

Low-income families need more support

The fall in subsidised food distribution in the first quarter of the current fiscal year is perplexing, amid prolonged high inflation; fuel, gas, and electricity price hikes; slow wage growth; and reports of lay-offs in several industrial sectors. Food ministry data show that 7.55 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat were distributed between July 1 and September 30, down 7 percent from 8.15 lakh tonnes a year ago. According to a report in this daily, the decline largely reflects lower open market sales (OMS) of subsidised rice and wheat flour,

According to a report in this daily, the decline largely reflects lower open market sales (OMS) of subsidised rice and wheat flour, with first-quarter distribution falling 22 percent year-on-year to 2.05 lakh tonnes in FY2026-27. Meanwhile, media reports suggest that lower-income families, even with supplementary income, are struggling to make ends meet amid the rising cost of living, with many queuing for hours to buy essentials from TCB trucks. Some are even cutting their monthly food budgets to supplement higher transportation costs, gas, and electricity prices, which went up as the government pushed up energy prices, mostly in response to ongoing conflicts in the

Middle East. Distribution also fell under several other programmes in the government's public food distribution system (PFDS). Among those are the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme (which witnessed a 20-percent reduction in distribution), and Chittagong Hill Tracts and Others programme (which saw a 78-percent drop). However, distribution under Food Friendly Programmes, Vulnerable Group Development, and Vulnerable Women Benefit increased slightly.A decline in relief-related food distribution is understandable, as there have been no major widespread natural disasters so far this fiscal year, but Bandarban did experience several days of severe rain and flash floods in July. One would expect a higher amount of foodgrain distribution under the CHT category, not otherwise. Besides, the measles and dengue outbreaks in the country have also put many families under severe financial strain. Inflation easing slightly recently is doing little to help these households as wage increases have not kept pace. The government, therefore, should expand and ensure better coverage of social safety net programmes, particularly as the UN Food and Agriculture.

PM seeks Canadian

nursing education. The Canadian side also indicated interest in supporting nursing training institutions and developing skilled nurses, building on its existing activities in the sector. In agriculture, the discussions covered cooperation in pulses and oilseeds, food security and data-driven agricultural planning. The Canadian side also briefed the prime minister on its ongoing activities through the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).Tarique Rahman outlined the government's plan to introduce Farmer Cards to provide farmers with fertilisers, seeds and other essential agricultural inputs, saying, "The initiative would also help build a comprehensive database of farmers, enabling better agricultural planning and more effective delivery of government support."On the Rohingya crisis, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh was hosting around 1.3 million Rohingyas and that their prolonged presence was putting considerable pressure on the country's economy and environment. "While humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas is important, their safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation is the only sustainable solution to the crisis. The crisis originated in Myanmar, and its solution also lies in Myanmar," the premier said.Canada's Secretary of State for International Development agreed on the importance of peaceful, safe and dignified return of the Rohingyas.

The meeting also discussed renewable energy, canal excavation, tree plantation and climate financing. Sarai said Canada was interested in providing C\$13 billion in climate financing globally over the next five years, noting that Bangladesh could benefit from the initiative.Canada also expressed interest in supporting feasibility studies for development projects in Bangladesh.The discussions also covered the government's Family Card initiative and poverty reduction. Referring to World Bank estimates, the prime minister said better-targeted social assistance, including through the Family Card, could help lift an additional 28.5 Lakhs people out of poverty.e stressed the importance of promoting economic self-reliance through income generation and employment opportunities alongside social protection programmes.arai praised the contributions of Bangladeshis and Canadians of Bangladeshi origin living in Canada, highlighting their initiative, skills and positive outlook, noting that two Canadians of Bangladeshi origin were serving as members of the Canadian Parliament.At the end of the meeting, Sarai invited the Prime Minister to visit Canada.State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, Prime Minister's Adviser on Education, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Mahdi Amin, Press Secretary AAM Saleh Shibly and other relevant officials were present.Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ajit Singh and other senior Canadian officials also attended the meeting.

Zubaida for global partner

Tarique Rahman.She urged international partners, development finance institutions, philanthropic organisations and the private sector to join Bangladesh in strengthening women's healthcare.

"A shift from fragmented projects to stronger health systems, from short-term aid to sustainable investments, and from political commitments to measurable results is required," she said.Dr. Zubaida said investment in women's health was not merely an expenditure on healthcare but an investment in human capital, economic prosperity and the future of nations, noting that women account for almost 51 percent of Bangladesh's population.

She said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, was committed to expanding investment in women's health beyond maternal care to address adolescent anaemia, maternal malnutrition, preventable maternal and newborn deaths, and deadly cancers affecting women. The government's broader initiatives, including Family Cards, Farmer Cards and free education up to graduation level, are also helping create opportunities for girls and women, she said.Highlighting the need to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare, Dr. Zubaida said the government planned to recruit 100,000 community and well-being workers, almost 80 percent of whom would be women, alongside 25,000 additional professional midwives to expand services across the country.

The initiatives aim to promote safe normal childbirth, reduce unnecessary medical interventions and ensure that every woman receives skilled and compassionate maternity care, she said."No woman in any corner of Bangladesh should need to travel beyond her upazila health complexes, sub-district tier, or district hospitals to receive comprehensive essential maternal and newborn healthcare," she said.She stressed that a woman's survival during childbirth should never depend on her ability

Taxing microsavings risks undermining financial inclusion of the poor

Md. Neyamul Hossain

"Financial inclusion" is the buzzword that has been used to increase the number of banks in Bangladesh. It was argued that many people, primarily the poor, still don't have bank accounts and so the number of banks should be increased. At present, 62 scheduled banks operate in Bangladesh. But only 28.3 percent of the population aged 15 years and older have accounts with banks or other financial institutions, according to the Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2023. This is indeed a paradox. Although state-owned banks and a handful of private banks operate in both rural and urban areas, the poor have less access to their services. Foreign banks don't operate in rural areas, let alone offer any services to the poor. Not many banks have customised services for the poor, either.

Conventional banks fail to reach the poor because their lending approach is too conservative. They sanction loans with collateral, but lower-income families rarely have assets to provide as collateral. Furthermore, banks generally follow some defined criteria for lending, with which most of the poor fail to comply. They prefer large loans to minimise operating costs, but the poor seek small loans which these banks avoid due to high operating costs. Moreover, the cost of monitoring numerous small borrowers is high for traditional banks because the rural poor live in remote areas, and most of the urban poor are mobile and lack permanent addresses. The poor also frequently use loans in unproductive sectors. Hence, lending to the poor following traditional methods is deemed risky.

Conventional banks also have to deal with asymmetric information—a situation where one party has more information than the other—while selecting low-income borrowers. The poor often lack a formal credit history, which may lead to adverse selection—selecting the wrong borrowers at the cost of the right ones. Wrong borrowers, if selected, tend to divert loans to unproductive sectors, leading to moral hazards. Therefore, banks prefer collateral-backed lending to the poor. Banks are private firms with a public purpose; bound to provide banking services to all. But banks in Bangladesh fail to provide financial services to the poor, and especially poor women. This is not done on purpose but because banks follow a faulty loan production system where the poor remain excluded. By serving the rich and non-poor customers, our

banking sector has ended up with a non-performing loan (NPL) rate of 32.78 percent—the highest globally. Although moneylenders in the informal credit market provide loans to the poor without collateral, a limited number of professional moneylenders, with inadequate funds, cannot reach all the poor. On top of that, their interest rates are abnormally high. In this setting, microfinance institutions (MFIs) have been able to grant collateral-free loans to the poor, reducing the asymmetric information problem through self-selection of groups and joint liability. They leave the responsibility of borrower selection to the poor. Generally, in microcredit, a group of five to ten members is formed. Although a loan is sanctioned to one borrower, all group members remain liable for its repayment. Every member has an incentive to monitor the loan performance. They ensure that the loan is appropriately used and repaid on time. This form of peer pressure works as social collateral—a replacement for physical collateral. Microfinance members don't need to visit the offices; rather, the employees reach them in their villages.

MFIs have been able to reach the poor, nearly 91 percent of whom are women. MFIs supplement credit with microsavings. Microcredit is often linked to savings—that is, the higher the savings of a borrower, the larger the size of a loan. Microsavings aid capital formation and provide a safety net for families facing risks of illness, natural disasters, crop failure, and income loss. MFIs also provide interest on savings like banks. However, a recent move by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to collect tax on interest earned from microsavings has raised serious concerns among microfinance operators.

Statistically speaking, the amount of microsavings is low, and so is the profit on them. The interest rates vary between 6 and 12 percent. The Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) data shows that, as of June 2026, the amount of savings of the country's 633 licensed MFIs was Tk 95,720 crore. If the average interest rate on these savings is considered 8 percent, the sum of interest payment was about Tk 7,658 crore. A 10-percent tax on this profit will result in revenue of nearly Tk 766

named "Operation Restore Peace in Sundarbans" and "Operation Mangrove Shield" are being conducted under the leadership of Bangladesh Coast Guard with the aim of eliminating all active bandit groups in the Sundarbans and ensuring security in the coastal region.

As a continuation of this, based on secret information, it was learned that the notorious robber Samrat Bahini of the Sundarbans is located in the area adjacent to the Urbania canal of the Shipsa river of the Sundarbans under Dapcoe Thana of Khulna. Based on the information received, a special operation was conducted in the said area by Coast Guard Outpost Nalian at 2 pm yesterday (October 11). During the operation, 4 fishermen who were held hostage by the robbers were rescued from the said area. At that time, sensing the presence of the Coast Guard, the robbers left the hostages and fled into the forest, so no one could be arrested.

During preliminary interrogation, it was learned that when they went to catch fish and crabs in the Sundarbans on October 10, members of Samrat Bahini took them away and held them hostage and tortured them for ransom.

The rescued fishermen Moinur (50), Badsha Ghazi (39), Sujan Hossain (34) and Imamul Mallick (22) are all residents of Paikgachha Thana of Khulna district. The process of handing over the rescued fishermen to their families is underway. We are hopeful that it will be possible to make the Sundarbans completely free of robbers through the government's directives, everyone's cooperation and coordinated efforts of other law enforcement agencies.

Bangladesh, EU agree to

labour markets, he added.The meeting also discussed accelerating legal migration under the EU's Talent Partnership initiative, particularly through internationally recognised training and certification for Bangladeshi workers.Salahuddin Ahmed said around 750 trained skilled workers were facing complications related to European certification.

He said EU member states had been requested to send training experts to Bangladesh to provide direct training and certification, and the EU delegation had responded positively to the proposal.

The two sides also discussed strengthening border management and security cooperation. The minister said Bangladesh planned to introduce an Advanced Passenger Information and Border Management System at the country's air, sea and land ports by the end of 2026. The system will be connected to the Interpol database to improve passenger monitoring and the identification of criminals.Cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) was also discussed to enhance border management and technical capacity.On the Rohingya crisis, Salahuddin Ahmed urged the EU to help build international pressure on Myanmar's authorities and the Arakan Army to facilitate safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation of Rohingya refugees to their homeland. The EU delegation assured Bangladesh of joint diplomatic efforts on the issue.The meeting was attended by EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller, Director Henrik Nielsen, Cabinet member Grigoris Delavekouras, EU Deputy Head of Mission Baiba Zarina and senior officials from Bangladesh's home and foreign ministries. The discussions underscored the shared interest of Bangladesh and the EU in tackling irregular migration while creating more structured, secure and legal pathways for skilled Bangladeshi workers to access employment opportunities in Europe.

Puja shopping gains

dhotis, short kurtas (panjabis), shirts, T-shirts and trousers. Shoe shops are also offering various styles of footwear, while colourful outfits for children are available in abundance.Talking to BSS, Beauty Rani, who was found shopping at a New Market clothing store yesterday, said they are completing shopping early as they have planned to visit ancestral home this year during long Puja vacation this year.

Atiqur Islam, a shopkeeper at Noorjahan Super Market, said customer footfall had increased significantly ahead of the festival and sales were good. He expressed hope that sales would remain well throughout the Puja season.Responding to long-standing demands from the Hindu community, the current government has extended the Durga Puja holiday to three days this year through an executive order. Combined with the weekly holidays on Friday and Saturday, the extended break will give government employees a total of five consecutive days off, from October 20 to 24. The longer holiday has added a new dimension to this year's celebrations.

A visit to Bashundhara City Shopping Mall revealed brisk trading at children's clothing stores on the ground floor.

crore. This amount will certainly finance the budget deficit, but at what cost? This figure is minuscule for the government but significant for the poor. If the poor feel discouraged from saving, the low saving rate will lead to higher dependency on credit, thus increasing their indebtedness. This will also reduce their financial backing for mitigating risks.

Whereas the poor should be encouraged and incentivised to join microfinance programmes to improve their livelihood, the government has imposed a tax on microsaving profits. These microsavers are low-income people; their earnings are well below the taxable income threshold. If the profits of their savings at MFIs are taxed at the same rate as that of deposits at banks, it would be imbalanced. The main objective of microfinance is to fight poverty by increasing the financial inclusion of unserved communities. Even though traditional banks receive deposits from the poor, they have reservations about granting them loans. They transfer funds from the poor to the rich, creating financial inequality. But microfinance operators reinvest deposits from disadvantaged communities back into those communities.

MFIs have been successful in reducing the presence of moneylenders. The poor get loans at a maximum of 24 percent, instead of abnormally high interest rates. Considering the high operating costs of microcredit, this rate is not irrational. But one research study found that the poor paid as much as 250-percent interest on a loan taken from the informal credit market. As a result of granting small loans from small deposits, the risk of maturity mismatch is low. Microcredit has low default risk and outstanding repayment performance—95 percent loans are repaid.

We must remember that microfinance emerged because the traditional banks failed to reach the poor. Conventional banks claimed the poor were not bankable. But MFIs proved that the poor can be successfully served with financial services to reduce poverty.Instead of supporting the microfinance sector, the government is now intending to collect taxes from the poor. Through this change, despite having an income below the taxable income threshold, low-income populations will be unfairly included in the direct tax system. If the poor turn away from saving up, it may prove to be catastrophic. The government should revert this decision.

Walking through the mall, shoppers could be seen buying sarees, panjabis and footwear. Almost everyone was carrying shopping bags, and every shop had customers.Soumik Das, chief executive officer (CEO) of Rang Bangladesh, said Puja had now become a major retail season, much like Eid and Pahela Baishakh, requiring special preparations. The company began by introducing a limited range of Puja clothing collections around 2005, and by 2009–2010 it had established a strong market presence. Since then, annual sales have grown by 15 to 20 percent, and the company is now planning a 45-day sales campaign, he said.A visit to the capital's Aziz Super Market also revealed an impressive collection of Puja outfits in its shops. The market's Puja collection features panjabis adorned with a variety of religious motifs. At a clothing store named Bisarga, a couple was seen choosing matching sarees and panjabis. A salesperson at the Bisarga showroom said that motifs such as the trident, Om, and swastika are commonly used in Puja clothing designs, and this year is no exception. Such motifs are particularly popular in children's clothing. This year, the store has created outfits featuring around 40 different designs.

National Girl Child Day

were organized. On Monday (October 12) morning, these programs were organized at Mirsarai Girls High School on the initiative of the Upazila Administration and Upazila Women's Affairs Office and with the cooperation of SOS Children's Village Chattogram. Mirsarai Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Somaiya Akhter was present at the event. In addition, local political personalities, various professionals and people of various classes and professions participated in the event.

In the program organized on the occasion of the day, the importance of establishing the rights of the girl child, preventing child marriage, ensuring educational opportunities and increasing the participation of girls in every sphere of society was highlighted. Emphasis was also placed on the safe upbringing of the girl child, development of their talent and building them as confident citizens.

The day's program started with a rally from the school premises in the morning. Later, in the discussion meeting held, emphasis was given on creating awareness about ensuring education, health, safety and rights of the girl child. Speakers said, girl children are an important part of family and society. If they are ensured proper education, care and development opportunities, they will be able to play an important role in the development and progress of the country in the future.Mentioning child marriage as one of the obstacles to the normal development, education and realization of potential of the girl child, everyone in the family and society was called upon to be aware of this matter.Besides, the need to eliminate discrimination against girls and create a suitable environment for developing their talent and merit was highlighted.As part of the program, a painting competition was organized with students. The participating students highlighted various aspects of girl child rights, dreams and possibilities through their creativity. Later, prizes were distributed among the winners of the competition. According to the organizers, it is urgent to raise public awareness to protect the rights of the girl child, prevent child marriage and ensure education and empowerment of girls. Such events will play a role in increasing the self-confidence of girl children as well as making them aware of their rights.

The program of National Girl Child Day-2026 was completed with the determination to build a discrimination-free and safe society for the girl child and to pave the way for fulfilling their dreams.

Jahangir, who posed as a

and extortion committed by exploiting Kalbela's name surfaced against him.Notably, the authorities took cognizance of a General Diary (GD) filed against Jahangir at New Market Police Station regarding one such allegation. To safeguard the organization's reputation and maintain professional discipline, the authorities relieved him of his responsibilities. Most recently, media reports regarding allegations of extortion committed by him while posing as a Kalbela journalist came to the authorities' attention. Regarding this matter, the Kalbela authorities state that Jahangir Alam solicited advertisements on a commission basis; he was neither a regular employee nor a journalist for the newspaper. It is important to note that, considering all aspects, Kalbela authorities had already severed all ties with Jahangir Alam and removed him from the role of soliciting advertisements on commission.

Earlier, on September 30, Khushi the wife of an individual known as "Picchi Raja" held a press conference at the Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association seeking her husband's whereabouts. During the conference, she accused the alleged journalist Jahangir Alam.



Girls' safety, education collective responsibility, says President

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Monday called for concerted efforts by the government, families and society to end ensure girls' safety and education, end child marriage, and create opportunities for them to achieve their full potential. "Child marriage is not just a marriage. It is the end of a childhood, a disruption of education and a waste of

potential," he said while addressing a programme marking International and National Girl Child Day 2026 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy. This year's theme is "No More Child Marriage, Girls Will Conquer the World." President Fakhrul stressed the need to ensure girls' safety on their way to school, in educational institutions and in the online world, including on social media platforms. He called for prompt

investigations, effective trials and strict enforcement of the law in cases of violence against women and children, rape and sexual harassment. "There is no alternative to strictly implementing a zero-tolerance policy in this regard," he said. He urged families and children to become aware of the national helplines 109, 1098 and 999 so that they can seek assistance quickly in emergencies. ♦ see page 7

IMF loan talks underway:
Finance Minister

Staff correspondent

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury today said that Bangladesh was holding discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over its loan programme and reform conditions, expressing optimism that all challenges could be resolved through mutual understanding. "There are no major differences with the World Bank and the IMF on the fundamental aspects of Bangladesh's reform plans," he said, adding that discussions were underway on the timing and phasing of certain reforms.

The minister made the remarks while talking to journalists after attending the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF in Bangkok on Monday. He said Bangladesh was working to finalise its Country Partnership Framework with the World Bank, which would provide a clear roadmap for development and economic cooperation in the coming years. ♦ see page 7



Autumn Durga Puja is not just a community festival, it is a symbol of Bengali harmony and unity: Nayab Yusuf MP

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

Chowdhury Nayab Yusuf, Member of Parliament of Faridpur-3 Constituency has expressed the assurance of celebrating the upcoming autumn Durga Puja in a festive, joyful and orderly atmosphere. He said that autumn Durga Puja is not only a community festival, it is a symbol of the prevailing harmony and union of Bengalis. He urged the law and order forces as well as the

locals to be vigilant to ensure a peaceful environment and maximum security in every mandap regardless of caste and religion. He said these things in the speech of the chief guest at the preparatory discussion meeting of the pujamandap and government grant distribution ceremony organized at Faridpur Sadar Upazila Auditorium on Monday (October 12) afternoon. On the ♦ see page 7

Social attitude to
women must
change for their
empowerment:
Bobby Hajjaj

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj has said apart from vocational training or job creation, personal self-confi



chattagram Port Row: Workers Stage Mass Hunger Strike
Demanding Cancellation of NCT Lease to DP World

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The chattagram Port area erupted in intense protests today as port workers and employees took to the streets, chanting reverberating slogans against the leasing of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) ♦ see page 7



Questions Raised Over Service Quality of Islamic Mission Hospital in Rajapur, MP Jamal Orders Probe

Rajapur (Jhalakathi) Correspondent

Allegations of irregularities and poor quality of medical services have been raised against the Islamic Mission Hospital Complex in Rajapur, Jhalakathi. After inspecting the hospital's activities, Md. Rafiqul Islam Jamal, Member of Parliament for Jhalakathi-1 (Rajapur-Kathalia) constituency, said he would order an investigation into the matter through senior officials. He said this during a ♦ see page 7



Two Killed in Separate Incidents in Rajshahi, Including a Businessman

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent.

Police in Rajshahi have recovered the partially decomposed body of an elderly woman in one incident, while a bamboo furniture businessman lost his life in a clash stemming from a land dispute in another. Both incidents took place on Sunday night (October 11) in the city's Kedur Mor and the Kharkhari Kamalapur area of Poba Upazila. The deceased elderly woman from the city's Kedur Mor area was identified as Beli Khatun (70). She lived alone in her residence. Her husband passed away a few years ago, and her four children live abroad. According to local sources, tenants of the house called police after receiving no response ♦ see page 7



Pirojpur District BNP Holds Views Exchange Meeting with Hindu Community

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

Ahead of the upcoming Sharadiya Durga Puja the Pirojpur District unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) held a views exchange meeting with members of the Hindu community in Pirojpur, calling for religious harmony, mutual goodwill, and the peaceful celebration of the festival. The meeting was held at 3:00 pm on Sunday (October 11) at the Pirojpur District BNP office. Among those present were Eliza Zaman, No. 1 Joint Convener of the District BNP; Sarwar Hossain Howlader, General Secretary of the Pourashava BNP; Emdadul Haque Masud, Member ♦ see page 7

US-Bangla suspends
Riyadh flights until
October 21

Staff correspondent

US-Bangla Airlines has suspended all its Dhaka-Riyadh-Dhaka flights until October 21 following the closure of Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport amid repeated Houthis attacks. The suspension covers flights BS381 and BS382 operating between Dhaka and the Saudi Arabian capital, according to a notice issued by the private airline today. The airline said the decision was taken due to the continued closure of Riyadh airport, which has disrupted international flight operations in recent days. US-Bangla said affected passengers would be informed once the revised flight schedules were finalised. It advised passengers booked on the affected flights not to travel to the airport until further notice. Passengers have been advised to contact the airline's sales counters or their respective travel agencies for information on flight status, rescheduling and alternative travel arrangements. "We apologise for the temporary inconvenience," the airline said in its notice, thanking passengers for their patience and cooperation. For assistance, passengers can contact ♦ see page 7

Govt Employees Hospital
issues health card registra-
tion guidelines

Staff correspondent

The Government Employees Hospital has instructed users to register online, update their profile information and upload the required documents to obtain a health card. According to a notice issued yesterday, applicants can collect their health cards from the hospital's designated room on any working day once the hospital authorities verify their identity and information and mark their profile status as 'Verified'. To obtain a health card, applicants must first update their profile information through the hospital's Health Services Management System (HSMS) software. They must then download and fill out the health card registration form and upload the necessary documents and supporting evidence. The notice also stated that doctor appointments must be booked online through the hospital's HSMS software. If a patient fails to attend two consecutive scheduled consultations after booking ♦ see page 7

Amtali intersection lacks traffic police box, duty is being carried out with risk in adverse environment



Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

Due to the lack of a traffic police box at the important Bandhghat intersection in Amtali municipality, traffic police members are having to perform their duties in adverse conditions. They are working to control traffic on the road, resolve traffic congestion and maintain order despite the intense sun, rain and storm. However, there is no designated shelter to carry out their duties. This has raised questions about the working environment and comfort of the police members. At the same time, locals have demanded the immediate establishment of a traffic police box to make traffic management more effective on this busy road. Bandhghat intersection in Amtali municipality is an important junction on the Dhaka-

Kuakata highway. Various types of vehicles including passenger buses, goods trucks, microbuses, motorcycles, auto-rickshaws ply on this road every day. Due to the movement of local vehicles as well as long-distance transport, police members have to be on duty at this important intersection at all times to control traffic. Especially when the pressure of vehicles increases, maintaining order on the road and ensuring smooth traffic flow becomes an additional challenge for them. But since there is no designated box for traffic police or adequate shelter and rest facilities at such an important location, they are facing various problems in performing their duties. Just as it is difficult to work standing on the road for a long time in the scorching sun, it is also difficult to find safe shelter during rain and storms. In many cases, those concerned have said that they have to take shelter in roadside shops to temporarily protect themselves from adverse weather conditions. Traffic police boxes are not only a shelter from the sun and rain; they can also play an important role in conducting traffic activities, storing necessary ♦ see page 7

Five-Year-Old Girl Allegedly Targeted in Sexual Assault Attempt in Cumilla's Debidwar; Case Filed

Accused Neighbour Allegedly Lured Child with Chocolate; Police Say Medical Examination and Judicial Statement Have Been Recorded



By M. A. Khayer Emon Cumilla Correspondent

A 25-year-old man has been accused of attempting to sexually assault a five-year-old

girl after allegedly luring her with the promise of chocolate in Debidwar upazila of Cumilla district. A case has been filed against the accused under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, while police say efforts are underway to arrest him. The accused, identified as Md. Mazharul Islam, 25, is the son of late Abdul Mannan of Paschim Bepari Bari in Kurain village under Mohanpur Union of Debidwar upazila. He reportedly lives in the same neighbourhood as the child. According to the ♦ see page 7



Call to Mobilize Youth for the Development of Chittagong Hill Tracts

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter.

A view-exchange meeting was held in Khagrachhari on Monday (October 12) with the aim of fostering overall development, maintaining ♦ see page 7

LPG distributors to suspend
cylinder sales nationwide
on Oct 15-16

Staff correspondent

LPG distributors have announced a two-day nationwide shutdown of cylinder sales on October 15 and 16 protesting against "harassment by magistrates" and demanding commission re-fixing. The announcement was made on Monday by Selim Khan, president of the LPG traders cooperative society at ♦ see page 7

Joint operation by Coast Guard-Fisheries Department in Sitakunda: 7 tons of hilsa seized, fined 3.8 million taka

Crime Reporter, Chattogram.

In a joint operation by the Upazila Fisheries Department and Bangladesh Coast Guard on the Sitakunda coast of Chattogram to conserve the mother hilsa, 4 illegal fishing boats were seized, 7 tons of hilsa fish and about 100,000 meters of illegal current nets and hilsa catching nets were seized. A fine of 3.8 million taka was imposed in the operation. The operation was conducted in the deep sea from Bhatiari Ghat in Sitakunda ♦ see page 7

In Faridpur, expatriate's wife was tortured by cutting her hair after accusing her of adultery, the video went viral

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

Two youths have been accused of brutally torturing a migrant housewife, cutting off her hair and tying her to a tree and beating her on charges of adultery. This shocking scene of torture was recorded on mobile phone and spread on social media, it quickly went viral. The incident has caused a lot of uproar in the district and intense anger among the locals. The incident took place in Bepari village of Krishnanagar union of Sadarpur upazila of Faridpur. ♦ see page 7



Anti-drug rally held in Fakirhat

S A Kalam Fakirhat Bagerhat

"Let's build a drug-free society, let's build a healthy future" - highlighting this slogan, an anti-drug rally has been held with a firm commitment to build a drug-free Bagerhat in Fakirhat.

The rally was organized by the Fakirhat Sadar Union Parishad at the premises of Adarsha School, where the chief guest was the Member of Parliament for Bagerhat-01, Principal Maulana Mohammad Mashhur Rahman Khan. The session was presided over by the Upazila Executive Officer Mohammad Rokunuj Zaman.

Under the moderation of Upazila Academic Supervisor Asaduzzaman, the rally was attended by Upazila BNP President Sheikh Kamrul Islam Gora, General Secretary Sheikh Shariful Kamal Karim, Organization Secretary Liaquat Ali Khan, and Mehidi Al Noman, BNP leader Sheikh Iftekhar Ahmed Palash Morol Kamrul Zaman, Secretary of the Upazila Jamaat-e-Islami Abul Ala Masum, Assistant Professor Mohammad Moazzel Haider, Upazila Secondary Education Officer Mohammad Golam Mostafa, SI Kazi Shahin Reza, along with various officials from different government departments, political leaders, public representatives, and people from various professions.

Bangladesh seeks comprehensive

ensuring proper medical treatment for the injured.Addressing bilateral energy ties, the state minister formally sought comprehensive Saudi cooperation to secure Bangladesh's long-term energy requirements.In response, the Saudi side noted that Bangladesh holds a special place as a brotherly nation and expressed optimism about expanding cooperation across various development and energy initiatives.To achieve Bangladesh's Vision 2030 energy targets, Aninda emphasised the creation of a regular delegation exchange and consultative framework, while proposing long-term LNG supply provisions and the establishment of a dedicated terminal.In his second meeting with Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and QatarEnergy President & CEO Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the discussions focused on Bangladesh's rising natural gas demand, existing LNG import structures, and potential new long-term supply agreements.Both sides also reviewed portfolio LNG supplies and source diversification, stressing the importance of continuous commercial and technical communication between relevant entities.During his third meeting of the day with ACWA Power CEO Dr. Mohammad Abunayyan, the talks centered on investment opportunities within Bangladesh's renewable energy sector.ACWA Power formally expressed its interest in exploring clean energy investments in the country. Members of the visiting Bangladesh delegation and officials from the Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia attended the meetings.

Feni District Police Hand

phone back. We are overwhelmed by such prompt and effective action from the police."

Speaking on the occasion, Additional SP (DSB) Mu. Saiful Islam said, "Recovering lost assets and returning them to the general public is part of the police's regular duties. We are working to make police services more people-friendly and effective by leveraging modern information technology."

He added, "During my tenure, we previously recovered and handed over 60 and 44 lost mobile phones in two separate phases. We advise citizens not to panic if a phone is lost, but to promptly file a GD at the nearest police station and keep important details—including the phone's IMEI number safely recorded."

The senior officer emphasized that the core objective of the district police is to strengthen the bond of trust between the police and the public by standing beside citizens in times of need.

Bangladesh seeks stronger

Qatar Energy President and CEO Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, and ACWA Power CEO Dr Samir J Serhan, according to a message received here today.The discussions focused on strengthening Bangladesh's energy security, securing long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies, expanding bilateral cooperation and attracting foreign investment in renewable energy.During his meeting with Saudi Assistant Minister Nasser Al-Qahtani, Amit expressed condolences over the deaths caused by a Houthi rebel attack at Riyadh International Airport and condemned the attack.

Girls' safety, education

A single phone call at the right moment can play an important role in protecting a child's life and childhood, he said.The president stressed that girls' education is a fundamental right, while ensuring their safety is a collective responsibility.

"Birth of a girl child is not a burden; it marks the beginning of unlimited possibilities," he said, urging people to recognise girls as assets and future leaders rather than liabilities.

Addressing the programme, Mirza Fakhrul said child marriage could lead to early motherhood, health risks, economic dependence and an increased risk of violence, while depriving girls of opportunities to develop their abilities.

He called for positive changes in attitudes at the family, social and state levels, alongside sustained and well-planned investment in girls' welfare.

The president said boys and girls should be given equal importance when discussing their aspirations and future careers.

"Alongside asking boys about their ambitions, we must also ask girls, 'What do you want to become when you grow up?'" he said, adding that society must help them turn their dreams into reality.The president also called for making adolescent-friendly healthcare and mental health services more accessible in every upazila. Highlighting poverty as one of the major causes of child mar

IMF loan talks underway

Referring to the current global situation, Amir Khosru said high international oil and gas prices had increased pressure on the energy sector. The government expected additional loan assistance from the World Bank, alongside its regular support, to address the growing expenditure burden.Regarding the IMF loan programme, the minister said the government was discussing several specific issues with the organisation.

He stressed the need to implement reforms gradually, taking account of the country's economic realities, rather than placing pressure on the government to carry out numerous reforms simultaneously.

He expressed confidence that the government and the IMF could reach a consensus through continued discussions.On restructuring and recapitalising the banking sector, Amir Khosru said the sector might require around Tk 16,000 crore annually over the next five to eight years.He said the government had made arrangements to allocate the necessary funds,

but meeting the entire requirement through public financing alone would be difficult.

Against this backdrop, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) had expressed interest in supporting bank recapitalisation, while private equity investors had also responded positively, he added.

Autumn Durga Puja is not just a

occasion, Member of Parliament Chowdhury Nayab Yusuf formally handed over 600 kg rice allotment certificate (DO) received by the government in favor of 194 pujamandaps of Sadar Upazila to the presidents and general secretaries of the respective temple committees.

In the speech of the chief guest, he further emphasized that each mandap should form its own volunteer team to complete the puja smoothly. It is very important to ensure the installation of CCTV cameras in the pavilions for the sake of security. He expressed hope that Durgu Festival will be celebrated grandly in Faridpur maintaining communal harmony like in the past.

Under the chairmanship of Faridpur Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mishkatul Jannat Rabeya spoke as a special and honored guest and district BNP member secretary AKM Kibria Swapan, Faridpur Mahanagar Jubodal president Benazir Ahmed Tabriz, general secretary Ali Rezwan Biswas Tarun, district puja celebration council general secretary Bidhan Kumar Saha, Dr Prakash Swaroop Roy Apu,

General Secretary of Faridpur Municipality Puja Udjai Parishad Shyamal Karmakar, Chairman of Char Madhavdia Union Parishad Tuhin Mondal.

Besides, the leaders of BNP and organizations Youth Dal, Chhatra Dal and Svechasevak Dal,Dignitaries of the local Hindu community and president and general secretary of 194 temple committees of Faridpur Sadar Upazila were present.

Social attitude to women must

dence, communication skills, self-awareness and a positive change in family and social attitudes are required for sustainable empowerment of women.He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at an event titled 'Her Skills, Her Future', jointly organised by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNICEF at a city hotel in Banani area here today.In his speech, Bobby Hajjaj said given the social reality of Bangladesh, a woman cannot be viewed in isolation from her family.

Questions Raised Over Service

surprise visit to the hospital located in the Kanudaskathi area of the upazila on Monday (October 12) at noon.

After the inspection, MP Rafiqul Islam Jamal said, "The hospital has been operating with funding from the Islamic Foundation. I have heard that irregularities have been taking place here for a long time and people are not getting proper services. Visiting today, I saw that the hospital's operations are almost on the verge of closure. There is hardly any medical service here."

He also said that the hospital's ultrasonogram machine has been stolen and the X-ray machine is out of order. People who have been working for the last 15 to 16 years remain in the same condition. He said that although daily attendance is recorded, no mention of what kind of medical services are being provided was found in the register.

The MP said that in the future, an investigation will be ordered through senior officials into the hospital's activities and allegations of irregularities, so that the general public can get proper medical services.

US-Bangla suspends Riyadh

US-Bangla Airlines through its helpline at 09613713605, 13605 or +88 01777 777800-806.Media reports said operations at Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport had been repeatedly suspended and resumed following a series of Houthi attacks originating from Yemen.The ongoing disruption has affected air connectivity between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, creating uncertainty among passengers travelling between the two countries.

Amtali intersection lacks

documents and equipment, and staying safe during the performance of duties. As a result, if a suitable police box is installed at this busy intersection, there is a possibility of further improving the traffic management environment.

Human rights activist Abdur Rahman Saleh said: The Dhaka-Kuakata highway is the busiest road. The traffic system on this road needs to be improved and made safer so that the traffic police brothers are more motivated to perform their duties.

Amtali Police Station Traffic Sub-Inspector Narayan Chandra Mitra said, "If a traffic police box is set up at the Amtali intersection, our activities will be more dynamic. At the same time, it will be easier to reach the traffic police services to the common people."

He also said that while performing duties in adverse weather, we have to take shelter in roadside shops at different times. If there is a specific police box, it will be possible to perform duties as well as stay safe at necessary times.

Amtali Police Station Traffic Inspector Sanjeev Mitra said that the matter has been informed to the District Police Superintendent. The District Police Superintendent has informed the Deputy Commissioner in writing. Considering the reality of the problem, the Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Amtali has been instructed to identify suitable land.

According to the information provided by the relevant source, the next steps in establishing the traffic police box depend on the progress of land identification and administrative initiatives. However, the specific timeframe for when the land identification and box construction work will begin is not known. Expectations for a safe working environment and effective traffic management

Intern Doctors Stage Work

ding a human chain. The human chain was held at Chowrangi Intersection in the town at 11:00 am on Monday (October 12). The hospital's intern doctors have been observing a work stoppage since the morning.

According to hospital authorities, around noon yesterday, private ambulance driver Naim came to the hospital's Radiology and Imaging Department to collect an ultrasonography report. After arriving, he started shouting and creating disorder because there was a delay in handing over the report. At that time, Dr. Rathindranath Mondal, Associate Professor of the Radiology and Imaging Department, who was on duty there, tried to stop him. Naim became furious, verbally abused the doctor in obscene language, and eventually began assaulting him. Hearing the doctor's cries, hospital security personnel rushed to the spot and detained Naim. He was later handed over to Sadar Police Station.

In protest against the incident, the hospital's intern doctors have been observing a work stoppage since this morning. Later, at around 11:00 am, they held a human chain at Chowrangi Intersection in the town.

Two Killed in Separate Incidents

despite repeatedly knocking on her door. Police later broke open the door and recovered her partially decomposed body.

Masuma Mustari, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Boalia Model Police Station, stated that there were injury marks on the body. It is initially suspected that she was killed two to three days ago. Police have detained three individuals, including a domestic worker, for questioning regarding the incident.

Meanwhile, in Kharkhari Kamalapur of Poba Upazila, Jiarul Islam (45) was killed in a clash over a land dispute. He was the son of the late Osman Ali and worked as a bamboo furniture trader.

Local sources revealed that Jiarul and the accused, Minarul, were cousin brothers. A long-standing land dispute and ongo-

ing lawsuit existed between their ancestors. On Sunday, when Minarul went to show the disputed land to a buyer, Jiarul's faction learned about it, leading to a clash between the two sides. At one point, Jiarul was recovered unconscious and rushed to the hospital, where attending doctors declared him dead.

Monirul Islam, OC of Chandrima Police Station, stated that the incident is being thoroughly investigated and necessary legal action will be taken. Both bodies have been kept at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Pirojpur District

Secretary of the District Jubo Dal; Moniruzzaman Moni, Convener of the District Swechhchasebak Dal; Touhidul Islam Touhid, Member Secretary of the same organization; and Nasir Ahmed Bacchu, President of the District Krishak Dal, along with senior leaders of the District BNP and its affiliated organizations.The meeting was presided over by Nazrul Islam Khan, Convener of the Pirojpur District BNP, while S. M. Saidul Islam Kismat, Member Secretary of the District BNP moderated the event.

The discussions focused on the upcoming Sharadiya Durga Puja, ensuring a safe and peaceful environment for the celebrations, and strengthening the bonds of communal harmony, brotherhood, and mutual respect among people of all religions. The BNP leaders called for the collective efforts of all communities to ensure that the festival is celebrated peacefully and in an atmosphere of religious harmony.

Govt Employees Hospital issues

appointments online and does not cancel them despite having the option to do so, their user ID will be automatically deactivated. No further appointments can be booked using the deactivated ID.Patients seeking appointments to show their test results can obtain them from the report counter within seven days of receiving the reports.

The notice further stated that new patients must complete their initial registration entirely online through the 'My Profile' option on the hospital's website, www.skh.gov.bd.

Following online registration, government employees, their dependents, freedom fighters and persons with special needs must visit rooms 424 and 425 of the hospital with the required supporting documents and original papers to have their registration approved.For further information and assistance, applicants have been advised to contact the hospital's IT information centre.

Five-Year-Old

complaint, the alleged incident took place at around 3:00 pm on October 5 in an abandoned house beside a pond in Paschim Bepari Bari, Kurain village. The accused allegedly lured the child with the promise of chocolate before taking her to the deserted building.

The child's aunt filed the case at Debidwar Police Station on October 8, naming Mazharul Islam as the accused.

Child Allegedly Rescued After Neighbour Heard Her Crying

According to the complainant, the child's father had died, and members of the extended family had been taking care of the child and her mother.

The complainant said the child cried in pain and distress following the alleged incident, but the family initially did not understand what had happened. After speaking with the child and learning details of the alleged incident, they decided to file a police case.

Citing the child's account, the complainant alleged that the accused took her into the abandoned house, removed her trousers and attempted to sexually assault her. When the child cried out in pain, he allegedly covered her mouth to silence her.

At that time, a local resident, identified as Bulu Mia, was reportedly passing near the house. After hearing sounds of distress coming from inside, he allegedly called other residents to the scene. The accused fled the spot, according to the complaint.

The child was subsequently taken to a local medical practitioner for treatment, the complainant said.

Family Allegedly Sought Local Mediation

The complainant further alleged that the accused and members of his family requested a local mediation to resolve the matter and urged the family not to pursue legal action.

On October 7, a village arbitration meeting was reportedly held, during which Mazharul denied involvement in the alleged incident, according to local accounts.

The meeting reportedly imposed a punishment of 10 strokes with shoes and a fine of Tk 5,000 on the accused. However, a subsequent altercation between the two sides allegedly broke out over the decision.

Joint operation

Upazila to Salimpur Ghat from 12 noon on October 11 to 6 am on October 12. The Upazila Fisheries Department, Sitakunda, Chittagong and the Bhatari branch of Bangladesh Coast Guard jointly participated in this.

The estimated market value of the 7 tons of hilsa fish seized in the operation is 4.9 million taka. In addition, the estimated value of the seized 100,000 meters of current nets and hilsa nets is 2 million taka.

Call to Mobilize

communal harmony, and integrating the youth into the mainstream of national development in the chattagram Tracts.

Organized by the Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC), the event took place at the District Council Auditorium.

Speaking as the chief guest, Wadud Bhuiyan, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, said, "The youth of the hill tracts are our primary strength. If young people are well-organized and guided properly, the social and economic landscape of this region will transform rapidly."

He urged the youth to remain drug-free, upgrade their skills, and actively contribute to regional development.

Presided over by Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Mrasa Thowai Marma, the meeting was attended by special guests, including Commander of Khagrachhari



Preparatory meeting on the occasion of Puja under the leadership of Raozan's Honorable MP, Alhaj Gias Uddin Kader Chowdhury. - By Hosen Chowdhury

Region and 203 Infantry Brigade Brigadier General K. M. Obaidul Huq (ndc, afwc, psc), Khagrachhari District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner Md. Anwar Sadat, Superintendent of Police Md. Mortoza Ali Khan, and Mong Circle Chief Saching Prue Chowdhury.

During the session, speakers discussed key issues including sustaining peace and harmony in Khagrachhari, expanding education and employment opportunities, and identifying solutions to challenges faced by young people. Youth representatives from various parts of the district also shared their opinions and perspectives at the event.

In Faridpur, expatriate's wife

The victim of torture is Rikta Begum (28). She is the wife of Rajiv Bepari, a Saudi expatriate of that village.

In two videos circulating on social media, housewife Rikta Begum is seen being forced to sit on a chair. A young man in a black t-shirt is holding his hand tightly and another young man in a check t-shirt is haphazardly cutting his hair with sharp scissors. At that time, the woman pleaded and screamed, but the brutality of the accused did not stop; Rather, at one stage he is seen slapping his face hard.

Another video shows the woman and a young man being tied to a tree with ropes and being beaten in the dead of night.

According to local sources, last Saturday (October 10), Rikta Begum came to her husband's house from her father's house. The family members arrested the two of them after finding a young man in his room late that night. Later local people gathered and arrested the youth. On Sunday afternoon, the woman's hair was cut off and she was sent to her father's house and the detained youth was also released.

It has been alleged that two local youths named Sumon Hossain (26) and Joy Hossain (28) are directly involved in this beating and haircut incident. Suman is said to be the grandson of Yusuf Bepari of that area. However, since the incident, the accused have covered their heads, so no statement was received from them.

LPG distributors to

a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

Khan warned that if their core demands are not addressed within the stipulated two-day period, the association will enforce an indefinite nationwide suspension of LPG sales.

According to industry leaders, out of numerous licensed operators, only six to seven companies remain actively operational, leaving hundreds of thousands of gas cylinders lying unused across the country.

The association urged the government and active LPG operators to refill these idle cylinders and distribute them through authorised dealers to ensure consumers can purchase cooking gas at fair prices. The distributors' platform also demanded that the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) ensure that once monthly prices are fixed, individual companies cannot arbitrarily alter them.Any subsequent price adjustments, they argued, must strictly go through the regulatory body.Furthermore, the association strongly criticised the National Directorate of Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) and executive magistrates, accusing them of subjecting dealers and retailers to unreasonable fines and harassment amid ongoing market volatility

chattagram Port Row

to the UAE-based port operator DP World.

Under the banner of the 'chattagram Port Protection Struggle Council,' workers gathered in front of the port's One-Stop Service building on Monday (October 12) at 11:30 AM to begin a mass hunger strike. The demonstrators voiced deep concerns over the 15-year concession agreement and demanded firm guarantees regarding job security and their fundamental rights. Anger and Slogans on the Streets

The hunger strike continued until 4:00 PM as announced. Jointly led by the Chittagang Port Jatiyatadabi Sramik Dal and the chattagram Port Protection Struggle Council, workers and employees from all sectors joined the protest. The air rang out with fiery slogans including "My port, my mother we will not hand it to foreigners," "Go back, DP World," and "We reject the contract to sell off our port." Speaking during the strike, Md. Humayun Kabir and Ibrahim Khokon, joint conveners of the Struggle Council, stated: "On October 8, the day the contract was signed, we held a protest rally and gave the government a two-day ultimatum for talks. Unfortunately, the government took no positive initiative for dialogue. Left with no choice, we are observing this peaceful mass hunger strike today."

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor
Free treatment is provided to helpless and extremely poor eye patients. Jallalabad Eye Hospital, Chattogram.



Airstrikes hit Yemen’s capital as drone attack targets tanker near Strait of Hormuz



International Desk

Airstrikes struck two areas of Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, around midnight, with Iran-backed Houthi rebels blaming Saudi Arabia for the attacks on Monday. Riyadh had not immediately responded to the allegations.

Meanwhile, India’s Foreign Ministry said two Indian sailors were missing after a drone hit a commercial tanker near the Strait of Hormuz, while another vessel carrying Indian crew members was struck by an unidentified projectile. Here are the latest developments from the Middle East on Monday.

Airstrikes kill one, injure 12 in Sanaa

Airstrikes on Yemen’s capital killed one person and wounded 12 others, according to Anees al-Asbahi, spokesman for the Houthi-run Health Ministry.

Al-Asbahi said a strike on a salt factory in the Hamadan district killed a man and injured eight people. Another strike hit a house, wounding a woman and three children.

The Houthi media centre accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out the attacks as the rebels continued launching missiles and drones toward airports in the kingdom. Saudi Arabia had issued no immediate response.

Saudi capital’s airport closure extended

Saudi Arabia’s General Authority of Civil Aviation did not announce when King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh would reopen.

The Houthi rebels have reportedly attacked the airport several times in recent days, killing at least 14 people and injuring at least 320 others.

Iran offers to mediate between Houthis and Saudi Arabia

Iran reiterated its willingness on Monday to facilitate diplomatic efforts

to end the conflict between Yemen’s Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Tehran was deeply concerned about the situation in the Arabian Peninsula and had repeatedly offered to mediate between the two sides.

He argued that the conflict served Israel’s interests and said Iran opposed continued hostilities between two Muslim nations.

Baghaei also said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had discussed the latest developments with his Saudi counterpart in a phone call on Sunday.

Riyadh businesses shift to remote work

Several businesses in Riyadh’s financial district have instructed employees to work from home following an escalation in Houthi attacks, according to employees familiar with the decisions.

The employees, who spoke anonymously on Monday citing safety concerns, said their companies had offices in the King Abdullah Financial District.

The area houses major financial institutions, including Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund, an Aramco office, the stock exchange and international firms such as Goldman Sachs.

Authorities in Riyadh have also asked schools to move classes online this week following deadly attacks on King Khalid International Airport over the weekend.

Two Indian sailors missing after drone strikes tanker

India’s Foreign Ministry said two Indian crew members were missing after a drone struck the commercial tanker MT Petro Dolphin near the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. The vessel was carrying 11 Indian sailors at the time.

A second tanker, the Marshall Islands-flagged MT Valthera, was hit by an unidentified projectile, triggering a fire

on board. All 11 Indian sailors aboard that vessel were reported safe, the ministry said.

The ministry described the repeated attacks on commercial vessels in the region as deeply concerning, warning that they could further worsen an already volatile situation.

UAE official urges Gulf unity against attacks

Anwar Gargash, a diplomatic adviser to the rulers of the United Arab Emirates, called on Monday for coordinated action among Gulf states to defend against attacks by Iran and its allied groups.

Gargash said Iran and its allies had mistakenly viewed Gulf Arab nations as the weakest link in the US-Israeli war against Iran.

In a social media post, he stressed that the security of Gulf countries was interconnected and warned that attacks on Saudi Arabia also threatened the UAE and other Gulf states.

Iran and its allies have repeatedly targeted Arab countries across the Persian Gulf.

Iran executes man accused of supporting militant group

Iran executed a man on Monday who was convicted of belonging to the Jaish al-Adl militant group and supporting attacks against security forces, the judiciary-affiliated Mizan news agency reported.

The agency identified the man as Omar Dorostaran and said he provided logistical assistance to armed operatives by arranging safe houses, transporting members and supplying weapons and ammunition.

Iran’s judiciary accused him of supporting attacks on police and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps facilities in Rask, as well as military installations in the southeastern port city of Chabahar in April 2024.

An attack on a police station in Rask killed 11 police officers and soldiers.

Jaish al-Adl, also known as the Army of Justice, is a Sunni militant group established in 2012 that has repeatedly targeted Iranian security forces in the country’s southeastern region.

Former US secretary of state calls for Iran’s regime to be crushed

Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday that deadly Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia highlighted the failure to achieve the intended level of deterrence in the war against Iran.

Speaking at a conference in Abu Dhabi on the future of the Middle East after the war, Pompeo said the United States and its partners had yet to establish effective deterrence.

Pompeo, who also served as CIA director during US President Donald Trump’s first administration, called for the removal of Iran’s ruling regime, arguing that no other solution would be sufficient.

India’s opposition marches to Supreme Court over voter list revision

International Desk

Opposition parties in India marched toward the Supreme Court on Monday to protest a voter list revision they allege benefits Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s party, following a major police crackdown that saw thousands of activists detained over the weekend.

Opposition lawmakers and supporters sought to submit a petition to the chief justice, calling for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The protests, spearheaded by the youth movement known as “Cockroach,” have gained momentum since election authorities launched the voter list revision last year.

More than 130 million names have reportedly been removed from the electoral rolls.

Critics argue that the exercise is politically motivated and could deprive eligible citizens of their voting rights.

However, Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Election Commission have rejected allegations of manipulation, saying the revision aims to eliminate duplicate and ineligible entries.

Ahead of Monday’s demonstration, authorities shut down six metro stations in the capital and issued warnings of possible traffic disruptions.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi described the growing protests as a struggle to protect India’s Constitution.

“We will not back down,” he told reporters in New Delhi.

Police detained thousands of protesters in the capital over the weekend, including leaders of the “Cockroach” movement.

The group had previously led demonstrations that culminated in the resignation of Modi’s education minister in July.

Modi has not publicly commented on the latest protests.

However, leaders of his party have dismissed the demonstrations, with some describing the activists as “anarchists.”



India's Chief Justice declines INDIA bloc meeting, asks opposition to file petition

International Desk

India’s Chief Justice Surya Kant has declined a meeting request from opposition INDIA bloc leaders over alleged electoral irregularities, saying the Supreme Court’s doors are open to everyone but the matter should be raised through a formal petition as it is already before the court.

The opposition parties announced plans to march to the Supreme Court on Monday as part of their campaign against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, accusing the election authorities of “vote chori”, or stealing votes.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge had written to the Chief Justice, seeking a meeting between 4pm and 5pm to submit a memorandum demanding an end to alleged electoral manipulation, Kumar’s resignation, suspension of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and a return to paper ballots.

“I received a letter yesterday regarding a meeting request, and I responded to it last night, outlining the reasons why I will be unable to meet,” Chief Justice Surya Kant told reporters after an event marking the National Human Rights Commission’s 33rd Foundation Day on Monday.

“The Supreme Court’s doors are open to everyone. Any petition from any common citizen or member of an elected body is welcome. Every Indian citizen has the right to approach the court, and we will hear their concerns and grant whatever is due under the law,” he said.

According to sources, the Chief Justice’s response said the concerns raised by Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and other opposition leaders would be better addressed through judicial proceedings rather than by submitting a memorandum through administrative channels.

The Congress has called Monday’s protest “Chalo Delhi — March for Democracy”. Participants were scheduled to gather at the Connaught Place-Barakhamba Road junction at 1:30pm before marching towards the Supreme Court.

In a post on X, Gandhi said the march would bring together Indians across political parties, genders, castes, communities and states.

“Yesterday, the nation’s youth came out in Delhi to peacefully protest. They came with love in their hearts, not hatred or anger. They were beaten, both by cops and BJP goons. This is not the India we want,” Gandhi wrote.

“Tomorrow, we will march to the Supreme Court as Indians, united beyond party, gender, caste, community and state. Youth, all opposition parties, civil society groups, and all

those who believe in democracy and stand by the Constitution of India will walk with us,” he added.

On Friday, leaders of several INDIA bloc parties marched from Parliament to Vijay Chowk and later submitted a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu.

Speaking in Bengaluru on Sunday, Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of creating chaos across the country. He said the heavy police deployment and detentions during Saturday’s protests reflected the government’s fear of the youth-led agitation.

“Yesterday, nearly 32,000 police personnel and 7,500 CRPF personnel were deployed. This itself shows how much the government fears the youth agitation,” Kharge said.

He alleged that the government’s actions showed it did not want democracy to function peacefully in India.

“We will continue our fight to protect democracy and the constitutional rights of the people,” he added.

Gandhi and Kharge had also written to the Chief Justice in June on behalf of the INDIA bloc. The letter was signed by the DMK and the Aam Aadmi Party as well.

The opposition described the SIR exercise as a “monumental disaster” and raised concerns about the conduct of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

In their June letter, the leaders said they believed the electoral process was being manipulated and that results in several instances did not reflect the people’s wishes.

They accused the Election Commission of India, particularly the Chief Election Commissioner, of bias and alleged that its actions had favoured the BJP during elections and influenced their outcomes.

The letter also criticised the voter grievance mechanism as inadequate and alleged that large numbers of names had been removed from electoral rolls arbitrarily without proper notice.

Although the stated purpose of the SIR exercise was to remove duplicate entries and the names of deceased and migrant voters, the opposition argued that its implementation lacked transparency and differed from previous procedures.

The opposition’s campaign has intensified following a report by The Indian Express claiming that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections at least 14 times over the previous 10 months, including over the SIR exercise.

Last week, the INDIA bloc finalised a joint action plan over the voter-list revision controversy, including rallies and marches under the banner of “Save Democracy”.

Trump says Russia, Ukraine agree to energy ceasefire, but Kyiv reports attacks

International Desk

US President Donald Trump said Sunday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an “energy ceasefire” in their four-and-a-half-year war, but provided no details as Kyiv reported fresh Russian attacks on energy facilities.

In a brief social media post, Trump said the ceasefire had taken effect immediately, adding, “Do not break it!”

Moscow did not immediately comment on the announcement.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed Trump’s statement as “good news for everyone” but said Russian attacks on energy infrastructure continued in Kyiv and the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

“Unfortunately, Ukrainian skies have been infested with Russian ‘shaheds’ all day today,” Zelenskyy said in an evening address, referring to Russian-launched drones. He also reported glide bomb attacks and strikes on energy facilities, including a power plant in Kharkiv.

Zelenskyy’s office confirmed that the Kharkiv attack occurred after Trump’s announcement.

The Ukrainian president said Kyiv was ready to stop attacking Russian energy facilities and expected Moscow to do the same.

Russia has repeatedly targeted Ukraine’s energy infrastructure during the war, disrupting electricity, heating and water supplies in an effort to weaken public resistance to its invasion.

Ukrainian officials have described the strategy as “weaponising winter”. Zelenskyy said Ukraine had proposed several measures to reduce tensions, but Russian President Vladimir Putin had rejected them all.

He expressed hope that Putin would finally respond positively to appeals from the United States, Ukraine and the international community.

Kyiv remains in contact with Washington, Zelenskyy said, thanking the US for its support.

He also said he had discussed the latest developments with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Finnish President Alexander Stubb and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

In an interview broadcast earlier Sunday on ABC’s “This Week”, Zelenskyy said Ukraine was prepared to stop striking Russian oil refineries if Moscow halted attacks on Ukraine’s energy system.

He urged Trump to press the Kremlin to accept the proposal.

“We are asking President Trump, (to) give them (a) signal, not (to) attack energy infrastructure of Ukraine,” he said.

On September 14, Trump had also claimed that the two countries agreed not to attack each other’s energy infrastructure, but provided no details.

Zelenskyy had expressed willingness to comply if Russia did the same, but the proposal did not lead to an agreement.



Trump, Zelenskyy clash over elections

Trump said Saturday that Ukraine should elect a new president, arguing that Zelenskyy had failed to do enough to end the war.

He also blamed the Ukrainian leader for high diesel prices in the United States.

In response, Zelenskyy said Ukraine could hold elections if Russia agreed to a 60-day ceasefire.

“Give us two months, 60 days off. Total ceasefire, 60 days, and we will organize elections,” he said, adding that he would accept whatever choice Ukrainian voters made.

“With all respect to President Trump, it’s up to our society, up to our people to choose one or another leader,” Zelenskyy said.

He added that holding elections during the war would be unlawful under the current legal framework and that security guarantees would be needed to ensure safe voting.

Ukraine has been under martial law since Putin launched the full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The country’s constitution prohibits elections while martial law remains in force and allows the president to stay in office until a successor is sworn in.

Organising a nationwide vote would also be difficult because Russia controls roughly one-fifth of Ukrainian territory, millions of Ukrainians have fled abroad and many soldiers remain on the front line.

Zelenskyy’s presidential term formally expired in May 2024.

The exchange came as Ukraine continued its campaign against Russian infrastructure.

A Ukrainian drone strike on Sunday shut down a data centre operated by technology company Yandex in the Russian city of Vladimir, east of Moscow.

It was the third attack on the company’s facilities in four days.

Russia and Ukraine have continued long-range aerial attacks while fighting on the front line has remained largely deadlocked.

Trump, who announced a deal with Putin on Friday to purchase Russian diesel to help lower fuel prices ahead of the US midterm elections, has repeatedly urged Zelenskyy to stop attacks on Russian energy facilities.

He has blamed Ukraine for record-high US diesel prices rather than the US-led war in Iran, which has pushed up global energy costs.

Ukrainian and European officials criticised the proposed diesel deal, saying it would help finance Russia’s war effort.

Ukrainian strike disrupts Russian digital services

The Ukrainian drone attack on Yandex’s data centre in Vladimir disrupted several of the company’s services, leaving users in dozens of Russian cities, as well as in Kazakhstan, Belarus and Armenia, unable to order taxis or access banking services, according to Russian independent news outlet Astra.

“Operations at the data center have been completely halted. There were no injuries,” Yandex Cloud said on its Telegram channel, which provides service updates.

Saudi airport struck again a day after deadly attack

International Desk

A projectile struck a passenger terminal at Riyadh’s King Khalid International Airport on Sunday, killing one person and injuring 11, a day after an attack on the same complex killed 12 people and wounded more than 300, Saudi authorities said.

The latest victim was identified as a Pakistani national.

India’s embassy said one of its citizens also died from injuries sustained in Saturday’s attack, potentially raising the death toll to 13.

The airport has remained closed since Saturday.

The airport has been struck four times in five days as Iran-backed Houthi rebels claim responsibility for attacks on Saudi targets.

Authorities also reported an attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam.

The escalation threatens global oil supplies and commercial shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial alternative route to the Iran-threatened Strait of Hormuz.

US President Donald Trump is considering possible military involvement against the Houthis.

Meanwhile, the Houthi-run health ministry reported that a child was killed and six people injured in a suspected Saudi airstrike in Sanaa.

It said 91 Yemenis, 60 percent of them women and children, had been killed in five weeks.



Airstrikes hit Yemen’s capital, two Indian sailors missing after tanker attack

International Desk

Airstrikes targeted two districts in Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, around midnight, the Iran-backed Houthi rebels said Monday, blaming Saudi Arabia for the attacks.

Riyadh did not immediately comment on the claim.

Meanwhile, two Indian sailors went missing after a drone struck a commercial tanker in the Strait of Hormuz area, India’s Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The two were among 11 Indian crew members aboard the MT PETRO DOLPHIN when it was hit on Sunday, the ministry said.

Airstrikes target Yemen’s capital

The Houthis reported airstrikes on Sanaa’s Hamdan and Thourah districts as tensions between the Iran-backed rebels and Saudi Arabia continued to escalate.

The rebels’ media centre said the strikes took place around midnight Monday but provided no further details.

It blamed Saudi Arabia for the attacks, which came as the Houthis continued launching missiles and drones towards Saudi airports.

Saudi Arabia did not immediately respond to the allegation.

Two Indian sailors missing after tanker attack

India’s Foreign Ministry said a drone struck the MT PETRO DOLPHIN in the Strait of Hormuz area on Sunday, leaving two of the 11 Indian sailors aboard missing.

A second vessel, the Marshall Islands-flagged MT VALTHERA, was also hit by an unidentified projectile, sparking a fire onboard.

However, all 11 Indian sailors on the tanker were safe, the ministry said.

India’s Embassy in Muscat was coordinating with Omani authorities and the vessels’ management companies to locate the missing crew members.



Robert Pattinson explores the rise of predator-catching TV in new film ‘Primetime’

Entertainment Desk

British actor Robert Pattinson has turned to a darker subject in his new film “Primetime”, portraying the host of an American television programme that targeted suspected child abusers.

Pattinson, who has already appeared opposite Zendaya in “The Drama” and played a key role in the summer blockbuster “The Odyssey”, takes on the role of NBC journalist Chris Hansen, the host of “To Catch a Predator”.

The television show, which aired from 2004 to 2007, featured sting operations targeting men suspected of seeking sexual encounters with children. It attracted large audiences but also raised questions about the boundaries between investigative journalism, police work and reality television.

Speaking to BBC News at the London Film Festival screening of “Primetime”, Pattinson said the film’s subject was particularly disturbing to him as a parent. He welcomed his first child with partner Suki Waterhouse in March 2024.

“It’s both the most terrifying thing that can happen to you, whether you’re a parent, or even if you’re not,” he said. “It’s the most unimaginable sin possible,” he added.

The A24 crime thriller examines how the television programme turned efforts to expose suspected child abusers into compelling entertainment.

Pattinson said the show presented the idea that society could tackle child abuse quickly, but its popularity also raised difficult questions about turning such cases into television entertainment.

“The show was this kind of microcosm of saying, ‘oh, we can do something about [child abuse], and we can do something about it really, really, really quickly,’” he said.

“And in some ways, that’s correct, but it also makes for incredibly powerful TV, and that’s when it gets into slightly dicey territory.”

Asked whether public attitudes towards such entertainment had changed, Pattinson said mainstream television had moved away from the format, but similar content had found a new home on social media.

He said he became interested in the project after noticing the return of predator-catching videos that followed a format sim-



ilar to the early 2000s television show.

“And I was just interested as to why that was happening,” he said, adding that the trend had grown into a major form of social media content.

Hansen himself has criticised the film, describing it as “bizarre” and “detached from reality” in a video posted on X.

Director Lance Oppenheim acknowledged the criticism, saying the film was deliberately designed that way.

“I always thought of this movie as more of a fever dream than something that was representational portrait,”

he said.

Oppenheim said the film examines the longstanding public fascination with watching people face punishment in front of others.

“It’s happened for thousands of years,” he said. “I wanted to make something that interrogated that.”

Oppenheim is also co-directing a much-anticipated documentary about Elizabeth Holmes with Nathan Fielder. He described the project as a special film that he hoped everyone would watch.

From ‘Twilight’ to possible Oscar recognition Pattinson, 40, first gained widespread popularity as vampire Edward Cullen in the “Twilight” film series, alongside Kristen Stewart. He had earlier attracted attention as Cedric Diggory in “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire”.

Since then, he has appeared in major productions, including Christopher Nolan’s “Tenet”, while also building a reputation for taking on unconventional independent films.

The actor has had a busy year, with “Dune: Part Three” still to come. He is also expected to return as Batman in the next film in the franchise, although production has reportedly been paused. Asked when work on the Batman film would resume, Pattinson offered little detail, saying, “We don’t know yet, but yeah, working on it.” His performance in “Primetime” has also prompted speculation that he could receive his first Academy Award nomination. Reflecting on his recent projects, Pattinson said he felt grateful for the opportunities he had received.

“I am eternally grateful that I got these jobs,” he said.

“But then [to have] been able to even do them, this is one of the best years of my life.”



Entertainment Desk

After a long five years, vocalist Nazmun Munira Nancy and musician Jahid Nirob appeared together in front of the audience.

The song is titled ‘Deewana Dil’. It is an item song from the Chorki original movie ‘Happily Married’ starring Arifin Shuvoo and Keya Payel.

The song was released on Chorki’s YouTube channel last Friday. The song’s melody and music were composed by Jahid Nirob. It was written by Jahid Preetom.

Jahid Nirob posted a post on October 11 inviting people to listen to the song.

Reminiscing about the day, Jahid Nirob said that he first heard the song ‘Prithibir Joto Sukh’ live while sitting on the second floor of Munshiganj Shilpakala Academy, where Nancy was singing with Habib Wahid. She is still thrilled to remember that sweet memory.



Music director Ibrar Tipu at crossroads of life and death

Entertainment Desk

Popular music director and composer Ibrar Tipu has been battling kidney cancer for two years. He is undergoing treatment in the United States. He also underwent brain surgery a few days ago. After being in the hospital for a long time, he has now returned home. Lyricist Kabir Bakul has asked for prayers from everyone in his Facebook post, informing about Tipu’s physical condition.

There, he said that Ibrar Tipu, who is undergoing treatment in the hospital, was brought home by his family members with great force. Kabir Bakul wrote, “My brother, our beloved music director Ibrar Tipu is very sick. He has been battling kidney cancer for the past two years, undergoing treatment in the United States. He also underwent brain surgery a few days ago. After being in the hospital for quite some time, he has now returned home.”

Nancy, Jahid Nirob together after 5yrs

In the post, Jahid Nirob wrote, “I first heard song ‘Prithibir Joto Sukh’ live while sitting on the second floor of Munshiganj Shilpakala Academy.

Habib Bhai was playing chords with an EP (electric piano) tone and Nancy Apu was singing. I still get thrilled when I think about it.”

Jahid Nirob also wrote, “In 2021, Nancy Apu and I sang together for the first time in ‘Close Up Kachhe Ashar Golpo’, the song ‘Tomake Chai’.

In the meantime, Nancy Apu has lent her voice to many of my songs. However, we sang together again after five years.

Whenever Nancy Apu speaks, it becomes a song! The song ‘Deewana Dil’, written by Jahid Preetom and composed by me, is made for the movie ‘Happily Married’ directed by Jahid Preetom. I invite you to listen to this sweet song.”

The song has received a lot of response from the audience in two days. The song has already crossed 16,500 views. There has also been praise in the comments section.

Recording of 5 songs of Kanak Chapa in 1 day

Entertainment Desk

Three-time National Film Award – winning vocalist Rumana Morshed Kanak Chapa has sung more than 3,500 songs in movies. She has more than 40 solo albums to her credit. Recalling her busiest days, she said that she recorded five songs in five studios on the same day. Such an incident has happened five to seven times in her musical career.

Appearing as a guest on the ‘Behind the Fame with RRR’ podcast, Kanak Chapa also revealed that she was a co-artiste in two songs sung by late actor Salman Shah in his films.

The singer mentioned that she has sung the most songs in movies with the late Andrew Kishore.



MASTER wins Best Screenplay award at Belgrade FEST

Entertainment Desk

Bangladeshi filmmaker Rezwan Shahriar Sumit’s political drama MASTER has won the Best Screenplay award in the World Competition section of the 53rd Belgrade International Film Festival (FEST), which ended on Sunday, adding another major international accolade to its growing festival success.

The screenplay, co-written by Sumit and Sabbir Hossain Shovon, was recognised by the festival jury for its narrative structure and exploration of political corruption, betrayal and personal transformation.

In its citation, translated from Serbian, the jury described MASTER as “a compelling political drama exploring themes of betrayal, corruption, and the moral choices of a man entering the halls of power.”

The jury also praised the film’s tense atmosphere and portrayal of a character’s changing relationship with power, noting that stories from smaller nations often reflect shared realities and resonate deeply with audiences worldwide.

The World Competition jury was chaired by Serbian film theorist, critic and screenwriter Saša Radojevic. The other members were film director and Balkan Panorama Film Festival founder Prof Dr Sali Saliji Salini and



film producer Martin Milinkovic.

The award places MASTER among the festival’s leading films, alongside Spanish historical drama The Red Hangar (Hangar Rojo), directed by Juan Pablo Salato, which won Best Picture, and Filipino filmmaker Rafael Manuel’s Filipiñana, which received the Best Director award.

Founded in 1971, Belgrade FEST is one of Europe’s long-standing international film festivals. Over more than five decades, it has brought together filmmakers and celebrated works from across the world.

The screenplay award marks another milestone in MASTER’s international festival journey. The film previously won the Big Screen Award at the 55th

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) and the Best Feature Award at the 22nd Lucca Film Festival in Italy. Set against the realities of rural Bangladesh’s local governance, MASTER examines power, morality and human vulnerability through a political narrative that has drawn recognition at festivals in Europe.

The film features Nasir Uddin Khan as Jahir, known as Master, alongside Azmeri Haque Badhon, Zakia Bari Mamo, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Sharif Siraj, Tasnova Tamanna and Lutfar Rahman George. Despite its international recognition, the film’s theatrical release in Bangladesh remains stalled, according to the press release, due to bureaucratic delays and clearance processes.

Imran Khan, his girlfriend released after detention

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood actor Imran Khan, his girlfriend Lekha Washington and cousin Zayn Mary have been released from police custody in Mumbai, hours after they were detained by police for taking part in a protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

They were detained on Saturday. They confirmed their safe return home on social media after their release.

Videos and photos circulating on social media around 4:00pm on Saturday showed Imran, Lekha and Zain being taken away in a police van. There was some uncertainty about where they were being kept. Lekha Washington announced the release by posting a video reel on Instagram on Saturday night.

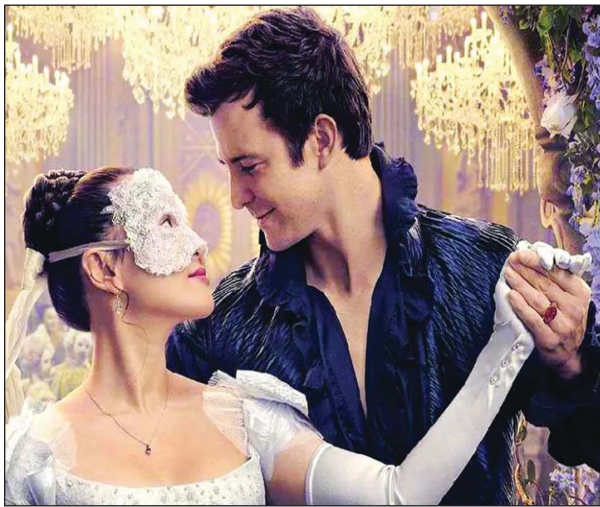
She later shared the moment of their safe return home on her Instagram story. However, Lekha complained that they faced problems getting cabs to return home after their release. She said that cab drivers were not willing to take them due to fear



Beyond the Award: Mehazabien Chowdhury’s winning journey

Entertainment Desk

For Mehazabien Chowdhury, Orpa was more than just another character; she was a dive into the darker corners of human nature and society. Her haunting portrayal in Vicky Zahed’s ‘Neel Shukh’ earned her the Best Actress (Popular) award at the Blender’s Choice–The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2025, her second win in the category after “Redrum” in 2022. Beyond the trophy, this year brought another first for the actress: a dance performance at the awards ceremony. In an interview with The Daily Star, Mehazabien opened up about the emotional depths of Orpa, the thrill of taking the stage, and her enduring on-screen chemistry with Afran Nisho. For Mehazabien, an award is not just a personal achievement, but a recognition of the collective effort behind



New Bridgerton series about Lady Violet

Entertainment Desk

Netflix’s popular drama series ‘Bridgerton’ is expanding its reach. Another spin-off is going to be added.

At the center of it will be one of the audience’s favourite characters, Lady Violet.

Netflix and production company Shondaland recently announced the series.

This spin-off series will mainly show the story of Lady Violet’s youth.

In the original series, Lady Violet was seen as a mature, patient and loving woman, who always acted as a guide for her children.

But what was the story of her own life like in this new series? Violet always tells her children the story of her and her husband, Viscount Edmund Bridgerton, who were married. Their marriage was not just a social contract, but a pure love affair between the two.

The new spin-off will essentially tell the story of that love. Lady Violet’s marriage to her husband, Viscount Edmund Bridgerton, is as tragic as it is fairy tale.

While Violet was expecting her eighth child, Edmund died suddenly at the age of 38.

Violet managed to cope with this intense grief and hold on to such a large family with one hand. This determination is one of the aspects of her character.

The name of the series has not yet been finalised. However, it is believed that it may be named after the previous successful spin-off ‘Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story’.

Ruth Gemmell played the role of the elderly Lady Violet in the original series and Connie Jenkins-Greig played the role of the teenage Violet in ‘Queen Charlotte’.

Music artist Rushnaf Wadud passes away

Entertainment Desk

Rushnaf Wadud, a prominent figure in Bangladesh’s independent music scene and the lead vocalist of alternative rock band Blunderware, died of heart attack on Monday.

The news of his death was confirmed by his friend and longtime bandmate Moktadir Dewan.

Rushnaf had also been dealing with long-standing respiratory complications.

Known for his distinctive vocal delivery, thoughtful songwriting and experimental musical style, Rushnaf was among the familiar names in Bangladesh’s independent music scene, where he developed a reputation for blending alternative rock with folk-inspired sounds.

He rose to prominence as the frontman of Blunderware, a band known for its unconventional musical approach and layered lyrics. One of the group’s best-known tracks, ‘Afim Chaash’, showcased its distinctive blend of indie rock, folk and blues



influences. The song was written by Rushnaf and composed by Blunderware.

Rushnaf was also associated with The Attempted Band, where he served as lead vocalist. Songs including ‘Ei Bikale’ and ‘O Moushumi’ were among the tracks associated with his musical journey.

Beyond music, Rushnaf also explored acting, appearing in the critically acclaimed Bangladeshi anthology film ‘Sincerely Yours, Dhaka’, released in 2019. The film brought together multi-

ple stories set in the capital, reflecting different aspects of urban life. His death has prompted an outpouring of grief among musicians, filmmakers and listeners, many of whom remember him for his creativity, collaborative spirit and contribution to the country’s independent music culture. Rushnaf’s passing marks a loss for a music scene in which he carved out a distinctive space through his voice, songwriting and commitment to artistic experimentation.



Isco's Betis rise back above Real Madrid to third

Sports Desk

Veteran playmaker Isco struck twice to help Real Betis climb back into third place in La Liga with a 5-2 win over Osasuna on Sunday. The Andalusian side moved a point above Real Madrid, fourth, and level with second place Atletico Madrid, trailing leaders Barca



by five points. Manuel Pellegrini's side claimed a sixth league win from eight matches with an exciting display of attacking football at La Cartuja stadium, where they are playing until their Benito Villamarin home is renovated, likely 2028. Former Real Madrid midfielder Isco, 34, netted from the penalty spot after a foul on Rodrigo Riquelme, and Ez Abde doubled the hosts lead after half-an-hour with a cool finish. Ante Budimir's own goal gave Betis their third after half-time, before the Croatian striker netted at the correct and Raul Garcia added another to give Osasuna a fighting chance. Isco capitalised on a loose ball in the box to grab his second and Jose Morante bagged a fifth in stoppage time to close out Betis's big

win. "Football is never truly under control," said Pellegrini after his side almost let their three-goal lead slip. "As soon as the pace drops, the other team can pull level." The former Manchester City coach also praised Isco after his brace.

"He has spectacular quality and a maturity as a player that allows him to perform at what-ever level he wants to," added Pellegrini. Elsewhere Valencia, 19th, earned a point in a 2-2 draw at Racing Santander under new coach Javier Aguirre. Real Sociedad defeated Deportivo La Coruna 3-2 in another entertaining battle. The Basque side, sixth, eased into a three-goal lead Mario Soriano pulled one back for the visitors in San Sebastian to spark a Depor fight back.

They were given further encouragement when Real Sociedad's Pablo Marin was sent off in the 66th minute for a foul on Nsongo Bil in the box and Yeremay Hernandez netted from the penalty spot. Both teams finished with 10 men after Lorenzo Amatucci brought down Mikel Oyarzabal as the last man, and Depor could not find an equaliser. On Saturday Liga leaders Barcelona beat Getafe 3-0 to prolong their perfect start to the season, with eight wins from eight league games. Hansi Flick's side are followed by second place Atletico Madrid, who snatched a late 2-1 win at Alaves, while Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid scraped a 1-0 victory over Villarreal despite Vinicius Junior's red card for hair-pulling.



Atletico consistency highlights Man United instability since Ferguson

Sports Desk

Manchester United head to the Spanish capital in search of a morale-boosting Champions League victory against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday, but their trip is also a harsh reminder of the stability they have lacked since Sir Alex Ferguson's departure. Diego Simeone has coached Atletico since December 2011, over a year before United's greatest ever manager retired in May 2013, after 26 trophy-laden years at the helm. In the years since Ferguson left, United have gone through a series of slumps under seven permanent managers, as well as other caretakers and interims, and failed to win a single Premier League title. By contrast, Atletico have maintained their position among Spain's elite under Simeone, winning La Liga in 2014 and 2021 despite battling against the financial and sporting might of giants Barcelona and Real Madrid. The Rojiblancos have played in the Champions League in every season since 2013-14, reaching the final twice and the semi-finals on two further occasions. United, however, have missed out on Europe's top competition multiple times since Ferguson's departure, a remarkable decline for a club that spent much of the Scot's reign as one of the continent's dominant forces. Atletico have kept a strong identity under Simeone, in terms of their non-negotiable work ethic and drive, even if they have turned from a rock-solid defensive outfit into a team more comfortable on the attack. United have had a string of managers, with different philosophies and consistency only in their lack of sticking power. Even Atletico's stadium is a reminder of their differences. The modern Metropolitano will host the Champions League final in June, having already staged the 2019 showpiece, won by United's rivals Liverpool, while Manchester United's Old Trafford was not selected as a venue for Euro 2028. - Continuity - Atletico supporters have their own host of complaints, particularly with expectations

rising over Simeone's tenure, but when contrasted with the constant upheaval at Old Trafford, they can perhaps be grateful for some of the continuity they have enjoyed. This season, Atletico have started well despite uncertainty surrounding former Manchester City striker Julian Alvarez during the summer. The Argentina forward ultimately stayed in Madrid despite trying to force through a move to Barcelona, and is beginning to find his form. Alvarez hit the post as a substitute as Atletico snatched a late 2-1 win at Alaves on Saturday to record a fourth consecutive victory. "I thought Julian looked good today," said Simeone. "He came on with enthusiasm, eager to do well and help the team. He finished the match well." Even without Alvarez playing a key role, Simeone's side are second in La Liga and beat Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid before the recent international break. Michael Carrick's United, meanwhile, are struggling to find the same consistency, sitting 13th in the Premier League and enduring their worst start to a domestic campaign since 1986/87. The draw against Tottenham on Saturday increased the scrutiny on Carrick and his team. The Red Devils have two victories from eight matches across all competitions this season. "The reality is the reality, we've got to accept it," said Carrick. "We need to put things in a direction, in a positive direction quite quickly, that's pretty plain." The Red Devils have been criticised for a lack of running this season, including against Tottenham, who covered more kilometres and sprinted both further and more times. Something which would never fly for Atletico's task-master Simeone. Man United hammered Azerbaijani side Sabah 4-0 in their Champions League opener but the visit to the Metropolitano offers a vastly different proposition, against a team with wind in their sails and a culture of grit shaped over more than a decade.

Brewers edge Dodgers 2-1 in National League Championship Series opener



Sports Desk

Brice Turang homered and Milwaukee's bullpen kept the Los Angeles Dodgers' potent bats in check Sunday as the Brewers triumphed 2-1 in game one of baseball's National League Championship Series. One year after they were unceremoniously swept by the Dodgers in the NLCS, the Brewers thrilled fans in Milwaukee, landing the first blow in the best-of-seven series that will send the winner to the World Series. The Dodgers are chasing a rare World Series three-peat. But the Brewers, who led Major League Baseball with 103 regular-season wins, showed they don't plan on going quietly this year as they seek to return to the championship showcase for just the second time, 44 years after their 1982 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals. The game was billed as a duel between the Dodgers' two-time Cy Young Award-winner Tarik Skubal and the Brewers' flame-throwing ace Jacob Misorowski, but neither pitch-

er made it to the sixth inning. The Dodgers wore down a sometimes shaky Misorowski but were rewarded with just one run against him in the second inning. Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani walked on four pitches to open the frame, advanced to second on a Teoscar Hernandez single and scored on a one-out single from Andy Pages. Kyle Tucker worked a walk in a 10-pitch at-bat to load the bases. But Enrique Hernandez hit into a double play and Misorowski escaped the inning without further damage. Turang tied it with a solo homer off Skubal to open the bottom of the fourth inning, and the Brewers seized a 2-1 lead in the fifth on Luis Lara's run-scoring single off Skubal. Garrett Mitchell had walked to open the inning and reached second on a sacrifice bunt from Cooper Pratt before Lara cracked a ball up the middle that allowed Mitchell to score. The Brewers bullpen made the lead stand up with four relievers combining for four and two-thirds scoreless innings. "Just the grind of the guys," Misorowski said of the win. "That bullpen really showed up today and did amazing. And then just the guys laying down a sac bunt to get a guy over and a clutch base hit by Lara -- just, you know, our way." The Dodgers threatened with two outs in the ninth as Brewers closer Trevor Megill issued walks to Tucker and Josue De Paula, but Mookie Betts lofted a high fly caught for the last out.

China Open champ Zheng withdraws from Wuhan citing fatigue

Sports Desk

Freshly crowned China Open champion Zheng Qinwen withdrew on Monday from her home tournament in Wuhan, citing fatigue and a right shoulder injury. Zheng became the first Chinese player to clinch the Beijing title on Sunday by defeating reigning Roland Garros champion Mirra Andreeva 7-5, 6-4 in the final. It was Zheng's first WTA 1000-level triumph and her first title since winning Tokyo two years ago. "I'm very sorry to share that I will be withdrawing from this year's Wuhan Open," Zheng said in a statement. "Wuhan is where my tennis dream began, and the Wuhan Open is also where I made my breakthrough at the WTA 1000 level. I have always looked forward to competing in front of my hometown fans. "Since returning from injury, however, I have played a demanding stretch of tennis over the past month and a half, competing at the US Open, the Billie Jean King Cup, and the China Open. "My body is feeling very fatigued after this intense run of matches." An Olympic gold medalist in Paris 2024 and a former world number four, Zheng underwent elbow surgery last year and missed nearly eight months of action, dropping as low as 160 in the rankings this season. The 24-year-old has enjoyed a resurgence over the past few weeks, however, reaching the US Open quarter-finals before lifting the trophy in Beijing. She is now ranked back among the world's top-25 but will not pick up any points in Wuhan, which kicks off Monday and ends on Sunday October 18. Beijing runner-up Andreeva has also withdrawn from Wuhan, citing a change of schedule, as the Russian teenager looks to get some rest ahead of her first singles appearance at the WTA Finals in Indian Wells next month. Zheng and Andreeva join a growing list of high-profile Wuhan absentees that also includes world number one Elena Rybakina, last year's Wuhan champion Coco Gauff and reigning Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova.

Man City charges cloud hangs over Premier League season

Sports Desk

Manchester City emerged unscathed from a hostile reception at Anfield in their first match since a guilty verdict on widespread financial impropriety, but a 3-0 win over Liverpool highlighted the uncertainty that now surrounds the Premier League season. Enzo Maresca's men are sitting pretty at the top of the table with six consecutive wins, including statement away victories at their two biggest rivals after also beating Manchester United last month. Yet those points could count for nothing unless City are successful in their appeal against the findings of an independent commission, that found them guilty of over 100 Premier League charges. No sanction has yet been decided. But if City's appeal fails then a severe points deduction that could lead to relegation or even expulsion from the English top-flight is on the table. There is even the prospect of three Premier League titles City won between 2009 and 2018, the period to which the charges relate, being stripped. For a league that frequently boasts of its huge global audience, the prospect of an appeal process dragging on for months, leaving a question mark over every City result and what it means for other Premier League clubs, is a damaging one. "This is not good for the Premier League right now. That's what I've just recognised today," former Manchester United captain turned pundit Gary Neville told Sky Sports. "This is really bad for the Premier League and it's going to continue for a few months." Liverpool boss Andoni Iraola stressed that "the uncertainty is not good for anyone". Defeat leaves the Reds nine points behind City, down in ninth in the table. Even if Liverpool turn out to be not strong enough to challenge for the title, the three points lost on Sunday could be vital in the battle for a place in the Champions League. The potential sanction against City could also have an impact on the battle for relegation. "That today, what does it mean going forward?" Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher told Sky Sports. "This has to be done before the end of the season. There's no

Alcaraz exits Shanghai Masters in straight-sets loss

Sports Desk

Carlos Alcaraz fell to Zizou Bergs in straight sets at the Shanghai Masters on Monday, interrupting the former world number one's in-form return to the professional Tour after being sidelined for months by injury. The 39th-ranked Belgian beat the second-seeded Spanish star 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) in the third round to land the tournament's biggest upset yet, and will play either Tommy Paul or Valentin Vacherot next. "It's a little disbelief and not feeling too much," Bergs, 27, said afterwards. "You're just really in the moment, being focused on the points you have to play," he added. "I'll be very happy." Alcaraz started with more quality until Bergs broke the Spaniard's serve to go up 3-2 in the first set. The 23-year-old grabbed back that break in the next game but was uncharacteristically off-target, sending a mess of shots into the net. He double-faulted to hand Bergs a critical break point in the 11th game, and lost the first set when a volley went short. Alcaraz was visibly frustrated during the second set as he vented to his corner following a series of misfired shots that left him with no points in the fourth and eighth games. Alcaraz forced a tie-break but could not reach a third set as Bergs closed things out just past the two-hour mark on his first match point. - Fritz fumbles - Earlier, Stefanos Tsitsipas came back to beat Taylor Fritz 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 and earn fourth round meeting with Daniil Medvedev, who brushed aside qualifier Dalibor Srvcina 6-2, 6-3. A wardrobe malfunction delayed victory for the Greek world number 43 when a tennis ball tumbled out of the American's pocket a second time and forced the men to replay a match point. A tired-looking Fritz, seeded 11th, hung on for a bit longer to save the eighth game but could not stick around beyond that, with Tsitsipas holding serve to win at the fifth time of asking. "I could have done a few things easier, but I ended up being my biggest enemy," Tsitsipas told the crowd afterwards. "I turned things around really well towards the end and became friends with myself and played some incredible tennis," he said. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Casper Ruud and Rafael Nadal also went through to the last 16.



Liton hits century after four ducks



Sports Desk

Bangladesh wicket-keeper batter Liton Das ended the curse of ducks in style with a half-century and century in two innings of the one-off Test against Afghanistan at Sheikh Jayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Liton struck 53 runs in the first innings before hitting a 102 in the second innings to keep Bangladesh's nose ahead of Afghans after registering four ducks in the last five International matches. He struggled during Bangladesh's recent tour of Australia, registering three straight ducks in three innings. He then scored 2 against Pakistan in Asian Games T20 event to break

the sequence of ducks but again was out for naught against Sri Lanka, making it four ducks in five International matches before the Afghanistan Test. His return to form in Abu Dhabi was therefore a significant relief for the Bangladesh camp. After reaching a half-century in the first innings, Liton raised his game in the second, producing an aggressive innings that combined elegant strokeplay with calculated attacking shots. He shared a 149-run partnership for the seventh wicket with Mehidy Hasan Miraz, helping Bangladesh build a stronger position. Liton's innings was marked by an impressive late cut and a series of well-timed straight drives that put the Afghanistan bowlers under pressure. Apart from his batting, Liton also made valuable contributions behind the stumps, demonstrating its importance to the side. Liton also reached the milestone of 9,000 international runs during the Test, becoming the fourth Bangladesh batter to achieve the feat. His Test record now includes seven centuries and 21 half-centuries.



Law and Order, Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Sabotage Committee Meeting Held in Amtoli



Amtoli (Barguna) Correspondent

The Upazila Law and Order, Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Sabotage Committee meeting was held in Amtoli, Barguna with the aim of maintaining law and order, preventing terrorism and sabotage, controlling drugs, suppressing the activities of juvenile gangs and ensuring public safety.

The meeting was held at 11 am on Monday at the Amtoli Upazila Parishad auditorium by the upazila administration. Amtoli Upazila Executive Officer (UNO) Hasan Md. Hafizur Rahman presided over the meeting.

Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Ranjit Chandra Das, Amtoli Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md. Yakub Hossain, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Representative Medical Officer Dr. Kaniz Fatima Jui, Bakul Nesa Women's College Acting Principal Ferdousi Akhter, Upazila Agriculture Officer Krishibid Md. Russell Mia, Upazila Rural Development Officer Md. Firoz Alam, Upazila Forest Officer Md. Monirul Haque, Upazila Social Service Officer Manjurul Haque Kawsar, Upazila Primary Education Officer Md. Shafikul Alam, Upazila Engineer Md. Idris Ali, Amtoli Municipality Administrative Officer Md. Mamunur Rashid, Amtoli Police Station Traffic Police Sub-Inspector (SI) Narayan Chandra Halder and Upazila Health Inspector Sabera Khatun.

In addition, the meeting was attended by former Amtoli Upazila BNP president Md. Jalal Uddin Fakir, Nationalist Freedom Fighter Dal

convener Bir Muktijoddha Md. Abdul Aziz Mia, former Upazila BNP convener Zahirul Islam Mamun (VP), former Upazila Jubo Dal president Md. Kabir Fakir, Municipal Islamic Movement president Md. Kamruzzaman, Amtoli Press Club president Md. Rezaul Karim Badal, President of Amtoli Journalists Coordination Council Md. Zakir Hossain and General

Secretary Md. Hayatuzzaman Miraj.

Also present at the meeting were the headmasters of educational institutions, newly appointed administrators of various unions, journalists of print and electronic media, representatives of civil society and human rights activists.

In addition to reviewing the overall law and order situation in the upazila, the meeting discussed in detail the control of narcotics, prevention of theft, prevention of juvenile gangs, eviction of illegal encroachments, traffic congestion and restoration of order on the roads. In addition, ensuring cleanliness in the municipal city and surrounding areas, increasing public awareness in dengue prevention, security arrangements for the upcoming autumn Durga Puja, toll collection issues and the need to set up traffic police boxes at Amtoli intersections were also discussed.

The participants in the meeting emphasized the need for coordinated initiatives by the administration, police, public representatives, political leaders, journalists and civil society to maintain peace and order in the upazila. In addition, the need for the relevant departments to play an effective role in reducing public suffering, controlling crime, and improving the quality of citizen services was highlighted.

The meeting emphasized coordination between the relevant departments and increasing public awareness in implementing the issues discussed.



Tree Sapling Distribution among Students by Rajshahi City Jubo Dal

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Various fruit and forest tree saplings were distributed among the students of Al-Arafa Academy in Ward No. 19 under Chandrima Police Station, under the initiative of Rajshahi City Jubo Dal. Md. Shariful Islam Joni, Convener of Rajshahi City Jubo Dal, was present as the chief guest at the program on Monday.

Among others present were Md. Rafiqul Islam Robi, Member Secretary of Rajshahi City Jubo Dal; Md. Sadek Ali, Headmaster of Al-Arafa Academy; Md. Sohel Rana, Joint Convener of Rajshahi City Jubo Dal; Mujibul Haq Milon, Joint Convener; and Mofazzal Hossain Shuvo, Member. Organized by Chandrima Thana Jubo Dal, the tree planting and distribution program was coordinated by Mahfuzur Rahman Manik, former Joint Convener of Thana Jubo Dal; Ershad Ali, Convener of Thana Swetchhasebak Dal; Md. Akhtar Hossain, President of Ward No. 19 BNP; along with BNP leaders Siraj Ali and Jahangir Hossain.

Also present were Tanvir Hossain Hira, Member of Rajshahi City Jubo Dal; Md. Shahin Ali, Convener of Ward No. 19 South Jubo Dal; Md. Yousuf Ali Soni, Member Secretary of South Jubo Dal; Shihab Ali, Senior Joint Convener; Shuvo, Joint Convener; Ranan and Shiam, leaders of Chandrima Thana Jubo Dal; Babu, Joint Convener of Ward No. 19 North Jubo Dal; Al Farabi Raj, City Jubo Dal leader; and Jubo Dal leaders Wasim and Roki, along with leaders and activists at various levels of Ward No. 19 and Chandrima Thana Jubo Dal.

Quran Sabak Ceremony of Easy Quran Learners Held in Rajapur

Jhalakathi Correspondent

A Quran Sabak ceremony for the students of Easy Quran Learning was held under the Mosque-Based Child and Mass Education Program in Rajapur, Jhalakathi.

The program was organized by the Islamic Foundation at 11:00 AM on Monday (October 12) in the conference room of the Rajapur Upazila Model Mosque.

The chief guest at the event was Md. Rafiqul Islam Jamal, Member of Parliament for Jhalakathi-1 (Rajapur-Kathalia) constituency. The program was presided over by Md. Alam Hossain, Deputy Director of Jhalakathi District Islamic Foundation.

In his speech as the chief guest, MP Md. Rafiqul Islam Jamal said, "It is very important to educate children with religious and moral education. The teachings of the Holy Quran awaken honesty, humanity and moral values in people. Along with Quranic education, children should be inspired with moral education from an early age, so that they can grow up as ideal human beings."



Special guests at the event were Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rifat Ara Mouri, Upazila BNP President Advocate Talukder Abul Kalam Azad, Senior Vice President Abdul Haque Nantu, Member Secretary of Jhalakathi District Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal Md. Ahsan Habib Sohag, President of Upazila Secondary Teachers Association Md. Zahidul Islam and Convener of Upazila Jubo Dal Md. Masum Billah Parvez.

The welcome speech was delivered by Md. Zahidul Islam, Field Officer of Jhalakathi District Islamic Foundation. At the end, the Quran Sabak, Dua and Munajat were conducted by Md. Ali Hossain, Imam and Khatib of Rajapur Upazila Model Mosque.



Two Fishermen Jailed for Catching Mother Hilsa Defying Ban

Rajapur (Jhalakathi) Correspondent

A mobile court has sentenced two fishermen to 30 days of simple imprisonment each for catching mother hilsa in Rajapur, Jhalakathi. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rifat Ara Mouri conducted the mobile court in her office on Monday (October 12) evening and handed down the sentence.

The convicted fishermen are Md. Suman (55), son of Md. Mannan, and Md. Rajib Hossain (45), son of Md. Hanif Mia, both from Bhabanipur area of the neighboring Nalchity upazila.

It is learned that on Monday afternoon, a team from Rajapur detained them from the Bhabanipur area of the Bishkhali River in the upazila and brought them to the Upazila Fisheries Office. Later in the evening, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rifat Ara Mouri conducted a mobile court and sentenced each of them to 30 days of simple imprisonment.

In this regard, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rifat Ara Mouri said, "The upazila administration and the fisheries department are working to implement the ban declared by the government to conserve mother hilsa. Legal action will be taken against those who catch hilsa in violation of the ban."

Press conference over allegation of defamatory photocards using photos of two teachers in Sherpur

Shurov Odhikari Shuvo, Sherpur (Bogura) Correspondent.

Allegations have been raised about the circulation of objectionable and defamatory photocards on social media Facebook using photos of two assistant teachers of Sherpur Pilot Girls High School in Bogura. In this incident, the headmaster of the school, Md. Abu Sayeed Sheikh, has expressed anger and concern. Besides, he held a press conference demanding a proper investigation into the incident and legal action against those involved.

In a press conference held on Monday (October 12), the headmaster alleged that a photocard was created and circulated from two Facebook IDs named 'ANAS AKANDA' and 'Shafiq Tanvir' using photos of the school's assistant teachers. The circulated photocard read, "A 50-year-old teacher eloped with a 40-year-old female teacher." He came to know about the matter through people on October 8 and 10. He claims that the photocard has also spread to the mobile phones of various people. This has created fear of damaging the honor and dignity of the concerned teachers, other teachers of the school and the institution.

The headmaster further said that they do not know who and for what purpose created and circulated such photocards. However, such propaganda has created an embarrassing situ-



ation for the personal and professional dignity of the concerned teachers. There is also a fear that the reputation of a traditional educational institution will be damaged.

It is inappropriate to circulate unverified, misleading or defamatory statements on social media using someone's photo. Before publishing any information or photo, it is necessary to consider its authenticity, relevance and the social dignity of the person concerned.

A general diary (GD) has been filed at Sherpur Police Station in this incident. The concerned authorities have been asked to investigate to identify the source of the circulated photocard, the motive behind it, and the persons involved in its creation and circulation. At the same time, the photocard has been called to be removed, such propaganda to be stopped in the future, and if the truth of the complaint is proven, action to be taken against those involved according to the prevailing law. At that time, other teachers and students were present at the press conference.

Beloved Police Officer Reflects on Two Decades of Dedicated Public Service

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

For one seasoned first-class police officer, a career in the Bangladesh Police has been far

more than just enforcing the law it has been an expansive journey of heartfelt public service and deep human connection.



?Having served across diverse policing units ranging from various police stations, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), and the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and

Detective Branch—the veteran official is currently posted at the District Special Branch (DSB) in Noakhali. His journey began when he was recommended as an "Outside Cadet" in 2005, formally joining the force in March 2006. In the early stage of his career as a Sub-Inspector (SI), he served with distinction under the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) across Kamrangirchar, Ramna, Adabor, Bangshal, and Mugda police stations. His versatile posting history also includes Matiranga Police Station in the hilly district of Khagrachhari, RAB-8 camps in Barishal and Patuakhali, the Special Branch (SB) Defense Wing, City Special Branch (CTSB) Dhaka, and the Bangladesh Immigration Police.

?Upon his promotion to the rank of Inspector in 2016, his responsibilities expanded significantly. He went on to demonstrate exemplary leadership across multiple roles, including serving in PBI Narayanganj; as Inspector (Investigation) and DIO-1 in Rajnagar, Moulvibazar; Line-OR in Tangail; Inspector (Investigation) in Bhanga and Boalmari, Faridpur; Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Alfadanga Police Station; Inspector (Crime) in Faridpur; within the Media Division at CID Headquarters; and as Assistant Inspector (Investigation) at Sudharam Police Station in Noakhali. Reflecting on his expansive career across the nation, the officer considers the genuine affection and trust earned from

ordinary citizens to be his greatest lifetime achievement. Even today, people from his previous postings across various districts frequently reach out to stay in touch and seek guidance.

? "Whether I was able to serve the public with genuine sincerity during my tenure in DMP, the Hill Tracts, RAB, CID, PBI, or field-level police stations is best judged by the people of those communities," the officer recalled emotionally. "However, when residents from my past postings call today just to check on me or ask for advice, it reassures me that I managed to secure a small place in their hearts. That enduring public trust is the true success of a police officer."

His extensive field experience in maintaining law and order, combating crime, and delivering accessible justice directly to citizens' doorsteps continues to draw widespread appreciation across all walks of life.

6 Gamblers Arrested in DB Police Raid in Kurigram

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter.

District Detective Branch (DB) police have arrested six people during a raid on a gambling den in Phulbari, Kurigram. Gambling equipment and Tk 10,170 in cash were seized from them. The information was disclosed in a press release sent by the Kurigram Police Media Cell on Monday (October 12).

Earlier, the raid was conducted at around 7:45 pm on Sunday (October 11) in the Sonaikazi area of Shimulbari Union under Phulbari Upazila. Police said that as part of their nighttime operations and duty, they raided the area and arrested six people while they were gambling.

A case has been filed in this incident under the relevant sections of the Gambling Prevention Act, 2026.

The arrested individuals are Abu Sufian (32), Sultan Sarkar (42), Zahir Uddin (35), Nazirul Islam (30), Saiful Islam (28), and Tayeb Ali (28).

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Kurigram District Detective Branch (DB) Police, Md. Rezaul Karim, said, "Gambling is a social disease. Police have been



Distribution of Lunch Among the Helpless in Jurain

Taslima Khandakar Nushrat (Sarail Upazila)

A lunch distribution program for the helpless, destitute, poor, street children and travelers was held today at noon in the area adjacent to Jurain Police Box in the capital.

This humanitarian program was organized on the initiative of "Nyaybichar O Manabadhikar Kendra Kalyan Trust". The chief guest present at the event was Mr. Rasel Kabir, Chairman of Nyaybichar O Manabadhikar Kendra Kalyan Trust, who handed over food to the poor, helpless, destitute and street children. Special guests were the Vice Chairman of the organization Shah Moazzem, Organizational Secretary Md. Badsha Dewan, and Finance Secretary Md. Anwar Hossain was also present. The organization is a non-political service-oriented organization for social service and public welfare.

In the program organized today [12 October, Sunday] at noon, cooked food was distributed among more than a hundred helpless and passersby. At this time, central and local leaders of the trust were present.

Speakers at the event said, standing beside the underprivileged people of the society is our moral responsibility. Nyaybichar O Manabadhikar Kendra Kalyan Trust has been working for the welfare of humanity since the beginning. Such activities will continue in the future as well.

Locals welcomed the initiative and said that such humanitarian work sets a positive example in society.

At this time, among others, officials and volunteers of the trust were present.



Press conference on the occasion of Family Card program in Bagerhat.

Masum Hawlader, Bagerhat

An awareness program on nationwide information collection for the Family Card program of the Department of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Welfare.

A family-based information collection activity has started nationwide under the Family Card program. The Prime Minister formally inaugurated the nationwide household information collection activity for the Family Card. The event was held on the Zoom platform. A press conference on the occasion of the Family Card program was held on Monday (October 12) in the conference room of Bagerhat Sadar Upazila Parishad. At that time, Ms. Shahnaz Parveen Bithi, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Executive Magistrate, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of Bagerhat, Deputy Director, District Social Services, Upazila Social Service Officer Sohel Parvez, Probation Officer, officials of various departments at the upazila level, dignitaries and journalists were present.



Human chain demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of drug dealers in Nandail



Aminul Haq Bulbul, Nandail (Mymensingh) Correspondent

A human chain has been formed in the Goyeshpur Pachpara area of Gangail Union, Nandail Upazila, Mymensingh, demanding an end to drug and Yaba trade, immediate arrest of identified drug dealers, and exemplary punishment.

The human chain was organized at 11 am on Monday (October 12) in the Goyeshpur Pachpara area on the initiative of local youth and conscious citizens.

Speakers at the human chain alleged that two siblings named Sumon and Maksuda Akter have been running various drug businesses including Yaba in the area for a long time.

They claimed that due to the spread of drugs,

young people and school-college students in the area are at risk of drug addiction. They demanded that these activities be stopped immediately and those involved be brought to justice and ensured exemplary punishment.

Meanwhile, there have been allegations of attempted murder and intimidation of local youth Md. Shamim Mia (28) for protesting against the drug trade. In addition, it is alleged that Shamim was

harassed for informing the police to recover a cannabis plant from the roof of the drug dealer's house and for recording a video of drug sales. In the same incident, Shamim's mother's mobile phone was also allegedly stolen.

In these incidents, victim Shamim Mia has filed a written complaint with Nandail Model Police Station against Sumon and Maksuda Akter.

BNP leader Abdul Helim, Gias Uddin, victim Shamim Mia, Md. Pavel, Samrat and Sakib and other local dignitaries spoke at the human chain.

At that time, people from various classes and professions including the youth of Goyeshpur Pachpara village were present.