Fattah faced dismissal over the substantially larger financial irregularity, Saha was ordered into compulsory retirement over fraudulent travel claims and document forgery.

Both decisions were issued by order of the President through the Ministry of Home Affairs' Security Services Division.The cases also underscore the role of departmental investigations and the BPSC in determining disciplinary penalties against public servants.

Japanese Company Marubeni

information technology sector, the Marubeni chief said hundreds of Bangladeshi engineers working through the jointly invested Bangladesh Japan Information Technology (BJIT) initiative were providing services to international markets, including Japan.e said there were further opportunities to expand cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) and IT offshoring.The meeting also discussed investment in environmentally sound technologies for ship recycling, the proposed Toyota automobile manufacturing venture and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply to economic zones.The potential use of small modular reactor (SMR) technology as a possible long-term option for energy security also came up for discussion.The minister said the government was prioritising the simplification of company registration, trade licensing and investment approval procedures. It was also focusing on facilitating the repatriation of profits and capital by oreign investors.He assured Japanese companies interested in expanding their investments in Bangladesh of the government's necessary policy and institutional support. Both sides underscored the importance of deepening Bangladesh-Japan economic relations, harnessing the potential benefits of the proposed CEPA and building long-term partnerships in industry and technology.

Awami League sitting in

past as well. In the elections of 1986 and 1996, they jointly consolidated the Ershad government's power and engaged in a deep conspiracy against the democracy of the country. At that time, under the strong leadership of Deshmetri Begum Khaleda Zia, the people of the country foiled that conspiracy. Just as these two parties conspired against the country and BNP in the past, they are carrying out the same conspiracy today.

He further expressed optimism that with the strong support and cooperation of the people, the current BNP government will be able to successfully deal with all kinds of anti-state

conspiracies and hostile pressures like in the past.

Earlier in the afternoon, Rashed Khan went to Abbasi Manzil Jounpuri Darbar Sharif located in Pathantuli area of Siddhirganj and had a courtesy meeting and exchanged greetings with Mufti Dr. Sayyed Muhammad Enayetullah Abbasi Wa Siddiqui.

Among others present at the time were Narayanganj Zilla Parishad Administrator Professor Mamun Mahmud, Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) S.M. Foyez Uddin and a large number of leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organizations.

Pujas will be held in 107 puja

administration along with the upazila administration continued to patrol the temple.

Children and teenagers of the Hindu community are busy buying new clothes. The shopkeepers are also busy selling and selling.

The 17 puja mandaps in the upazila are, Sri Sri Jagannath Akhara Nath Public Kendiya Mandap, Chingaria Public Durga Puja Mandap, Badurtali Public Durga Mandap, Kuakata Radha Krishna Temple and Tirtha Yatri Sevashram, Pakhimara Public Durga Mandap, Neelganj Radha Krishna Sevashram and Loknath Temple, Chakamiya Shantipur Public. Puja Mandap, Dhankhali Namrhat Public Puja Mandap, Latachapali Public Kalimata Puja Mandap, Alipur Radhakrishna Mandir, Mombipara Public Puja Mandap, West Chaulabunia Bholanath Bhatbari Puja Mandap, Machuakhali Public Puja Mandap, Mahipur Public Puja Mandap, Chaulabunia Public Puja Mandap, Purvmanoharpur Hariguru Bipin Chand Sevashram Puja Mandap, Purvmanoharpur (Baraitla) Public Puja Mandap.

In this regard, the member secretary of Kalapara Upazila Puja Celebration Front, Debashish Shikdar Kala, said that the leaders of the upazila BNP and its affiliates are sincere in the aim of celebrating Puja peacefully. Apart from this, the upazila administration, the police administration are investigating in different ways. He mentioned that this year more puja will be celebrated in two puja mandaps in the upazila than last year.

Kalapara upazila executive officer Md. Arifuzzaman said in this regard A total of 17 mandapams will be worshiped. 600 kg of rice has been given to each center. Ansar, police and volunteer teams will work for security.

2 Bangladeshis killed in Riyadh

are maintaining close contact with Saudi authorities and relevant ministries to ensure the safety of Bangladeshi nationals.The missions are also in touch with other Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia, monitoring their conditions and providing necessary safety guidelines, she added.Expressing concern over the loss of lives of Bangladeshis, the State Minister said it is particularly painful that people who went abroad in search of livelihoods and worked hard to support their families had become victims of the conflict."These are our remittance warriors who leave their families behind, work hard and send money home," she said hoping that the war and attacks would stop and no further casualties would be reported.Shama said they have already lost 14 Bangladeshis in recent days due to this Middle East conflict. "Naturally, this is a matter of profound sorrow," she said, expressing deep condolences over the deaths.She reiterated that the safety, security and well-being of expatriate Bangladeshis has been the government's top priority since it assumed office.Regarding the repatriation of the deceased, Shama Obaed said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment are working jointly to provide all necessary support to the affected families.She said the government routinely bears the expenses of repatriating the remains of Bangladeshi citizens who die abroad, and the same arrangement would apply in this case.The State Minister also said flights to and from Riyadh have been suspended following the incident as a precautionary measure.However, she said the government has received no information indicating that any specific Bangladeshi airline or flight has been damaged or directly affected by the attack.The suspension was likely imposed immediately after news of the attack emerged to ensure passenger safety, she added.Bangladesh, earlier, strongly and unequivocally condemned the deadly Houthi attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on 10 October 2026, which resulted in casualties, including the tragic loss of two Bangladeshi nationals, and left numerous others injured, many of them critically.

Bangladesh mission in Riyadh is in contact with the Saudi authorities to obtain details of the deceased and injured Bangladeshis and to facilitate necessary assistance to those affected.Bangladesh extended its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, including the families of the Bangladeshi victims, and prays for the swift and full recovery of all those injured."Attacks endangering civilian lives and targeting civilian infrastructure are unacceptable and must cease immediately," said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement. angladesh reiterated its firm solidarity with the government and the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the face of this attack.Bangladesh called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and a peaceful resolution of the ongoing crisis through dialogue and diplomacy, in the interest of regional peace, security and stability.

Inauguration of 322-Kilowatt

others present were Imran Kabir, Assistant Commissioner of the Land Acquisition Branch, Thakurgaon; Engineer Lutful Hasan Sarkar, Deputy General Manager of Palli Bidyut Samity; and Mofizul Islam, Assistant Director of Laxmi Preserves Private Limited.

At the event, Mofizul Islam said that with the installation of this 322-kilowatt solar power plant, the company would be able to meet its own electricity demand. In addition, during the off-season, the surplus electricity generated would be supplied to the national grid.

It is noteworthy that Laxmi Preserves Private Limited installed the 322-kilowatt solar panel project with its own funding, with technical and overall assistance from Thakurgaon Palli Bidyut Samity. The project cost Tk 1.25 crore.

National Port Strategy being formulated in national interest: Shipping

Minister

Staff correspondent

Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam today said the 'National Port Strategy' is being formulated focusing on the nation's greater interest, economic advancement, and the expansion of international trade.He said a significant portion of Bangladesh's import-export and economic activities is linked to the management of sea, river, and land ports.

So, he said, ensuring coordination, efficiency, and effective strategies in port management is the need of the hour.The shipping minister made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar, organised by the Ministry of Shipping, at a city hotel.State Minister for Shipping Md Razib Ahsan, Chief Representative (Country Director) of JICA Bangladesh Office Junko Takahashi, chairmen of different port authorities, representatives from relevant ministries and departments, as well as university professors and experts, were present at the seminar.

In his speech, Rabiul said the formulation of the national port strategy should not undermine the authority or responsibilities of any specific agency or ministry. Instead, he said, priority must be given to the country's broader economic interest based on the opinion of all relevant ministries, port authorities, government agencies, businesspeople, importers, exporters and experts.

Rabiul said an integrated port management strategy for Bangladesh should have been formulated much earlier.With the progress of the economy and trade, it has become urgent to enhance port capacities, improve operational systems, and strengthen coordination among relevant authorities, he said.

To address this long-standing demand, he said, the government is now moving towards finalising the national port strategy.The shipping minister said JICA and relevant experts are collaborating on this initiative. Rabiul hoped that an effective strategy document could be created by leveraging the opinion and expertise of relevant local and international specialists.He reiterated that prioritising the greater interest of the state is the most crucial aspect of formulating the national port strategy.Everyone must remain vigilant to ensure that the authority, responsibilities, or institutional standing of any ministry or agency do not hinder coordinated initiatives, he said.However, the minister said, this does not imply disregarding the legal obligations or operational scope of any authority; rather, mutual cooperation must be fostered within existing responsibilities and frameworks.He said the country's sea, river, and land ports are managed by separate authorities. Operations at these ports involve not only the Ministry of Shipping but also the Ministry of Commerce, the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and various other public and private entities linked to import-export activities, he said.Consequently, it is essential to seek input from all parties when formulating a national port strategy, he added.Rabiul said if the strategy document prioritises the interest of any single party, it could impede the achievement of desired outcomes.

Dhaka's city buses expose women, children elderly to safety risks: NCPSRR, SCRF

Staff correspondent

City buses in Dhaka are failing to ensure the safety and comfort of women, children, persons with disabilities and older people, with widespread violations of reserved-seat rules, a lack of helpers and unsafe boarding and alighting practices.National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways (NCPSRR) and Shipping and Communication Reporters Forum (SCRF) came up with the observation inspecting more than 50 buses operating on different routes across the capital in September.The findings were disclosed in a joint press release issued by the two organisations on Sunday.The observation found that none of the buses inspected complied with government directives requiring nine seats on each bus to be reserved for women, children, persons with disabilities, freedom fighters and older people.Although some buses displayed notices referring to the directive, most did not, according to the findings.During inspections of crowded local buses, the observers found men occupying designated reserved seats while women, children, persons with disabilities and older passengers were often forced to stand, causing them considerable discomfort and hardship.Besides, around 80 percent of the buses inspected had no helper to assist with passenger management and other operational tasks, the observation found.According to the findings, drivers often rent buses from owners under daily arrangements and hire conductors to operate the services.At the end of the day, they pay the agreed rental amount to the owners and share the remaining earnings.To reduce operating costs, drivers and conductors avoid employing helpers, the observation noted.he findings also highlighted unsafe practices involving bus stops and passenger movement. Conductors frequently stop buses at designated stops as well as unauthorised locations along roads, allowing passengers to board and get off hurriedly.Minor accidents occur almost daily, it added.Four recommendationsTo improve passenger safety and ensure compliance with transport regulations, the NCPSRR and SCRF recommended.

ESTD-2006

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি

শুক্রবার

বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপথালমোলোজী)
এমপিএইচ (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপথালমোলোজী)
পিএইচডি (অপথালমোলোজী)
সিনিয়র কন্সালট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল গ্রুপ ফ্যাকাল্টি সেন্টার

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ওয়াপদা গেট,
অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

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Saudi Arabia extends airport shutdown, shifts Riyadh schools online amid attack threats



International Desk

Saudi Arabia on Sunday extended the closure of its main international airport and shifted schools in Riyadh to online classes as Yemen’s Houthi rebels threatened further attacks across the kingdom, a day after a missile strike killed 12 people and injured more than 300.

Saturday’s attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh marked a significant escalation in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Houthis. It also added complications to stalled efforts to end the wider war between the United States and Iran.

US President Donald Trump said he was considering whether Washington would join Saudi military strikes against the rebels. Such involvement could prompt the Houthis to disrupt shipping through a vital regional waterway, further threatening oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

The Houthis said on Sunday that two airstrikes had hit Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, blaming Saudi Arabia for the attacks. Saudi authorities had not immediately commented, and no casualties were reported.

The Houthi-run Health Ministry said 91 people had been killed and 168 injured in five weeks of Saudi-led coalition strikes in Yemen, claiming that women and children accounted for 60 percent of those killed.

Houthis threaten further attacks

Saudi authorities announced that schools in Riyadh would continue online classes until the end of the week. The closure of King Khalid International Airport was extended until at least 9:00pm Sunday, according to flight-tracking service Flightradar24.

Although the Houthis did not immediately claim responsibility for Saturday’s airport attack, the group has previously acknowledged strikes on Saudi airports and oil facilities and threatened further

attacks.

Houthi military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Saree urged people to take the group’s warnings seriously.

The attack drew condemnation from several Arab countries, including Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

“Attacks by Iran’s proxies are pushing the region into a spiral of violence,” von der Leyen wrote on X on Sunday, warning that the attacks were disrupting vital global transport and energy infrastructure.

Victims from several countries

The missile struck an airport complex housing terminals 3 and 4, which serve domestic flights, a regional official said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly.

Saudi authorities said the 12 people killed included four Saudi citizens, two Bangladeshi nationals, and one citizen each from Palestine, the United States, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Sudan. Several hospitals were treating the injured.

Egyptian state-run Al-Qahera News reported that the Egyptian victim was Azza Ramzy, a 28-year-old flight attendant employed by Saudi airline Flynas.

Trump weighs military involvement

The attack is expected to intensify Saudi Arabia’s efforts to secure military assistance from allies, including the United States.

Trump said shortly after the strike that Washington was assessing whether to join Saudi operations against the Houthis, adding that a decision would be made quickly. He later said he planned to speak with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Direct US involvement would deepen Washington’s role in a regional conflict that has become politically sensitive ahead of the US midterm elections.

Flash floods force evacuations along Budhi Gandaki River in Nepal

International Desk

Residents living along Nepal’s Budhi Gandaki River in the north-central region fled their homes on Sunday after flash floods swept through the area, destroying houses and other structures.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority evacuated villagers and urged people in nearby areas to move to safer locations, warning them to remain vigilant until late Sunday.

No casualties had been reported immediately after the incident.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the sudden flooding in the Budhi Gandaki River, which flows into the Trishuli River, an important waterway near the capital, Kathmandu.

Videos circulating on social media showed floodwaters rushing through steep mountain valleys, carrying away houses and sheds. The extent of the damage and the number of villages affected remained unclear.

Social media posts suggested that a government warning had prompted evacuations in Arughat, a riverside town situated along a highway linking Kathmandu with other parts of the country.

Nepal is still reeling from devastating floods in August along its mountainous border with China, which left more than 1,400 people dead and thousands missing.

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah’s office announced on Monday that search and rescue operations for additional victims had ended. Authorities will now focus on recovery efforts, including rebuilding roads and bridges damaged by the floods, particularly in remote areas where disrupted infrastructure has hampered the delivery of relief supplies.

The government estimates that reconstruction will cost \$4.77 billion. Nearly 33,000 people have been affected, while around 7,500 houses have been damaged or destroyed.



India court releases Abhijeet Dipke, Dhruv Rathee, 2 others on peace condition

International Desk

A local court in New Delhi on Sunday released three leaders of the satirical political group Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), directing them not to engage in any activity that could breach the peace for one year, sources said.

Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were brought before an executive magistrate in Delhi Cantonment after being taken into preventive custody earlier in the day. They had been detained on Saturday after arriving in Delhi by plane.

Their detention came on the second day of planned protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls.

More than 3,000 protesters, including politicians, were detained on Saturday and released later that night. Police imposed heavy security across the capital to prevent demonstrators from gathering at Jantar Mantar in central Delhi, forcing them to split into smaller groups at different locations.

YouTube activist Dhruv Rathee, a supporter of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and a vocal critic of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, was among those released late Saturday.

The Supreme Court was expected to hold a special sitting on Sunday to hear a contempt petition over the blanket closure of Delhi Metro stations and train services on Saturday. Metro services resumed on Sunday morning amid a heavy security presence at station entrances and exits, with buses parked nearby to transport detained protesters.

On Friday, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana had directed that metro services should not be completely suspended ahead of Saturday’s planned protest.

CJP organisers have vowed to continue street demonstrations until accountability is established over alleged deletion and manipulation of 13 crore votes. They accused authorities of imposing an “undeclared emergency” in the

capital to prevent people from assembling peacefully.

Founded by Dipke, a Boston University graduate who returned to India to lead protests over alleged NEET examination paper leaks, the CJP has received support from opposition parties across the country.

The BJP has accused the group of acting as an extension of opposition forces seeking to destabilise the country. BJP president Nitin Nabin alleged that opposition groups were attempting to harm India under the direction of “foreign forces”.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said everyone had the right to express dissent in a democracy but warned that the right did not extend to creating anarchy. He added that members of Generation Z might be temporarily misled but could not be diverted from the goal of nation-building.

UN raises concerns over mass detentions in Delhi

The United Nations human rights office on Saturday expressed concern over mass detentions carried out before and during protests in New Delhi, India.

“We are concerned by reports of mass detentions in India of demonstrators, protest leaders, members of civil society organisations, lawyers and journalists, before and during Saturday’s large-scale demonstrations in Delhi,” it said in a statement.

The office also called on the authorities to ensure that the right to peaceful assembly is fully respected and fulfilled. “Restrictions on peaceful protests must meet strict tests of necessity and proportionality.”

The Indian authorities should also ensure law enforcement forces exercise utmost restraint in response to peaceful protesters, consistent with the country’s democratic traditions and human rights obligations.

All those arbitrarily detained must be immediately and unconditionally released, the UN rights body said.

It also urged the authorities to engage in meaningful dialogue to address the broadly held concerns that were expressed.



Pakistan government weighs emergency rule in KP amid widening rift with PTI

International Desk

Pakistan’s ruling coalition has finalised a plan to bring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) under federal control by invoking constitutional provisions for emergency and governor’s rule amid escalating tensions with the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has convened a federal cabinet meeting on Sunday to discuss the proposed measures, while separate sessions of the National Assembly and Senate are scheduled for Tuesday, according to sources familiar with the developments.

The move comes as PTI, which governs KP, continues its protest march, raising fears of a confrontation with the federal government.

Sharif held separate meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Saturday to discuss ways to ease tensions.

Fazlur Rehman also met PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Asad Qaiser to inform them about the government’s possible move if the party continued its march.

A senior JUI-F leader said the party was facilitating dialogue between the government and the opposition, but the final decision rested

with both sides.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the government had exhausted its efforts to reach an understanding with PTI, adding that “there was no room left to avoid the imposition of an emergency in KP.”

Information Minister Ataullah Tarar confirmed that the cabinet would discuss the options of emergency and governor’s rule. Minister of State for Interior Affairs Tallal Chaudhry said several options were being considered, accusing PTI of failing to cooperate with the federal government on counterrterrorism efforts and making statements against national policy during the march.

A senior KP government official told that all deputy commissioners and district police officers across the province had been instructed to remain in their respective districts until further orders.

Meanwhile, KP Police Chief Zulfikar Hameed issued guidelines to district police officers to prepare for possible violent protests and sabotage if emergency rule is announced. Police stations have been directed to identify vulnerable locations along the protest route and deploy adequate personnel to protect them.

Pakistan suspends Khan’s party-led provincial government ahead of planned march

International Desk

Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday imposed emergency rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a northwestern province bordering Afghanistan, and suspended its provincial government, led by jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan’s party, ahead of a planned march to Islamabad demanding his release.

According to a statement from the president’s office, Zardari took the decision on the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s Cabinet. Under the measure, the province will come under the authority of the governor, who represents the federal government.

The announcement followed a statement from Sharif’s office that the federal Cabinet had recommended emergency rule, accusing the provincial administration of deliberately failing to cooperate in counterterrorism efforts.

Provincial Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Saturday called on supporters to prepare for a march to the capital. He launched the protest campaign last week, leading rallies through several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Sharif’s government has repeatedly urged Afridi to defer the march since last month, citing a recent increase in attacks by the Pakistani Taliban in the country’s northwest. The federal government has also accused Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of sympathising with the militant group, formally known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Pakistan has experienced a rise in militant attacks in recent years, many of which authorities attribute to the TTP. The group is separate from, but closely allied with, the Afghan Taliban, which returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021.

Islamabad has repeatedly accused the Afghan Taliban government of providing shelter to TTP militants. Kabul has denied the allegation.



109 migrants die as boat capsizes off Djibouti coast

International Desk

At least 109 migrants, including 15 children, have died after a boat with 305 on board capsized off the coast of Djibouti in east Africa, the International Organization for Migration said on Sunday.

The boat was traveling from Djibouti to Yemen when it capsized on Thursday night or Friday morning, according to the IOM. 52 men, 42 women and 15 children died. More than 80 people survived the accident, while at least 116 others remain missing.

Tens of thousands of migrants from the Horn of Africa travel through Djibouti and across the Bab el-Mandeb Strait towards the Gulf countries, in search of safety and economic opportunities, said the IOM in its statement. That movement has continued despite violence in Yemen.

“This is a devastating loss of life,” said Alexandre Coissac, IOM Chief of Mission in Djibouti. “This tragedy is a stark reminder of the dangers faced by migrants along this migration corridor as they seek economic opportunities.

Zelenskyy rejects Trump’s call for new Ukrainian leader as drones hit Russian data centre

International Desk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday said Russia was solely responsible for the war in Ukraine and offered to halt strikes on Russian oil refineries if Moscow stopped attacking Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, pushing back against US President Donald Trump’s call for a new Ukrainian leader.

Zelenskyy said any de-escalation must be reciprocal and backed by credible guarantees. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha also defended Zelenskyy, saying the Ukrainian people had the right to decide who leads their country.

Trump on Saturday said Ukraine should get a new president who could reach a deal to end the war, blaming Zelenskyy for high diesel prices in the United States. Trump had struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to buy Russian diesel amid rising fuel prices ahead of the US midterm elections. Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone attack damaged a data centre operated by Russian technology giant Yandex in the city of Vladimir, east of Moscow, on Sunday, disrupting its services. It was the third strike on the company’s facilities in four days. Yandex said operations at the facility had been completely halted, but no injuries were reported. Previous attacks hit its data centres in Russia’s Ryazan and Kaluga regions. Elsewhere, Zelenskyy said 23 people, including four children, were killed in a Russian bombing in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia on Saturday. More than 30 others were wounded, with eight remaining in hospital, regional officials said. In Russia’s Bryansk border region, a Ukrainian drone strike killed a man and wounded two women, local officials said Sunday.



Houthis threaten strikes across Saudi Arabia

International Desk

Saudi authorities said Sunday that schools in the capital would be online until the end of the week. Meanwhile, the kingdom extended an ongoing airport closure until at least 9 p.m. Sunday, according to Flightradar24.

While the Houthis did not immediately claim responsibility for Saturday’s attack, they have acknowledged targeting Saudi airports and oil installations and threatened new attacks on the kingdom’s airports.



Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the group’s military spokesman, urged “everyone to take our warnings seriously.”

The latest attack on the Saudi airport drew condemnations from Arab countries, including Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, as well as U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

“Attacks by Iran’s proxies are pushing the region into a spiral of violence,” von der Leyen wrote Sunday on X. “They are destabilizing crucial global transport and energy nodes.”



Actor Imran Khan, girlfriend detained during CJP protest in Mumbai

Entertainment Desk

Actor Imran Khan and his girlfriend Lekha Washington were among more than 400 people detained in Mumbai during protests linked to the Cockroach Janata Party's (CJP) demonstration against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Police detained protesters at August Kranti Maidan and other locations across the city to prevent unauthorised gatherings. Before his detention, Imran told ANI that he had joined the protest as a citizen to question restrictions on freedom of movement and the suppression of people's voices. He said he was not representing any organisation or making specific

demands.

Zayn Marie, who was detained alongside her cousin Imran, later shared a video from inside a police van, making a humorous reference to his debut film Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na. The CJP called the protest in New Delhi against alleged manipulation of voter lists during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and changes involving Form 6, which is used for voter registration. Imran made his lead acting debut in the 2008 romantic comedy Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na, produced by Aamir Khan. He later starred in films including I Hate Luv Storys, Delhi Belly and Mere Brother Ki Dulhan before taking a break from acting.



I want to spend the rest of my life in joy and happiness

Entertainment Desk

Actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba has long remained one of the audience's favourite actors in romantic television dramas. Throughout his nearly two-decade-long acting career, he has delivered numerous popular dramas. Although many actors from the new generation have established themselves in the industry, Apurba's popularity in television dramas remains as strong as ever. Alongside television dramas, Apurba has also acted in films. However, the actor believes that television dramas remain his primary domain. Speaking about his future plans for films, Apurba said, "There are plans and discussions regarding films. This time, something good will happen. I don't want to reveal anything more for now." Apurba also praised the work of actors from the next generation. According to him, many newcomers are doing well, and their performances clearly reflect their hard work and dedication.

. However, he also highlighted the differences between the current industry and the time when he began his acting career. "We had the opportunity to work alongside many legendary artists when we started our careers. Many of them are no longer with us, while others are no longer active in the industry. In that respect, I consider myself very lucky," Apurba said. The actor also believes that the lack of original stories is one of the major challenges facing the television drama industry today. "The number of stories available to us is limited. Finding new and original stories is also very difficult. Even so, the fact that they continue searching for new stories is a significant achievement in itself," he said. Despite achieving considerable popularity throughout his long acting career, Apurba remains humble about his position in the industry. He said, "I was grounded before, and I remain grounded today. I want to spend the rest of my life surrounded by joy and happiness, living in harmony with everyone. I also want to raise my children to become good human beings."



‘Heroine in the morning, villain by the afternoon’

Entertainment Desk

Actress Koel Mallick has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after resigning from her position as a Rajya Sabha member of the Trinamool Congress. Not only that, she has also secured a Rajya Sabha ticket from her new party, the BJP. Senior Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee from

Serampore strongly criticised Koel over her party switch. The Trinamool leader launched a scathing attack on the actress, both politically and personally. According to him, although Koel plays the role of a heroine on the silver screen, she is a "villain" in the political arena. He described her as a "heroine in the morning and a villain by the afternoon."

Who's afraid of a six-hour film on exiled Russian journalists

Entertainment Desk

Filmmaker Julia Loktev's nearly six-hour documentary, "My Undesirable Friends: Part II - Exile," follows Russian journalists who fled their country after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Opening in selected theatres this weekend, the film concludes Loktev's five-year project, which began in 2021 with independent journalists facing increasing government pressure under President Vladimir Putin. Many journalists fled Russia within hours of the invasion, while Loktev continued documenting their lives and reporting from exile. She said the film explores perseverance and how journalists maintain hope and continue working as public attention shifts elsewhere. Loktev, who was born in the former Soviet Union and moved to the United States at nine, filmed her subjects using an iPhone. Her earlier documentary, "My Undesirable Friends: Part I - Last Air in Moscow," was shortlisted



for an Oscar nomination. Russian authorities have designated dozens of media outlets and journalists as "foreign agents," restricted their advertising and imprisoned journalists. Many independent newsrooms have relocated abroad. One subject, former journalist Peter

Ruzavin, joined Ukraine's army, saying journalism alone could not change reality. Loktev hopes to make a third instalment if Russia's political situation changes. She said the film reminds audiences that ongoing problems persist even after public attention moves on.



Entertainment Desk

Nusraat Faria is set to return to the big screen after a year and a half. The actress is preparing to end her hiatus with Thikana Bangladesh, which is scheduled for release in December. Directed by Anam Biswas, the film stars Arifin Shuvoo opposite Faria. Irfan Sajjad and Khairul Basar also feature in the cast. After filming was completed, the movie's title was changed from Football 71 to Thikana Bangladesh. Although its release date was announced several times, various complications prevented the film from reaching cinemas. Finally, on Wednesday, the director confirmed its release.

Tanjin Tisha escapes major road accident

Entertainment Desk

Actor Tanjin Tisha was involved in a road accident on Saturday (October 10) while travelling to Manikganj. The actress escaped without any reported serious injuries. She was on her way to attend a showroom inauguration when the accident occurred. Following the incident, she cancelled her scheduled appearance and returned to Dhaka. "I narrowly escaped a major accident on my way to Manikganj. Alhamdulillah! Hope to see you all soon, Insha'Allah," she wrote. Her post sparked concern among fans and well-wishers. However, the actress did not disclose further details about how the accident occurred. A familiar face on Bangladeshi television, Tisha has been working in television dramas for several years, gaining recognition for her performances in a variety.



Bhabna's 'Princess Rosie' heads to two Australian film festivals

Entertainment Desk

Even before its release in Bangladeshi cinemas, Asif Islam's King in the Land of Princesses is making its mark on the international film circuit. The film, featuring popular actress Bhabna as Princess Rosie, has now been selected for two film festivals in Australia, adding to its growing international journey. The Indian Film Festival of Sydney will begin on October 29 and run until November 1. This will be followed by the Indian Film Festival of Perth, scheduled to take place from November 12 to 15. Director Asif Islam confirmed the news on Wednesday. Earlier, King in the Land of Princesses was screened at film festivals in Moscow and Kazan. The film was also showcased at the Melbourne festival. Speaking about the film's international journey, Bhabna said, "Princess Rosie is a special character for me. It is truly exciting that the film is being screened at international festivals. I hope audiences in Australia will also be able to connect with the story and the performances."





Messi nets brace to win in first match after Argentina exit

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi scored twice to help Inter Miami rout DC United 4-0 on Saturday, taking a victory in his first match since saying farewell to the Argentina national team. Four nights after scoring in his final match for the Albiceleste in a victory over Benin, the



39-year-old South American superstar struck in the 47th and 60th minutes as defending MLS champion Miami won for only the second time in their past 11 league matches. A first-half brace by Luis Suarez staked the Herons to the lead as they improved to 13-5 with 10 drawn for 49 points, jumping from third to second in the Eastern Conference. Messi hopes to make Miami the first team to win back-to-back MLS crowns since the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2011-12. Messi, the top point producer in the league with 23 goals plus assists on 13 others, seeks a third consecutive MLS Most Valuable Player award. Uruguayan striker Suarez scored in the third minute to give Miami the lead, blasting a left-footed shot from the heart of the box into the top left corner.

Awesome for game of cricket, McGrath says on Sobhana century

Sports Desk

Australia allrounder Tahlia McGrath showered praise on Sobhana Mostary's fighting century, citing it as 'awesome for game of cricket.' Despite Sobhana's century, Australia eased past Bangladesh's 220-6 in effortless fashion for nine-wicket victory. But the facile victory didn't prevent McGrath from heaping praise on Sobhana. "Awesome for the game of cricket," McGrath said after the match. "The century was pretty special. It was a good innings, and I'm pretty happy for her, to be honest. They showed really good intent yesterday, got us thinking a bit more about our field changes, and it was awesome to see them post a total like that." Sobhana and skipper Nigar Sultana Joty put on 195 runs for the fourth wicket, which is also the highest partnership for Bangladesh in any wicket against any opponents. Joty who was not out on 72, witnessed the great inning right from the other end of the wicket. Citing Sobhana's century as historical and great achievement, she said: "It was really historical and definitely a great achievement for her and for the team as well." "I batted with her and kept telling her that she had to do it, and I felt like I played my part in that too. I am very happy for her because she is a wonderful player and has been very consistent with the bat for a long time, so I think she kind of deserved it."

Hasan becomes fastest Bangladesh pacer to 50 Test wickets

Sports Desk

Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud has set a new record by becoming the fastest Bangladeshi fast bowler to claim 50 wickets in Test cricket, reaching the milestone in his 17th match during the ongoing Test against Afghanistan. The record came at a day when he claimed a hat-trick also as the first Bangladeshi pacer. Hasan surpassed Taskin Ahmed, who previously held the record after reaching 50 wickets in 18 Tests. Former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe bin Mortaza took 19 Tests to achieve the feat, while Shahadat Hossain Rajib needed 21 matches. Mashrafe was the first Bangladeshi pacer to take 50 Test wickets, achieving the milestone in the Fatullah Test against

Suarez struck again in the 39th for his 16th goal of the campaign, assisted like his first of the night by German Berterame. Messi blasted home a left-footed shot off an assist from Suarez to give Miami a 3-0 lead and evaded three defenders to add another goal 13 minutes later as the pink-clad hosts pulled away to stay.

In other games, Scottish striker Lewis Morgan and American Djordje Mihailovic scored in second-half stoppage time to rally Toronto for a 2-1 home victory over Montreal. The visitors grabbed the lead in the Canadian clash on a goal by Mexican forward Daniel Rios in the 52nd minute. Toronto, however, battled back for the equalizer by winger Morgan, obtained last month from San Diego, in the third minute of stoppage time, his first regular-season MLS goal in two years. Former Montreal standout Mihailovic struck for the decider in the fifth minute of extra time. "Now I've scored on both sides of this derby," he said. "It feels good." Toronto snapped a three-game losing streak to pull within a point of an East playoff berth. At Chicago, Swiss forward Maren Haile-Selassie scored in the 87th minute to give the 10-man Chicago Fire a 2-1 triumph over New York City. Austrian midfielder Hannes Wolf gave City the lead in the 19th minute and Chicago dropped to 10 men when Ivory coast midfielder Dje D'Avilla received his second yellow card in the 43rd minute. Swede Anton Saletros equalized for Chicago in the 55th minute, setting the stage for the decider.

Guardians complete comeback with 2-0 win over White Sox

Sports Desk

The Cleveland Guardians, fueled by a two-run home run from Jose Ramirez and a stellar outing from starting pitcher Gavin Williams, beat the Chicago White Sox 2-0 on Saturday to advance in the Major League Baseball playoffs. The Guardians won their third straight game



to take the best-of-five American League division series three games to two and book an American League championship series showdown with the top-seeded Tampa Bay Rays. Cleveland became just the fourth team to win a best-of-five series after dropping the first two games at home, winning games three and four in Chicago before returning home on Saturday to polish off the triumph. "We're not going to back down from anything," Williams said of the comeback against a White Sox team trying to extend a fairytale year that saw them bounce back from three straight 100-loss seasons to improbably reach the playoffs. Ramirez, Williams and the Guardians bullpen made sure that didn't happen. It was a pitching duel through the first three innings as Williams -- starting two days after recording the final three outs as a reliever in game four -- and White Sox starter Sean Burke dominated. Burke blinked first and once again it was Cleveland's star slugger Ramirez putting the Guardians on top. Ramirez, finally rounding into form after surgery to repair the hamate bone in his left wrist in June, homered for the second straight game to make it 2-0 in the bottom of the fourth inning.

- One swing away - A knuckle curveball from Burke was dipping toward the dirt when Ramirez swung low and scooped it over the right field wall. "Jose's the GOAT," Williams said. "He's always one swing away. We know that. We believe in him. We love him." White Sox manager Will Venable couldn't fault Burke.

"That's a good pitch," Venable said. "(Ramirez) just went down and got it." The shot also scored outfielder Steven Kwan, who had recorded the first hit of the game with his single to right field to open the inning. The White Sox finally threatened against Williams in the top of the sixth inning. Williams walked Colson Montgomery to open the frame. He retired Brenton Doyle and Sam Antonacci before surrendering his first hit of the game to Kyle Teel, who slapped a single to right. Williams walked Miguel Vargas to load the bases and that was the end of his night. He departed to an ovation having struck out 12. "Just trying to give our team the best shot to win," Williams said. "I've got one job to do and that's throw strikes and give our team the best chance to win." Left-hander Erik Sabrowski took over on the mound and struck out Munetaka Murakami to get out of the bases-loaded jam. In all Cleveland's pitchers struck out 21 -- a record for a nine-inning playoff game. That included four strikeouts for closer Cade Smith, who took over with one out in the eighth and earned the five-out save. The Guardians will try to take another step toward their first World Series title since 1948 when they play the Rays on Monday in game one of the best-of-seven ALCS. The Rays swept the New York Yankees in their division series. "I'm so happy for our guys tonight," said Guardians manager Stephen Vogt, whose team had surged over the last six weeks of the regular season to claim the AL Central division title. "This was a difficult year, and for us to be one step away from the World Series, our ultimate goal, this is really exciting."

Australia in 2006. Shahadat followed suit in the Chattogram Test against Sri Lanka in 2009. Taskin became the latest Bangladeshi pacer to join the 50-wicket club when he reached the landmark against Pakistan in May this year. Mashrafe remains Bangladesh's leading wicket-taking pacer in Test cricket with 78 wickets, followed by Shahadat with 72. Taskin has so far claimed 59 wickets, while Hasan has reached the 50-wicket

mark. Fastest to 50 Test wickets among Bangladesh pacers: Hasan Mahmud - 17 Tests Taskin Ahmed - 18 Tests Mashrafe Bin Mortaza - 19 Tests Shahadat Hossain - 21 Tests

Hasan Mahmud scripts history with hat-trick as first Bangladesh pacer

Sports Desk

Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud inscribed his name into the record book by becoming the first Bangladeshi pacer to claim a hat-trick in Test cricket during the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Hasan achieved the feat in the 82nd over of Afghanistan's first innings on Day 2 dismissing Ismat Alam, Zia-ur-Rehman and Qais Ahmad in three consecutive deliveries to leave the hosts reeling at 220-8. He first bowled Ismat for 1 before trapping Zia-ur-Rehman leg-before for a duck. Hasan then produced another superb delivery to edge Qais, whose catch was safely taken by wicketkeeper Liton Das to complete the historic hat-trick. Hasan became the third Bangladesh bowler to claim a Test hat-trick. Leg-spinner Alok Kapali took the country's first against Pakistan in Peshawar in 2003, while off-spin-



ner Sohag Gazi achieved the feat against New Zealand in Dhaka in 2013. However, Hasan is the first Bangladeshi pacer to join the elite list, ending a 13-year wait for another Bangladesh Test hat-trick. Bangladesh had posted 346 in their first innings, riding on half-centuries from opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim (83), Shadman Islam (67) and Liton Das (53). In reply, Afghanistan showed resistance through Abdul Malik's 62 and Rahmat Shah's 88, but Hasan's late burst, coupled with Ebadot Hossain's three wickets, halted their progress.



Ravindra fit for New Zealand ODI series against India

Sports Desk

Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman were named on Sunday in New Zealand's squad for their home one-day series against India after injury sidelined the batting pair from the preceding Twenty20 clashes. Coach Rob Walter named an enlarged group of 21 players for five ODI matches in November, which follows five T20s. Only six will play the entire series, including captain Mitchell Santner, while eight others will be involved in the first three games before leaving to prepare for two Tests against the tourists. Seven players will then come in for the two final ODIs. Left-hander Ravindra was ruled out of the T20s after dislocating his shoulder when diving to take a catch during a promotional event last month. Likewise, Chapman will miss the 20-over matches with a hamstring injury. Among those joining for the last two ODIs are openers Finn Allen and Tim Seifert and pace bowler Lockie Ferguson. The trio prioritise playing in professional T20 leagues and have not represented New Zealand in the 50-over format in the last 18 months. Walter said the ODI series would be a chance for players to push for selection at next year's World Cup. "We're incredibly lucky to have the depth that we do to have 21 players involved in the series," he said. "It's also great to bring guys like Lockie, Finn, and Tim back into the one-day unit. "For Finn and Tim in particular, we've seen what they can do in the T20 arena, and it's now a great opportunity for them to push their case in the longer format." New Zealand ODI squad: All five games - Mitchell Santner, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Jacob Duffy, Will Young, Blair Tuckner Games 1-3 - Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith

Sobhana's century in vain as Australia decimate Bangladesh

Sports Desk

Despite a record-breaking century from Sobhana Mostary, Bangladesh suffered a nine-wicket defeat to Australia in the second ODI at Allan Border Field in Brisbane yesterday. The victory helped Australia take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, making the third one a dead-rubber. The big margin defeat was particularly frustrating for Bangladesh as they made some records to savour in the match. Sobhana hit 118 off 134, an innings laced with 18 boundaries. While the 118 was highest individual score by a female batter of Bangladesh, her 72 runs from boundaries was also highest amongst the Bangladesh's female batter.

Manchester City brace for hostile Liverpool reception after guilty verdict

Sports Desk

Manchester City face a hostile Anfield on Sunday when the Premier League leaders play bitter rivals Liverpool in their first game since being found guilty of breaking more than 100 financial rules. In a decision that could have a drastic effect on the future of the Premier League, an independent commission found City and their Emirati owners had arranged "sham" deals to artificially inflate revenues and reduce costs by more than £900 million (\$1.2 billion) between 2009 and 2018. The multiple breaches of Premier League laws came during a period in which City won three titles and a clutch of other trophies. During that time Liverpool struggled to break City's stranglehold on the game in England. City have appealed against the devastating verdict and manager Enzo Maresca said on Friday he was confident they will overturn the original ruling -- but said he was urging his players to concentrate on events on the field. "For me and the players, we can control just the pitch, the football side. We are focused on that. This what we can control. We cannot control something different," the Italian said. City got an idea of what awaits them when Manchester United fans goaded them during their 1-1 draw against Tottenham at Old Trafford on Saturday. As a result of the guilty verdicts, the Premier League season is in a state of stasis awaiting a ruling on the appeal and any potential punishment. "I think the worst thing probably is the uncertainty, that no one knows what's going to happen," Liverpool boss Andoni Iraola said on Friday. - 'No trust now' - The options range from a heavy points penalty or even expulsion from the English top flight. There is even speculation City could have titles taken away. "I think they have to be stripped of the titles. Otherwise you send the wrong message to anyone in the future," John Gibbons of Liverpool podcast The Anfield Wrap told AFP.

"There can't be any trust now, certainly not if there's not an admission of guilt. For me, I don't see how Manchester City continue in the league." Liverpool, who will be without the injured Alexander Isak and Cody Gakpo on Sunday, finished second to City on three occasions in the past 12 years, although one of those, in 2013/14, came during the period under scrutiny. City's rivals believe, however, the illegal spending during that period built the foundations for a golden era under former boss Pep Guardiola, who left at the end of last season. Twice Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool missed out on the title despite amassing more than 90 points. The battles for those titles made meetings between City and Liverpool special.



Premier League and FA Cup. The question is whether Erling Haaland and his teammates can use the tumultuous events around them to fuel their performances, or whether they will fall apart. Liverpool supporters have relished creating an intense atmosphere for City's visits since they emerged as title contenders following the takeover by their Abu Dhabi-based owners in 2008. This weekend's showdown is likely to be "massively hostile," said Dom Farrell, author of the book "Glory Days for the Waifs and Strays" that chronicled City's rise from the third tier to European champions. "If they were to win against Liverpool and then beat an off-form Paris Saint-Germain (in the Champions League on Wednesday) you really get a siege mentality going. "But there's also a decent chance they get turned over and then it just starts to feel you're in this sort of dead zone waiting for the verdict."

Mushfiquur nears fifty as Bangladesh extend lead to 230 at tea

Sports Desk

Seasoned campaigner Mushfiquur Rahim hit back to form after scoring a duck in the first innings, as he closed in on a half- century to steer Bangladesh to 124-3 at tea on Day 3 of the one-off cricket Test against Afghanistan at Shiekh Jayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, UAE yesterday. Bangladesh, thereby, extended the lead to 230, thanks to their 106-run first innings lead. After bowling out Afghanistan for 240, following a pace-burst from Darwin Test hero Hasan Mahmud, Bangladesh started the second innings watchfully. Tanzid Hasan Tamim who hammered 71 ball-83 in the previous innings, got a start to cherish again but failed to capitalize on it after being out for 31. His fellow opener Shadman Islam also was dismissed cheaply before Mominul Haque was out for 7 to leave Bangladesh at precarious 53-3. With Afghanistan hinting to claw back into the contest, resistance from skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiquur Rahim took Bangladesh in advantageous position.



In Sarail, Truck Hits Covered Van on Highway After Sudden Brake - Driver Injured



M Badal Khandakar (District Correspondent) Brahmanbaria

On the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sarail, Brahmanbaria, a medium-sized fertilizer-laden truck rammed into a covered van from behind after the covered van ahead suddenly applied hard brakes while in motion. The front part of the accident-hit truck was severely mangled. Although the truck driver was slightly injured in the accident, a major casualty or major accident was narrowly averted. The accident occurred yesterday at noon, a little to the east of a bag company located just north of the Kuttapara Highway Police Station on the highway. According to local eyewitnesses and on-site investigation, a local medium-sized yellow truck (Sylhet-Da-11-2147) of 'Digital Transport Agency' was heading towards Shahbazpur loaded with fertilizer. While crossing the Kuttapara area of the highway, a company covered van (Chattogram Metro-Sha-11-0619) in front of the truck suddenly

applied hard brakes in the middle of the road without any prior signal and came to a stop. At that time, the driver of the fertilizer-laden truck behind also applied brakes immediately. But as it was a heavy and local vehicle, the hydraulic brakes did not work properly and the truck went directly and hit the rear of the covered van in front with great force.

Due to the intensity of the collision, the front cabin and glass of the yellow truck were smashed to pieces causing major financial damage. However, as the rear part of the covered van was strong, it did not suffer major damage and the driver of the covered van remained completely unharmed. After the accident, when local people called the national emergency service number 999, Sarail Khatihata Highway Police Station police

quickly arrived at the scene with a wrecker. Police recovered the two accident-hit vehicles from the road and took them into police custody.

Regarding the accident, the injured truck driver under treatment said his home is in Brahmanbaria district. He said, "I was going to Shahbazpur with fertilizer. The company vehicle in front of me suddenly applied emergency brakes without any signal. As the vehicle suddenly came to a complete stop while moving, I also braked immediately. But as the brakes did not apply properly at the last moment, the vehicle went forward and crashed. If the driver of the vehicle in front had not applied sudden brakes in the middle of the road so carelessly, this accident could have been avoided." Khatihata Highway Police Station said that although traffic on the highway was disrupted for some time after the accident, traffic is now normal as police quickly removed the two vehicles. Further legal action will be taken based on complaint.



Youth arrested with 4 kg of marijuana in Mathbaria, 1 absconding

Mathbaria (Pirojpur) Correspondent

Mathbaria Police Station has arrested a youth with 4 kg of illegal marijuana in an anti-drug operation based on a secret tip-off. He was arrested in the Chalitabunia area of Ward No. 6 of Daudkhali Union of the upazila at 3:35 pm on Sunday (October 11). At that time, sensing the presence of the police, another accomplice fled. The arrested accused is named Shuvo Sachki (22). He is the son of the deceased Subash Chandra Sachki and Sabita Rani of Chalitabunia village. On the other hand, the absconding accused is Md. Aliur Rahman Ali (49). Police said that based on a secret tip-off, Pirojpur District Superintendent of Police Muhammad Talebur Rahman, under the supervision of Mathbaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md. Rabiul Islam, a team led by SI Md. Zafrul Hasan, SI Md. Abdul Hannan Molla, Constables Md. Jasim, Md. Tuhin and Subhankar conducted a raid on Shuvo Sachki's residence in the Chalitabunia area. At that time, a total of 4 (four) kg of illegal marijuana in 3 pots was recovered from a trolley bag inside the house. Confirming the truth of the incident, the Officer-in-Charge of Mathbaria Police Station said that a case (Case No. 20, Date: 11/10/2026, GR-333) has been registered at Mathbaria Police Station under Section 19(a)/40 of Table 36(1) of the Narcotics Control Act 2018 regarding the recovered marijuana. Police operations are continuing to arrest the other absconding accused involved in the incident.

Allegation Against Second Wife for Cutting Husband's Penis After He Visited First Wife in Puthia; Second Wife Detained

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

In Puthia, Rajshahi, a second wife has been accused of cutting off her sleeping husband's penis with a razor blade following a dispute involving her co-wife. The incident took place early Saturday (October 10) morning in a rented house in the Mahindra Bazar area of the upazila. The severely injured husband, Ashraful Islam (35), was rescued and admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). The accused second wife, Rekha Khatun, has been taken into police custody. The injured Ashraful Islam is a resident of Tarapur village in Puthia upazila and works as a bus helper by profession. According to police and local sources, Ashraful's first wife lives in their ancestral home in Tarapur village, while he lived with his second wife, Rekha Khatun, in a rented house in the Mahindra Bazar area under Belpukur Police Station. However, Ashraful occasionally visited his first wife, which led to longstanding family disputes and quarrels with Rekha Khatun. It is alleged that as a result of this dispute, Rekha Khatun severed Ashraful's penis with a blade while he was asleep early Saturday



morning. Ashraful was critically injured in the attack and was rushed to the hospital shortly after being rescued.

Farooq Hossain, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Belpukur Police Station in Rajshahi, stated that upon receiving news of the incident, police promptly reached the scene, rescued the injured Ashraful, and sent him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for treatment. He is currently undergoing treatment in Ward No. 5 of the hospital, with his first wife present to attend to him.

The OC added that the accused second wife, Rekha Khatun, was detained following the incident and is currently in police custody. Preparations are underway to take legal action and file a case regarding the matter.

Monthly meeting of District Law and Order Committee held in Faridpur: Ensuring security during Autumn Durga Puja is top priority

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A monthly meeting of the District Law and Order Committee has been held with the highest priority to review the overall law and order situation in Faridpur district and ensure the safety of the upcoming Autumn Durga Puja. The meeting was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner's office at 12 noon on Sunday (October 11). Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Mazharul Islam presided over the meeting. Besides a detailed review of the overall law and order situation in the district, the meeting held policy-making discussions on important issues like strict security measures for the upcoming Autumn Durga Puja, drug control and de-congestion in the city. To protect the safety and harmony of Durga Puja Special emphasis has been placed on ensuring the security of every pujamandap in the district in order to celebrate the upcoming autumn Durga Puja in a very peaceful and festive atmosphere. Matters discussed in the meeting- Identification and monitoring of vulnerable mandapa: Identifying vulnerable places of worship and ensuring adequate presence of police and Ansar members there. Use of technology: Installation of CCTV cameras in each pavilion and round the clock monitoring. Prevention of Rumors and Propaganda: Strict precautions should be taken to prevent any kind of inflammatory propaganda and rumors on social media to maintain communal harmony. Drug and crime suppression District Police, Narcotics Control Directorate and other concerned agencies have been directed to conduct regular joint operations and mobile courts to prevent the spread of drugs. It has also been decided to crack down on theft, extortion, extortion and youth gang mischief. Traffic management and congestion relief: The traffic policing system is urged to be strengthened to improve the congestion situation in the city. Besides, emphasis is placed on



Prohibition on storing mother hilsa: Catching mother hilsa, which is going on till October 22, The concerned agencies are urged to carry out regular operations to strictly implement the government restrictions on transportation and marketing. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sushmita Saha, Zilla Parishad Administrator Afzal Hossain Khan Palash, Faridpur Municipality Administrator Md. Iliachur Rahman, Additional Superintendent of Police. Shamchul Azam, Sadar Upazila Executive Officer Meshkatul Jannat Rabeya, PP Advocate Golam Rabbani Bhuiyan Ratan of Women and Child Abuse Prevention Tribunal, Principal of Government Rajendra College SM Abdul Halim, Principal of Government Yashin College Dr. Nikhil Ranjan Biswas, Principal of Sarada Sundari Women's College Professor Abdullah Al Mateen, District Education Officer Bishnupad Ghoshal, Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr. Hafizur Rahman, Government Counsel. Ashraf Ali, District Narcotics Control Directorate Deputy Director Shirin Akhtar, District Jail Superintendent Shaukat Hossain Mia, District Ansar and VDP Commander Chandan Debnath and BRTA Assistant Director Palash Khisa were present. Apart from this, district BNP member secretary AK Kibria Swapan, joint convener Syed Zulfikar Hossain Jewel, metropolitan BNP convener AFM Qayyum Jungi, executive officers of various upazilas and senior officials of related government departments participated in the meeting. At the end of the meeting, sincere cooperation of all concerned was sought to ensure the safety of the people of all religions of the district and to complete the festivities through mutual amity and harmony.

Candidate Prafulla Sarkar Pledges to Make Tanore Municipality's Ward No. 9 Drug- and Terror-Free

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent



Shree Prafulla Sarkar, a prominent social worker, has officially announced his candidacy for the councilor position in the upcoming municipal elections, pledging to transform Ward No. 9 of Rajshahi's Tanore Municipality into a modern, peaceful, and drug- and terror-free model ward. He formally announced his candidacy at a well-attended exchange-of-views meeting recently held in Ward No. 9.

Promising to stand by the residents through thick and thin, he sought their valuable votes and overall support. In an emotional speech during the meeting, Prafulla Sarkar stated, "I am a son of this ward. Public service and leadership have been a long-standing tradition in our family. In the past, my father served the people of Ward No. 9 for 5 consecutive years, and my uncle dedicated 15 years to their service. The love of the ward residents was their greatest achievement. Continuing that legacy, I have decided to contest for the councilor position to safeguard your rights, stand by you in joy and sorrow, and accelerate the overall development of the area." He further added, "Just as our family remained dedicated to serving you in the past, I too want to devote myself to the service of the ward residents throughout my life. My main objective is to free Ward No. 9 from neglect and build it into a planned, well-governed, developed, drug-free, and terror-free model ward." Local elders and prominent community members present at the meeting recalled his family heritage, warmly welcomed his decision, and assured him of their full support. At the end of his speech, Prafulla Sarkar made a heartfelt appeal to voters of all faiths and backgrounds in Ward No. 9 for their blessings, prayers, and valuable votes to ensure his victory in the upcoming election.



Workshop on product diversification and customer experience held at Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A special workshop has been held in Faridpur to expand and modernize the businesses of local entrepreneurs in view of the upcoming 'Kaifia Grameen Mela'. The workshop titled "Product Diversification and Customer Experience" was organized on Saturday (October 10) from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Ablum Cafeteria in the city. Organized under the initiative of 'Kaifia Faridpur', the event was conducted and moderated by Roshan Ara Deepti, the founder of the organization. The fair focuses on providing detailed guidance to local entrepreneurs on how to

improve the quality of their products, display and present them attractively, and build lasting and strong relationships with buyers. Prominent researcher, writer and entrepreneur Shaon Akand and education and skill development expert Ashibuzzaman Rupam gave guiding speeches as the main trainers in the workshop. The local entrepreneurs participating in the event gained practical knowledge about the modern techniques of product marketing and customer service development. The present entrepreneurs said, This workshop will play a very effective role in promoting their products and expanding their business in upcoming fairs.

Lions Club Provides Free Healthcare in Sitakunda; 49 Selected for Cataract Surgery



Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

As part of its humanitarian services, the international service organization Lions Club organized a free eye-care, diabetes testing, blood group determination and dengue awareness program in Sitakunda, Chattogram. More than 300 patients received primary healthcare services during the program, while 49 patients were initially selected for cataract surgery. The daylong healthcare program was held yesterday at Akilpur Government Primary School in Sitakunda through a joint initiative of Lions Club of Chittagong Sitakunda, Lions Club of Central Jubilee, Progressive South and Agrani Club. Around 200 people underwent diabetes testing, while the blood groups of approximately 200 others were determined. Free eyeglasses and medicines were provided to patients seeking eye care, according to their needs.

Following medical consultations, the 49 selected patients will later receive free cataract surgery, lens implantation and necessary medical treatment. Lions Parvin Mahmud (FCA), PMJF, Second Vice District Governor of Lions International District 315-B4, attended the eye-care and healthcare camp as the chief guest. Former District Governor Lion Sheikh Shamsuddin Ahmed Siddiqui, PMJF, inaugurated the program. The event was presided over by Lion Mofizur Rahman Sazzad, President of Lions Club of Chittagong Sitakunda. Special guests included District Joint Cabinet Treasurer Abdullah Mohammad Nuruddin; District Hunger Chairperson Lion Golam Mohiuddin Babul, MJF; Region Chairperson (Admin) Lion Gias Uddin; District IT Chairperson and Leo-Lion Coordinator Lion Mashur Rahman Mahi; Zone Chairpersons Lion Sharmin Sultana Mou, Lion Kamal Uddin Bhuiyan and Engineer Kamruddouza; and Lion Abdullah Al Mamun, MJF, President of Lions Club of Central Jubilee. Also present were Club Secretary Lion Abul Hasnat, Treasurer Lion Nur Khan, Lion Mohammad Kawsaruzzaman, Lion Mohammad Ali, Joint Secretary Lion Alim Uddin, Professor Lion Nazimuzzaman Rashed, Lion Md. Arafat Elahi, Lion Abdur Rahman, leaders of the district Leo district, and the Leo presidents, secretaries, treasurers and other members of the participating clubs. The speakers said that providing free healthcare services to underprivileged and disadvantaged people is extremely important. Alongside ensuring treatment for eye diseases, it is also essential to raise public awareness about diabetes and other illnesses. Such initiatives play an important role in protecting eyesight, preventing diseases and promoting healthy living. The speakers further said that Lions Club's public welfare activities in the service of humanity would continue in the future.

2 arrested with 74 bottles of Phensedyl in Siddhirganj

Munna, Siddhirganj, Narayanganj

Two drug dealers were arrested by the Detective Police (DB) in Siddhirganj, Narayanganj, along with 74 bottles of banned new-packaged drugs. They were arrested on Saturday (October 10) night during a raid in the Madhya Sanarpur area of Siddhirganj. The arrestees are Iqbal Khan (50), son of late Khoda Box, tenant of Bhuiyan Bari, Madhya Sanarpur, Siddhirganj, and Khabir Bhuiyan (36), son of late A. Awal Bhuiyan of the same area. According to district police sources, a special operation to recover drugs and arms is being conducted across the district under the direction of Narayanganj District Superintendent of Police Habibur Rahman, PPM. In continuation of this, under the supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police of DB Md. Hasinuzzaman and led by SI Mizanur Rahman, PPM and SI Mofizul Islam, PPM, a team of DB conducted a raid at the house of A. Awal Bhuiyan in Madhya Sanarpur area of



Siddhirganj on Saturday night based on secret information. During the operation, police detained two drug dealers and recovered 74 bottles of banned drugs in new packaging from them. Among the recovered drugs are 30 bottles of 'FAIRDYL' and 44 bottles of 'WINCEREX'. Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) of Narayanganj district Md. Tarek Al Mehedi said, a case has been filed under the Narcotics Control Act in this incident.