

Girls must be able to play without fear

We are alarmed by the cancellation of a women’s football match in Sunamganj because of objections and threats from a group of local residents. The match between Shopno Chura Sporting Club of Derai and Zara Sporting Club of Sylhet was supposed to take place on October 5 at Derai Upazila Stadium. The incident shows how some extremist groups continue to oppose women’s participation in sports and try to impose their views on others. It is also concerning that the local administration and police failed to provide the support needed to hold the match. By giving in to such pressure, the authorities have undermined women’s right to sports and failed to ensure equal opportunities for all.The organisers were forced to cancel the match shortly before kick-off after some residents objected to women playing football, describing the game as “indecent”. The group reportedly approached the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) to demand that the match be stopped, and later returned to press their demand. The organisers said they contacted the police but were advised to suspend the match. Such responses from the authorities only reward intimidation and allow opponents of women’s participation in public life to dictate their choices. Similar disruptions occurred in Joypurhat and Dinajpur in January 2025 by groups who opposed female athletes taking the field. Must women and girls defend their right to play sports every time someone objects?

These incidents come at a time when women’s football has become a source of national pride, with players from remote areas contributing significantly to the country’s achievements. When even the government encourages girls to take part in sports through various initiatives, local authorities appear unable to protect them from those seeking to obstruct their participation. Encouraging girls to play sports means little if they cannot do so without fear. The girls of Shopno Chura Sporting Club have played football since 2019, travelling to Dhaka and elsewhere for matches and competing in national-level tournaments. Their commitment deserves support, not humiliation or intimidation. The government must act now to ensure that the match is held with adequate security, and that those who threatened the organisers are identified and held accountable. The Sunamganj administration and police must also explain why they failed to ensure that the match would take place. Sporting bodies, local representatives and community leaders should also speak out against attempts to restrict women’s participation in sports. If necessary, the government should also examine whether stronger legal safeguards are required to prevent such obstruction of women’s sporting events.

PM calls for stepped-up

Sakhawat Hussain, State Minister for Health Dr MA Muhit, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam, Prime Minister’s Special Assistant Shakirul Islam Khan, Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Abdus Salam and Dhaka North City Corporation Administrator Shafiqul Islam Khan Milton attended the meeting. Secretaries and senior officials of the relevant ministries were also present.

Talks underway with World

World Bank shared a common understanding with Bangladesh on its economic policies, programmes and medium- and long-term development plans.He said the multilateral lender also agreed with the government's policies aimed at restoring economic stability and overcoming the country's current economic challenges.The finance minister said the economy was facing a crisis when the present government assumed office. In addition to various liabilities inherited from the previous period, the government also had to deal with economic disruptions caused by ongoing wars around the world.He said the World Bank understood these challenges and showed strong interest in supporting Bangladesh.

“The World Bank is very keen to stand beside Bangladesh. It fully agrees with the policies we have adopted, as well as the economic programmes and future course we have outlined after restoring economic stability,” he said.The minister said discussions were also underway on the framework for partnership between Bangladesh and the World Bank.Bangladesh had submitted a written proposal on the partnership framework, while the World Bank had provided various recommendations and suggestions. Bangladesh had also presented its own proposals, he added.Asked about the World Bank's and the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) projections for inflation and gross domestic product (GDP) growth, Amir Khosru said the government did not want to dispute the forecasts made by other organisations.He said the institutions had prepared their projections based on their respective calculations and analyses. The government was working to achieve the economic targets set in the national budget, he said, expressing optimism that the budgetary projections could be achieved.

Kaptai Solar Plant adds 6

is now covered with rows of solar panels that convert sunlight into electricity for the national grid. The project has not only brought previously unused land into productive use but has also demonstrated the potential of solar power as an additional source of clean energy for the country.Mohammad Jahangir Alam, assistant engineer at the Kaptai Solar Power Generation Centre, told BSS that the project was economically viable, with relatively low staffing and operating costs.

aintenance requirements are limited, primarily involving the cleaning of solar panels. Although adverse weather conditions can reduce generation, electricity production does not necessarily come to a complete halt.

He said expanding similar projects across suitable abandoned areas in the hills could bring significant changes to the country's electricity generation landscape.Building on the performance of the existing plant, authorities are pursuing further expansion to increase solar power generation in Kaptai, Mahmud Hasan said.He said work was underway to add another 1 MW of capacity to the existing facility, while the tendering process had been completed for a new 7.6 MW solar power plant in the brickfield area.The planned projects are expected to strengthen the area's potential for solar power generation, although their additional output will depend on implementation and commissioning.

Unlike conventional power generation based on fossil fuels, solar electricity does not require the direct burning of oil, gas or coal. Expanding solar power generation could therefore help reduce dependence on conventional fuels, ease pressure on fuel imports and create opportunities for foreign currency. Solar energy can also contribute to environmental protection by reducing carbon emissions associated with fossil-fuel-based electricity generation.

The experience of the Kaptai plant highlights the potential for expanding solar power projects on suitable unused and non-arable land elsewhere in Bangladesh. Experts have also recommended greater investment in rooftop solar systems, agriculture-based solar initiatives and large-scale solar parks to broaden the country's renewable energy base.The three hill districts together account for approximately one-tenth of Bangladesh's territory, encompassing extensive hilly areas.

Why does Bangladesh keep starting from scratch in policymaking

Md. Neyamul Hossain

fund management, benefit packages, provider payments, hospital readiness, information systems and accountability. The model must then be tested, evaluated and adjusted before being scaled up. Frequent leadership changes can disrupt this process, encourage shifting priorities, and leave reforms unfinished. New initiatives may be launched before earlier ones have been properly evaluated.

The same risk applies to infrastructure, education, agriculture, urban management and digital transformation. A digital public service, for example, requires more than software. It needs instructional development, reliable data, coordination across agencies, adequate funding, skilled personnel, information security and long-term maintenance. If every change in leadership introduces a new platform or approach, public resources may be wasted on overlapping systems and repeated investments.

Good policymaking is not a one-time decision; it is a continuous cycle of learning and improvement. Problems must be identified, evidence collected and analysed, stakeholders consulted, alternatives assessed, and financial and administrative feasibility examined. Policies must then be implemented, evaluated and revised in light of the results. The cycle is straightforward: learn, analyse, decide, implement, evaluate and improve.When this cycle breaks down, policies may be poorly designed, implementation may begin without adequate preparation, and promising initiatives may lose momentum after leadership changes. We repeatedly form committees, commission reports, prepare action plans and organise workshops, yet the desired results often remain elusive. The weakness is not necessarily our ability to identify problems; it is our failure to consistently translate findings into action, measure outcomes and learn from experience.

Institutional memory is therefore a critical public asset. When an official or expert leaves, the knowledge accumulated during their tenure should remain within the institution. This requires systematic documentation of policy decisions, accessible records of research and consultations, regular performance reviews and effective handover arrangements. It also requires recognising specialised knowledge and professional experience when assigning responsibilities.

With proper technical assessments, environmental safeguards and planned investment, suitable unused land in these districts could offer further opportunities for solar power development and contribute to the country's electricity supply. Realising this potential on a wider scale will require coordinated government initiatives, planned investment, appropriate technology and effective policy support. Expanding such initiatives across the country could help diversify Bangladesh's energy mix, reduce pressure from fuel imports and increase the contribution of renewable energy to the national power system.

54,000 BDT Fined Across

processing food in unsanitary environments. On Tuesday (October 13), Fayeز Ullah, the Deputy Director of the Chattogram District DNCRP, led a raid in the city's Folmandi and Dewanhat areas. A total of five institutions were fined 54,000 BDT during the drive. The Shocking Date-Oiling Scam According to the Consumer Rights Directorate, a major violation was uncovered at Tuhin Enterprise in the Folmandi area. The establishment was found packaging ordinary, low-quality dates after coating them with harmful oil under highly unhygienic conditions, completely ignoring packaging regulations. These dates were subsequently sent to the market for sale. For this fraudulent activity, the enterprise was fined 20,000 BDT. Irregularities and Fines at Other Establishments Several other businesses in the Folmandi and Dewanhat areas faced penalties for various violations: Messrs. Rauzan Enterprise: Fined 5,000 BDT. Messrs. Allahwala Enterprise: Fined 2,000 BDT. Messrs. & Brothers: Fined 2,000 BDT. These three businesses were penalized for failing to display price lists and neglecting to maintain proper purchase and sale vouchers or cash memos. Meanwhile, a popular dining establishment in the Dewanhat area, Tayef Restaurant, was raided after authorities confirmed it was processing food in unsanitary conditions and using harmful ingredients, specifically prohibited Shrihat Kashmiri chilli, in its dishes. The restaurant was fined 25,000 BDT for these offenses. Enforcement official Fayeز Ullah stated that DNCRP's drives against adulteration and regulatory violations will continue regularly to safeguard public health.

Govt launches national

tive involving the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Department of Environment (DoE) and the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP).Addressing the conference as the chief guest, Mintoo expressed appreciation to UNDP Bangladesh and the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership for collaborating with the ministry and the Department of Environment to establish the platform.He noted that plastic pollution threatens public health and ecosystems across urban areas, rivers, wetlands and coastal regions. At the same time, he said, plastics are deeply embedded in trade, employment, business activities and everyday life, making a comprehensive response necessary.The minister called for measures covering every stage of the plastics value chain, rather than limiting efforts to waste disposal. He said a circular economy could curb plastic use, promote reuse, extend the lifespan of materials, strengthen waste collection and ensure resources remain in productive use for longer, while generating environmental, social and economic benefits.Referring to the recently issued Guidelines for Plastic Waste Management 2026, Mintoo said the framework sets out the responsibilities of manufacturers, importers and brand owners and provides for the collection and recycling of plastic waste. Producers can fulfil their obligations either independently or collectively through producer responsibility organisations, he added.However, he cautioned that the guidelines would deliver results only if supported by effective enforcement, dependable data, stakeholder cooperation, sufficient collection and recycling facilities, viable markets, transparency and accountability.“Policies achieve their purpose only when they can be implemented effectively,” he said, underscoring the need for close cooperation among producers, regulators, researchers and local authorities.

Mintoo said several institutions were already engaged in plastic waste management in Bangladesh, and the country could build on those existing efforts. The NPAP would help coordi-

nate their work, bridge information gaps and connect policy commitments with implementation, innovation with market opportunities, and national priorities with investment, he said.Calling for contributions from all sectors, the minister urged businesses to develop innovative materials and industrial solutions, academic and research institutions to generate stronger evidence, and development partners to direct their assistance towards national priorities. He also encouraged financial institutions to explore investment opportunities in the circular economy.He stressed that civil society organisations should ensure communities have a voice in the process, while workers involved in collecting, sorting and recycling waste should be encouraged to share their practical knowledge and identify their needs.The minister said the partnership's effectiveness should be judged by tangible outcomes rather than the number of meetings it holds. These outcomes, he said, should include better implementation of policies, stronger evidence and collaboration, greater investment, broader use of practical solutions and improved working conditions for people employed in the waste sector.The event, held under the theme “Unifying Action to Move to a Circular Economy”, brought together around 150 representatives from government agencies, the private sector, development organisations, civil society, academia, research institutions and the waste management sector.UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Stephen Rodriques delivered the welcome address at the event.Other speakers included Sayed Monjurul Hoque, project manager of NPAP Bangladesh at UNDP Bangladesh; Clémence Schmid, director of GPAP at the World Economic Forum; Mohammed Solaiman Haider, additional director general of the Department of Environment; Shaikh Faridul Islam, state minister for environment, forest and climate change; and Dr Fahmida Khanom, acting secretary of the ministry.Following the launch, a high-level panel discussion titled “Breaking Silos: Building a plastic Circularity Ecosystem” was held, moderated by Sarder M. Asaduzzaman, assistant resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh.The panellists included Rezaul Karim, joint secretary (ENV-2K) at the MoEFCC; Parimal Sarker, joint secretary at the Local Government Division; Shadab Ahmed Khan, general manager and managing director of The Coca-Cola Company; Razinara Begum, director of Waste and Chemicals Management at the DoE; Sumaiya T. Ahmed, head of sustainability at PRAN-RFL Group; and Khadem Mahmud Yusuf, managing director of Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL).

Special tribunals for expa

Dubai, the law minister said Bangladeshi migrant workers there lead extremely difficult lives.

Despite enduring such gruelling conditions, Bangladeshi workers receive much lower wages than workers from other countries, he said, urging the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment to look into the matter seriously.Blaming unscrupulous recruiting agencies for one of the major challenges facing expatriates, Asaduzzaman said 5,000 visas had already been cancelled in the Middle East, particularly in the United Arab Emirates, while many more were awaiting cancellation.

Explaining the reasons, he said many recruiting agencies were submitting fake certificates and documents that did not even exist.

As the authenticity of such documents can now be easily verified using artificial intelligence (AI), the countries concerned are taking legal action against those involved, the law minister added.Praising RMMRU for its 30-year journey, Md Asaduzzaman said, “We believe that RMMRU and its team have never been involved in any activity contrary to the interests of workers. No one has alleged that RMMRU misappropriated funds collected in workers' names. We have seen no corruption in RMMRU's integrity. We have never seen RMMRU engaging in sycophancy.” At the event, he expressed hope that RMMRU's 30-year journey would extend into the next 100 years, helping build a Bangladesh where migrant workers would return home to work, and the country would recruit workers from abroad.

Youth played key role in

Professionals" at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, in the capital.Bangladesh Janatar Odhikar Party organised the event.Recalling the student-people's uprising, Rizvi said the country had experienced a prolonged period of misrule before a government came to power through a free and fair election about a year and a half later. He said the new government had

The challenge, however, is broader than frequent transfers. Continuity alone cannot guarantee good policymaking if decisions are driven by personal preferences rather than evidence, or if institutions lack accountability. What matters is a system that combines appropriate expertise, reasonable continuity, transparent decision-making and institutional learning.Several reforms could help Bangladesh move to the next grade. First, appointments to key policymaking positions should place greater weight on relevant sectoral knowledge, professional competence, and experience. Unnecessary transfers should be reduced, and reasonable minimum tenures ensured, while accountability for performance is retained.Second, every major policy should have a documented institutional record covering its rationale, supporting evidence, stakeholder consultations, implementation progress, challenges, and future priorities. Such records would allow successors to build on previous work rather than start from scratch. Third, major policy decisions should be preceded by systematic assessments of costs, benefits, alternatives, and risks. Implementation should be followed by regular evaluation against measurable outcomes, with revisions made when evidence warrants them. Fourth, coordination among ministries and agencies must improve. Universities, research institutions, professional bodies and independent experts should contribute more meaningfully to policy development and evaluation. Reliable data systems and mechanisms for sharing evidence must support this collaboration.

Ultimately, the question is not simply who occupies a particular position. It is whether our institutions can learn, preserve knowledge and apply lessons to future decisions. National development depends not only on roads, bridges, buildings and technology but also on the quality of the institutions that plan, manage and sustain them.

Bangladesh's achievements over the past 55 years deserve recognition. The next phase of development must also strengthen the institutions responsible for shaping the country's future. We must stop repeatedly returning to the lessons of Class 1 and move to the next grade, where institutions, not individuals, preserve knowledge, continuity strengthens policy, and evidence guides decisions. Otherwise, another 55 years from now, we may still be asking: have we finally moved from Class 1 to Class 2 in policymaking?

inherited multiple crises, including loan defaults, money laundering and widespread irregularities and mismanagement in the financial sector.During Sheikh Hasina's rule, the banking and insurance sectors and the country's law and order situation had deteriorated, he said, adding that the ruling party's wishes had effectively become the final word in the country.Influential quarters had also grabbed government plots, agricultural land and even household livestock, he added.

Rizvi said the government was now facing the burden of nearly Tk 6.07 lakh crore in defaulted loans, adding that the Awami League and people close to Sheikh Hasina had looted public resources in the name of loans.He said the responsibility for those irregularities did not lie with the current BNP government, which was working to rebuild the economy after years of plundering.Rizvi also called for investigations into the destination of money looted from financial institutions, including Sonali Bank, BASIC Bank and Janata Bank.

Press Conference Held in

conference was attended by Mohanpur Upazila Executive Officer (UNO) Fahima Binte Akhtar, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Zobayda Sultana, Upazila Agriculture Officer Kamrul Islam, Upazila Social Services Officer Imam Hasan Shamim, and Upazila Project Implementation Officer Torikul Islam. Local journalists, as well as data collectors and supervisors involved in the Family Card Program, were also present. During the press conference, participants were urged to ensure accuracy during data collection, maintain the confidentiality and security of the gathered information, and refrain from providing or recording false or misleading data.

The upazila administration informed that public hearings will subsequently be organized based on the collected data. Furthermore, a stern warning was issued stating that strict legal action will be taken against any data collectors or supervisors found accepting money to present false information or create a database using incorrect details

Rain likely in Chattogram

pm on Tuesday, while sunrise on Wednesday is expected at 5:55 am.

Bangladesh seeks CEPA

development.He said the existing people-to-people ties could provide a strong foundation for further expanding trade and investment cooperation.

The minister also stressed establishing a Bangladesh-Oman Joint Business Council, involving the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to strengthen direct engagement between business communities. The two sides discussed holding an initial virtual meeting, followed by reciprocal visits by business delegations, to identify potential areas of cooperation and facilitate new business partnerships.The ambassador highlighted investment opportunities for Bangladeshi entrepreneurs in Oman's Sohar, Duqm and Salalah ports and special economic zones.The facilities could help Bangladeshi businesses expand exports to the Middle East, Africa and other international markets. The ambassador also praised the contributions of Bangladeshi women artisans to the production of Oman's traditional kuma caps.He further emphasised expanding employment opportunities, simplifying business visa procedures and strengthening direct communication among the relevant ministries of the two countries. Commerce Secretary Md Ataur Rahman Khan, senior officials of the ministry and representatives of the Oman Embassy were present at the meeting.

Police steps up training

of minimum-force principles in line with United Nations standards, 30 in-service training centres were targeted to conduct five-day training programmes for 900 police personnel, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

So far, 818 police personnel have completed the use-of-force training, representing 90.89 percent of the target, the ministry said. “The training focuses on principles governing the use of force in day-to-day policing and is intended to help officers understand when and how force should be used while carrying out their duties,” Additional Inspector General of Police Gazi Jashim Uddin told BSS. Home Ministry authorities said the training had been delivered to 818 personnel through different sessions, aiming to strengthen officers' ability to make lawful, proportionate and professional decisions during routine policing as well as potentially high-risk situations.



President stresses public awareness preparedness to tackle disasters

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhruddin Islam Alamgir on Tuesday stressed the need for preparedness, greater public awareness, disaster-resilient infrastructure and stronger early warning systems to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. The government, relevant institutions and the public must work together to reduce disaster risks, said the President while addressing a programme marking

the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka. Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country where floods, cyclones, tidal surges, river erosion, landslides, droughts, lightning strikes and earthquakes posed persistent threats to people's lives and livelihoods, he said. The adverse effects of climate change had further aggravated the situation, he said, adding that although Bangladesh

contributed little to global warming, it had to bear a disproportionate share of its harmful consequences. Referring to the devastating cyclone and tidal surge of 1970, the President said Bangladesh's history demonstrated the catastrophic consequences of natural disasters. "Such events not only claimed lives but also severely damaged livelihoods, the economy, infrastructure and overall development." He said disaster risks are

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Prime Accused in Police Impersonation Fraud Case Arrested in Sirajganj

Fugitive Accused in Hijla Case Arrested from Kamarkhanda by Joint Operational Team of Chattogram SRB-7 and SRB-12

M Oaliullah Nizami, Chattogram District Reporter,

A joint operational team of SRB-7, Chattogram and SRB-12, Sirajganj has arrested Md. Mostakim Rahman (22), the prime fugitive accused in a case filed with Hijla Police Station in Barishal on charges of fraud by impersonating police, from the Kamarkhanda area of Sirajganj. He was arrested in a raid in the Kamarkhanda Police Station area of Sirajganj district at

around 8 pm on October 11, 2026. According to operational sources, based on secret

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CRA Submits Memorandum to CMP Commissioner Demanding Journalists' Safety

Crime Reporter, Chattogram

The Chattogram Reporters Association (CRA) has demanded measures to ensure the professional safety of journalists and maintain an environment conducive to independent journalism. They also called for the arrest of Wakil Hossain, alias Boga, who is accused of threatening senior journalist Kamal Parvez over the phone. Furthermore, the organization urged for a fair and impartial investigation into the cases filed against the accused to

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OC of Sarail Police Station Protests News Published in Bangladesh Kantha

M. Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent) Brahmanbaria

The news published in the daily Bangladesh Kantha on October 12 titled "Allegation of Abducting Newlywed Couple and Framing Them in Abduction and Rape Case in Brahmanbaria" has come to my attention. The news published in other online newspapers is completely false, fabricated, motivated and an attempt to tarnish the image of the police. I strongly protest and condemn this false news. The real fact is: On June 28, 2026, Nusrat Jahan (12), a 6th-grade student and daughter of Azizul Islam of Chanmoni Para village of Sadar Union of Sarail Upazila, went missing. On the same

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Business services to go digital under investment reform plan

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh is planning a major overhaul of its business approval system, including a digital Single Window platform designed to deliver investment-related services within seven days, as the government seeks to cut bureaucratic delays, attract domestic and foreign investment and accelerate economic growth. Under the proposed system, entrepreneurs will be able to submit applications, complete verification, obtain approvals and licences, secure clearances and track progress through a single online platform, according to a budget document. The initiative aims to reduce the time, cost, uncertainty and administrative complexity involved in setting up and running businesses, while making public services simpler, faster, more transparent and predictable. The government plans to set specific Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for each approval and licensing service. If a relevant agency fails to provide its opinion, no-dues confirmation, no-objection or clearance within the stipulated timeframe, the application may be processed through

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Fire at Chawkbazar market under control, four firefighters injured

Staff correspondent

The fire at Mansur Khan Plaza in the capital's Chawkbazar area is now under control, but firefighters are continuing efforts to extinguish it completely by removing goods stored in the warehouses, Fire Service and Civil Defence Assistant Director Kazi Nazmuzzaman said on Tuesday. He said the sixth floor of the building was the worst affected, while the seventh floor sustained minor damage. Four firefighters were injured while tackling the blaze. Speaking at a briefing at the site on Tuesday morning, Nazmuzzaman said the Fire Service received information about the fire at 5:04pm on Monday and immediately dispatched six units from Lalbagh, the headquarters at Siddikbazar and Palashi. Firefighters found heavy smoke and intense heat on the sixth and seventh floors upon reaching the building. The warehouses on the sixth floor were secured with shut

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Food grains storage capacity to be increased : Zahed

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Adviser on Information and Broadcasting Dr Zahed Ur Rahman today said the government has taken an initiative to increase its food grain storage capacity to 34 lakh tonnes by 2030 to strengthen the country's future food security and enhance crop storage capacity. He disclosed this information at a regular weekly press briefing held at the conference room of the Press Information Department (PID) here. During the briefing, the adviser highlighted significant decisions and progress made by different government ministries, including food, railways, commerce, energy and power, sports, and environment ministries. Presenting data from the food ministry, he said the country's existing food grain stock is at a satisfactory level, while the total storage capacity of facilities under the Directorate General of Food, including CSDs, LSDs, silos and godowns,

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Dhaka seeks Dutch support for LDC graduation extension

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh today sought the Netherlands' support for extending its graduation period from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category and advancing Bangladesh-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations amid mounting global economic challenges. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humayun Kobir made the request during a meeting with Dutch

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sjoerd Sjoerdsma at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here. Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh Joris van Bommel also attended the meeting, according to a foreign ministry press release. Kobir highlighted the impact of recent global crises on Bangladesh's economy and underscored the importance of international cooperation in ensuring a

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Kader Gani Chowdhury stresses fact-checking before news publication

Staff correspondent

Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Muhammad Kader Gani Chowdhury today said Journalists must verify infor

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Firefighters' fire drill on Disaster Reduction Day in Fakirhat

S A Kalam, Fakirhat, Bagerhat

"Let's start from home, let's build a disaster-resilient country" was the theme for the International Day for Disaster Reduction celebrated in Fakirhat, Bagerhat. On this occasion, a rally and a discussion meeting

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CUET VC Besieged for Over 24 Hours, Seeks Govt Help Amid Health Concerns



Staff Reporter

The newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Chattogram University of Engineering and Technology (CUET), Professor Dr. Sheikh Shariful Alam, has remained confined in his office for over 24 consecutive hours. Citing acute physical discomfort due to the cutoff of electricity and water supplies to the administrative building, the Vice-Chancellor has sought immediate government intervention to resolve the crisis.

Earlier on Monday (October 12) around 8:45 AM, the new Vice-Chancellor broke the locks to enter the administrative building. Shortly after, protesting students locked the building again, trapping him inside. Speaking from inside the office, Professor Sheikh Shariful Alam stated that staying over a day without power and water has left him, along with former students and supporters inside, physically and mentally exhausted. Meanwhile, protesting students stationed outside the building remain firm on their single-point demand: the reinstatement of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Abu Sadat Muhammad Sayem. Demonstrators declared that the locks would not be removed until the newly appointed VC resigns. They also expressed strong indignation over the breaking of the building's lock with the help of outsiders. It is worth noting

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Minister Expresses Dissatisfaction with Coach Renovation Work at Saidpur Railway Workshop

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter.

Sheikh Robiul Alam, the minister in charge of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, the Ministry of Railways, and the Ministry of Shipping, has expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the quality of railway coach renovation work at the Saidpur Railway Workshop. He said, "The railway coach renovation work at the Saidpur Railway Workshop should be

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Collective Awareness and Preparedness Key to Reducing Disaster Risks, DC

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

FENI: Emphasizing the theme "Let's start from home to build a disaster-resilient nation," the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was observed in Feni on Tuesday (October 13) through a colorful rally, a discussion meeting, and a live disaster response demonstration. The event commenced at 10:00 AM on the premises of the Feni District Commissioner's Office. Organized by the Feni District Administration, the program was implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Department of Disaster Management, with overall cooperation from the Feni Fire Service and Civil Defense.

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International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction Observed in Atrai

Nazmul Haque Nahid, Atrai (Naogaon), Correspondent

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was observed in Atrai, Naogaon, with the theme "Let's start from home and build a disaster-resilient nation." Yesterday, Tuesday (October 13), at 10:00 AM, a colorful rally organized by the Upazila Administration and the Department of Disaster Management paraded through the main roads of the Upazila. Following the rally, a drill demonstrating earthquake and fire safety

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Theft and Looting of Goods from Dwelling House in Sarail

Taslima Khandaker Nushrat (From Sarail Upazila)

A daring theft and looting of goods has occurred at the dwelling house of Akhtar Hossain in Shantinagar area of Panishwar Union on the southern side adjacent to the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sarail of Brahmanbaria. In this regard, Md. Farhad Mia, personal driver of Akhtar Hossain, filed a complaint at Sarail Police Station as plaintiff. According to the complaint letter and on-the-spot visit to the place of occurrence on Tuesday morning, it is known that Md. Raf Mia and Md. Babul Mia (Witness No. 1 & 2) are employed as guards of the said house. At any time between October 5 and October 9 at 11 am, unknown thief or thieves trespassed and broke the lock/roof of the building house of the north vita and entered inside. They stole goods worth about four (4) lakh taka including 2 TVs, router, DVR, ONU, breaking the lock of the steel almirah and cash, 2 gold rings inside the house. At this time the accused with dishonest intention stole important documents and deeds kept in the almirah of the house. At this time they vandalized furniture worth about two and a half lakh taka causing damage. On October 9 at 11 am when the witness entered inside the house he saw the goods inside the house in a scattered condition and understood the matter of theft. Guard Rob Mia said, the key of this house is with us. We do not know how the thief entered the house despite the door being locked. In this regard, Officer-in-Charge of Sarail Police Station Md. Manjur Kader Bhuiyan said we have received a complaint. A team of police is working in the field to investigate the complaint. Soon the true incident will be revealed and the criminals will be identified and legal action will be taken against them.



Homaná: Alleged Top Criminal Mahbub Kanchan Arrested; Supporters Protest, Claim Arrest Without Warrant

M A Khayer Emon, Comilla Correspondent

The arrest of Mahbub Aslam Kanchan, described locally as an alleged top criminal, from his residence in Homna upazila of Comilla has sparked debate and controversy. Claiming that he was detained without a warrant or any specific charges, his supporters staged a protest and formed a human chain on Saturday (October 10, 2026), demanding his release. According to local sources, Homna Police arrested Kanchan from his home in Durgapur village under Ghagutia Union in the early hours of Saturday. He is the son of the late Abdul Kader and is locally known as the leader of the so-called “Kanchan Bahini.” Supporters Protest Arrest The protesters alleged that Kanchan was taken into custody from his residence without an arrest warrant. Expressing concern over the arrest, they joined the human chain and demanded his release. They also called on the authorities to clarify the legal grounds for his detention. Police Statement Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Homna Police Station Thomas Barua said Kanchan faces between 12 and 15 cases filed with Homna Police Station and other police stations. According to the OC, Kanchan was arrested over allegations of involvement in two robbery incidents in the Ghamora and Asadpur areas. He was subsequently sent to jail through the court, he added. Police also alleged that members of Kanchan's group have been involved in various criminal activities, including kidnapping, extortion and land grabbing. Calls for an Impartial Investigation The arrest has triggered mixed reactions in the locality. While Kanchan's supporters have questioned the legality of the arrest, some local residents have called for an impartial investigation into the allegations against him. The circumstances surrounding the arrest and the allegations against Kanchan have become a subject of public discussion, with calls for the legal process to be followed and the facts established through a fair investigation.



International Disaster Risk Reduction Day Celebrated in Dimla

Mohinul Islam Sujon.

International Disaster Risk Reduction Day was celebrated with various programmes in Dimla, Nilphamari, under the theme “Start at Home, Build a Disaster-Resilient Country.” On Tuesday morning (13 October), a rally was brought out from the Upazila Parishad premises, organised by the Upazila Administration and the Department of Disaster Management, with the support of the Polishshree Agrayatra Project. After parading through various roads, the rally returned to the same venue, where a discussion meeting was held. Members of the Red Crescent, members of the Polishshree Agrayatra Project, and students took part in the rally. The discussion meeting was chaired by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Imranuzzaman. Speakers included Alhaj Professor Raisul Aam Chowdhury, former member of the District BNP; Professor Setara Sultana; Freedom Fighter Commander Alhaj Abul Kasem; Upazila Agriculture Officer (Agriculturist) Mir Hasan Al Banna; Project Implementation Officer Ashrafal Islam; Fire Service Station Master Madhab Chandra Roy; and Unit Manager of the Polishshree Agrayatra Project Mokim Chowdhur.

Expectations for a Peaceful

any untoward incidents. They said that Durga Puja is not merely a religious festival; it is also an occasion to strengthen the bonds of harmony, goodwill, and brotherhood among people. Therefore, the festival should be celebrated through mutual respect and cooperation, regardless of religion or caste. Members of the Hindu community expressed their hope that, with everyone's sincere cooperation, empathy, and responsible conduct, this year's Sharadiya Durga Puja will be celebrated in a joyful and peaceful atmosphere. They also called on everyone to share the joy of the festival with all communities and work together to preserve social harmony and strengthen the bonds of peaceful coexistence.

President stresses public

increasing worldwide due to climate change, making the situation particularly concerning for vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. Therefore, instead of focusing solely on disaster-related losses and damage, the country needed to strengthen preparedness and preventive measures well in advance, he added. The President said Bangladesh has already made significant progress in disaster management. Improved early warning systems, the establishment of shelters, volunteer networks and increased public awareness help reduce disaster-related deaths but these initiatives needed to be made more effective, he said. He also drew the attention of the minister concerned to the need for law to ensure the protection of disaster management volunteers and recognise their contributions.

Food grains storage capaci

stands at 24.09 lakh tonnes. However, he said, due to dilapidation, old infrastructure, and riverbank erosion, godowns with a capacity of about 92,000 tonnes cannot currently be utilised effectively. Initiatives have been taken to restore these godowns to a usable state through rapid renovation and repair. Dr Zahed informed the briefing that a special meeting was recently held with all deputy commissioners (DCs) across the country to prevent artificial shortages of LPG cylinders and ensure sales at fixed prices. Strict directives were issued to the DCs to prepare lists of distributors and dealers in their respective districts, ensure proper gas supply channels, and take immediate legal action upon identifying any irregularities, he said. In his written statement, the information adviser said the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, under the Ministry of Commerce, conducted 368 drives nationwide during the first 11 days of October to check the prices of essential commodities and LPG cylinders. A total of Taka 71 lakh in fines was imposed on 728 establishments for offenses detrimental to consumer interests during this period, he said.

Dhaka seeks Dutch support

smooth and sustainable transition from LDC status. He sought Dutch backing for Bangladesh's request to extend the LDC graduation period and support for making progress towards negotiations on a Bangladesh-EU FTA. The two sides also expressed their commitment to strengthening bilateral economic cooperation through increased trade, investment and technological partnerships. They identified shipbuilding, maritime infrastructure, textiles, semiconductors, water management and agricultural supply chains, including cold-chain development, as priority areas for collaboration.

Kader Gani Chowdhury

mation from multiple reliable sources before publishing news. Calling upon journalists to play a responsible role in combating rumours, disinformation and misleading information, he said truthfulness, impartiality and objectivity must be given the highest priority in journalism. He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a training programme on multimedia, artificial intelligence (AI) and fact-checking for BSS journalists at the news agency's headoffice here today. The Press Institute Bangladesh (PIB) organised the three-day training programme. The inaugural session was chaired by PIB Director General Faruk Wasif. BSS Managing Editor Md. Fazul Haque, Chief Reporter (English) G M Rajib Hossain, Chief Reporter (Bangla) Md. Didarul Alam and PIB Trainer Jilhaj Uddin Nipun were present at the programme. A total of 37 BSS journalists are taking part in the training. Kader Gani Chowdhury said journalism is not merely a profession but also an important responsibility towards society. Journalism plays a vital role in providing the public with accurate and timely information, shaping public opinion, raising awareness and ensuring accountability of powerful individuals and institutions. He said journalism also contributes to strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as promoting education, culture and social values. Journalists must abide by the law, ethical principles and professional codes of conduct in carrying out their duties, he added.

Prime Accused in Police

information, SRB-7, Chattogram learned that Md. Mostakim Rahman, the prime accused in a police impersonation fraud case filed with Hijla Police Station in Barishal district, was staying in the Kamarkhanda area of Sirajganj. Based on this information, a joint operational team of SRB-7, Chattogram and SRB-12, Sirajganj conducted an operation there. The FIR-named accused Mostakim Rahman was arrested in the operation. The arrested Md. Mostakim Rahman is the son of Md. Abdur Rashid Sarkar of Kura Udaypur area of Kamarkhanda Police Station in Sirajganj district. A case has been filed against him with Hijla Police Station in Barishal district for fraud by impersonating police under Case No. 06, dated September 27, 2026, under Sections 406, 419, 420, 171, 506(2) and 109 of the Penal Code, 1860. After the arrest, the accused has been handed over to the concerned Thana-police for further legal action against him, according to operational sources.

Business services to go

deemed or automatic approval, where applicable. The reform programme will cover business registration, construction and environmental approvals, post-investment services, tax and customs compliance, external transactions, banking services, access to long-term capital market financing and local licensing. For small and new businesses, the government will consider introducing an online provisional approval system, allowing entrepreneurs to start operations quickly and complete the required licensing and compliance procedures within six to 12 months. Company name clearance, registration applications, fee payments and certificate issuance will be handled online, with company registration to be completed within 48 hours. The government also plans to simplify procedures for hiring foreign professionals. Work permits for foreign experts and skilled professionals are expected to be issued within seven days, while visas for investors and project-related personnel will be processed within 10 days. Steps will also be taken to introduce five-year multiple-entry investor visas for eligible investors and key personnel involved in investment projects. To speed up the approval and implementation of large and strategic foreign investment projects, dedicated support officers, teams or project-based case managers will be assigned to the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). A round-the-clock help desk and a Grievance Redress System will also be introduced to address

investors' queries, complaints and problems. Investors will receive application updates through SMS, email, helplines and online tracking facilities. The reform plan also seeks to bring trade licence services provided by city corporations and municipalities gradually under the investment service system. Applications, fee payments, renewals, licence issuance and progress tracking will be available online to reduce delays and repeated visits to local offices.

CUET VC Besieged for

that the government relieved former VC Professor Dr. Abu Sadat Muhammad Sayem of his duties on September 21 just 56 days after his appointment and appointed KUET Professor Dr. Sheikh Shariful Alam as the new CUET VC. Protesting this decision, students have been observing a "Complete Shutdown" program since September 22. With teachers, officers, and staff extending their solidarity through work abstentions, administrative and academic activities at CUET have come to a complete standstill, deepening the ongoing crisis.

Minister Expresses

stopped altogether. The quality of railway coach renovation work at such a large workshop is so poor that I could never have understood it without coming here myself. After seeing this kind of work, questions naturally remain about the competence of the officials and workers here.” He made these remarks after observing the renovation work on railway coach windows during a visit to the country's largest Saidpur Railway Workshop at around 11:30 am on Tuesday (13 October). During the inspection, the minister expressed his anger to Shah Sufi Nur Mohammad, Divisional Superintendent (DS) of the workshop, saying, “The way the windows are being renovated here, much better work could be done even in any small workshop. If the renovation work were being done on the windows of your own house, would you carry out the work so carelessly?”

CRA Submits

uncover the truth and ensure appropriate legal action is taken. To press these demands, leaders of the CRA submitted a memorandum to CMP Commissioner Hasan Mohammad Shawkat Ali at his office in the Laldighi area of Chattogram city on Tuesday morning (October 13). The delegation was led by Saifuddin Ramiz, Member Secretary of the CRA's Convener Committee. Other leaders present included former President Sohag Arefin, Assistant Office Secretary Jahir Uddin Babar, Information and Technology Secretary Riduan Hridoy, and Hospitality Secretary Safayet Morshed.

Dildar Hossain Selim

High School in Madhya Jaflong Union. At the end of the programme, the students received copies of the Holy Quran, cash prizes and certificates in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. The programme was chaired by Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, headteacher of Dr. Idris Ali High School, and conducted by Kamrul Islam, chairman of the school's ad hoc committee. Advocate Zebun Nahar Selim, patron of the trust, attended the event as the chief guest. Barrister Samia Naurin Chowdhury, the trust's founder, an attorney in the United States and a barrister in the United Kingdom, delivered the keynote address. Ariful Islam, general secretary of the Madhya Jaflong Union Chhatra Dal, delivered the welcome speech. Special guests included Md. Saidur Rahman, president of the Madhya Jaflong Union BNP; senior vice-president Siraj Uddin; general secretary Dr. Nur Mohammad; joint general secretary Abul Kalam Azad; Azizur Rahman, headteacher of Advocate Zebun Nahar High School; Soyfullah, assistant teacher at Gowainghat Model High School; Hossain Ahmed, headteacher of Lamni Pragati High School; Jamal Uddin, headteacher of Hakur Bazar High School; Kamrul Islam, convener of the Gowainghat upazila unit of the Jatiyatabadi Muktijuddher Projonmo; and youth leader Sabbir Ahmed Sani, among others.

Collective Awareness and

Speaking as the chief guest, Feni District Commissioner Mohammad Mahbub-ul-Karim highlighted the imperative of disaster readiness. “We face various forms of disasters regularly. Although we cannot prevent natural disasters from striking, we can significantly minimize casualties and losses through heightened awareness and advance preparation,” he said. He further called upon the youth to educate themselves and lead efforts in raising public awareness regarding both natural and man-made hazards such as earthquakes, fires, and cyclones. The highlight of the event was a live demonstration conducted by personnel from the Fire Service and Civil Defense. The simulation showcased critical emergency response techniques, including rescuing people trapped in buildings during earthquakes, administering rapid first aid to victims, extinguishing blazes, and effectively utilizing chemical foam. Furthermore, practical techniques were demonstrated to the public and students on how to calmly and swiftly tackle domestic fires triggered by LPG cylinder leaks or electrical short circuits without panicking.

OC of Sarail Police Station

day, her mother filed a General Diary (GD) at Sarail Police Station. GD No. 1440, Date- 28/06/2026. In view of the GD, the police started efforts to rescue Nusrat. Later, on July 21, 2026, with the assistance of Bijoynagar Police Station, a team led by SI Md. Shamim of Sarail Police Station rescued victim Nusrat along with Srabon Mia from the house of Hira Ahmed Zakir in Rasulpur area of Bijoynagar and brought them to the police station. During interrogation in custody, it was learned that for the last 6 months, Srabon Mia had been luring the child with love and elopement. In continuation of this, on June 28, Nusrat left home saying she was going to school. Later, staging a drama of marrying the 12-year-old child in court, she was raped multiple times. In this incident, on July 21, 2026, the victim's mother Liza Begum filed a case of abduction and rape at Sarail Police Station against Srabon Mia and Hira Ahmed Zakir as accused. However, as a case has been filed against the so-called mobile journalist involved in the abduction and rape of a 12-year-old child, he has become angry and is engaged in false and fabricated propaganda against the OC and SI of Sarail Police Station. The statement in the published news that “one month after marriage through the court, the newlywed couple was picked up to the police station at 3 am and framed in a case” is completely false. The so-called court marriage with a 12-year-old child is not legally valid.

Such false news publication is creating obstacles in the daily duties of the police and spreading confusion among the public. I hope that in the future, you will verify the real truth before publishing any new

Fire at Chawkbazar market

ters and multiple locks, with each warehouse having four to five locks. The cross gates inside were also locked, forcing firefighters to cut through the locks while working amid intense heat and smoke, he said. The fire was brought under control at 5:20am on Tuesday, he added. Nazmuzaman said traffic congestion and the narrow roads of Chawkbazar delayed the arrival of fire engines. The lack of adequate ventilation to release smoke from the sixth and seventh floors also made firefighting difficult. Another challenge was the shortage of water as nearby water reservoirs were running low. Firefighters had to change pumps and reservoirs and collect water from other sources to continue the operation, he said. Although there is no fire inside the building at present, firefighters are removing fire-damaged goods and spraying

Accused in Sitakunda Monjur Murder Case Arrested from Fatikchhari

M Waliullah Nizami, Chattogram District Correspondent

SRB-7, Chattogram has arrested Jahangir Hossain alias Roni, the No. 4 FIR-named accused in the murder case of Md. Monjur Ahmed in Sitakunda, Chattogram. He was arrested in a raid in the Samitir Hat area under Fatikchhari Police Station in the district at around 6:35 pm on October 11. According to sources from SRB-7, Chattogram, based on secret information, they learned that Jahangir Hossain alias Roni, an FIR-named accused in the Monjur Ahmed murder case filed with Sitakunda Police Station, was staying in the Fatikchhari Police Station area. Based on this information, an operational team of SRB-7, Chattogram conducted a raid in the Samitir Hat area and arrested him.



The arrested Jahangir Hossain alias Roni (37) is a resident of Golabaria area of Sitakunda upazila. His father's name is Mali Haque. According to police sources, the case number at Sitakunda Police Station is 50/485, dated September 27, 2026. The case was filed under Sections 143, 324, 325, 326, 306, 385, 506(2) and 34 of the Penal Code. Later, Section 302 of the Penal Code was added to it. After the arrest, the accused was handed over to the Hathazari Model Thana Police in Chattogram for further legal action.



Preparatory Meeting for Durga Puja in Jaintiapur; CCTV Cameras and Grants Distributed to 21 Puja Mandaps

Naeem Ahmed Sylhet.

A preparatory meeting was held in Jaintiapur, Sylhet, under the initiative of the upazila administration to ensure the peaceful, safe, and festive celebration of the upcoming Sharadiya Durga Puja. Following the meeting, CCTV cameras and financial grants were distributed among representatives of 21 Puja mandaps in the upazila. The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 13, at the Upazila Parishad auditorium, with Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sunanda Roy presiding. The discussion focused on several important issues, including ensuring security at Puja mandaps, maintaining law and order, reducing traffic congestion, and ensuring an uninterrupted electricity supply during the festival. Emphasis was also placed on strengthening security at the Puja mandaps, addressing any untoward incidents, and celebrating the festival while maintaining religious harmony and communal peace. The meeting was attended by local public representatives, political leaders, members of law enforcement agencies, and leaders of the Puja Uddiyan Parishad. After the meeting, the upazila administration handed over CCTV cameras and financial grants to representatives of 21 Puja mandaps to strengthen security arrangements. The authorities hope that this initiative will help ensure a peaceful, safe, and joyful celebration of Durga Puja across the upazila.

water to ensure the blaze is completely extinguished. “Unless the goods are removed, it will not be possible to extinguish the fire completely, as heat and smoke trapped beneath them could cause the fire to reignite,” he said, adding that six units were still working at the scene. Nazmuzaman said the sixth floor houses 12 to 14 large warehouses, seven of eight of which caught fire. The warehouses contained umbrellas, cosmetics, perfume bottles and attar, among other goods. Chniques to extinguish the blaze while minimising injuries.

New Building Inaugurated

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, unveiled the inaugural plaque as the chief guest on Tuesday (October 13). The extension project was executed by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB). Speaking at the discussion following the inauguration, speakers highlighted the vital role of religious institutions in strengthening long-standing communal and social harmony in the hill tracts. They expressed optimism that the new extension would enhance facilities for local devotees, promote spiritual practices, and help preserve regional Buddhist heritage. Respected Buddhist monks, local social and political leaders, and prominent members of the community attended the ceremony. The event concluded with special prayers for lasting peace, harmony in the hill region, and the overall well-being of the nation.

International Day for

measures was conducted by the Atrai Fire Station. Later, a discussion meeting was held in the Upazila Parishad conference room, presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md. Moniruzzaman. Sheikh Md. Rezaul Islam Rezu Member of Parliament for Naogaon-6 (Atrai-Raninagar) and a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock attended as the chief guest. Also present at the meeting were Upazila Commissioner (Land) Md. Atiqur Rahman; Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Abdul Hannan; Upazila BNP General Secretary Md. Taslim Uddin; Senior Vice-President.

Firefighters' fire drill on

were held. At the end, firefighters demonstrated a fire drill. The Fakirhat Upazila Administration and the office of the Upazila Project Implementation Officer jointly organized the rally on Tuesday (October 13) at 11 AM, starting from the Upazila Parishad expanded complex building premises, circling various roads, and concluding at the playground of Attaka Keramat Ali Pilot High School. Afterward, a discussion meeting was held, chaired by Upazila Executive Officer Md. Rokmuz Jamana. The welcome speech was delivered by Upazila Project Implementation Officer Imrul Kayes. Other speakers included Upazila Academic Supervisor Asaduzzaman, Upazila BNP President Sheikh Kamrul Islam Gora, Acting Station Officer of Fire Service and Civil Defense Fakirhat Md. Shahjahan Mia, among others. At this time, the Upazila Agriculture Officer Sheikh Sakhawat Hossain, Secondary Education Officer Md. Golam Mustafa, Social Service Officer Subrata Kumar Biswas, Women Affairs Officer Tahira Khatun, Cooperative Officer Milan Kumar Das, Assistant Programmer Md. Alamgir Hossain, Rural Electric DGM Anand Kumar Kundu, Secretary of Upazila Jamaat-e-Islami Abul Ala Masum.



Angry young Indians take to streets to challenge Modi over voter list purge



International Desk

Kashish Rawat travelled to New Delhi on Saturday to join a protest without informing her parents. When the 22-year-old economics student arrived in the Indian capital, she found the streets transformed, with metal barricades blocking roads and police cracking down on young demonstrators. Officers beat some protesters, dragged others into buses and chased away the rest. Demonstrators recorded the police action on their phones, and the videos quickly spread across social media. The crackdown was aimed at preventing mostly young Indians from gathering to protest against a revision of voter lists that they say favours Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s party. But it did not stop Rawat, who remained on the streets until evening while trying to stay out of the reach of police. “We are not going anywhere. We will come back again and make our voices heard,” she said. Protests led by India’s “Cockroach” youth movement intensified earlier this month over an ongoing review of voter lists that has removed more than 130 million names since last year. Critics say the exercise is politically motivated and risks disenfranchising millions more people. They have called for the resignation of Election Commission chief Gyanesh Kumar. The Election Commission, however, says the review is necessary to eliminate duplicate and ineligible entries. Modi has not publicly commented on the protests. Some leaders of his party have dismissed the demonstrators as “anarchists” and suggested, without providing evidence, that foreign powers are backing them. The dispute has struck at the core of Indian democracy — the right to vote. It has also raised questions about whether a generation that grew up under Modi, who has served as prime minister for more than 12 years, can turn its growing disillusionment into a sustained challenge to his Hindu nationalist government. “I don’t see him as almighty,” Rawat said of Modi. “I see him as someone who we have elected. So I don’t understand the reason why we should be scared of questioning that guy.” A test for India’s democratic institutions

India’s democratic institutions have faced growing pressure under Modi, with critics accusing his government of weakening checks on executive power, restricting dissent and targeting religious minorities, particularly Muslims. Press freedom organisations have also expressed concern over pressure on independent media. The government rejects these allegations, maintaining that the country’s institutions remain strong and that law enforcement agencies act against violations of the law rather than dissent. For many young Indians, however, institutions they grew up trusting have failed to live up to their promises. They describe a political environment increasingly hostile to dissent, where challenging those in power can expose people to harm. The voter list controversy has intensified these frustrations, providing a common cause for a generation already dissatisfied with the political system. Earlier this summer, protesters forced the resignation of Modi’s education minister, offering a rare example of street demonstrations leading to political change. The mobilisation has since reflected a broader wave of youth-led protests in other countries, particularly in South Asia, where Generation Z demonstrators have challenged established political elites. For 19-year-old student Maya Ribeiro, the voter list controversy has raised concerns about a democratic right she had previously taken for granted. Ribeiro, a sociology student, joined Saturday’s demonstration with two friends. She said they had registered to vote because they considered participation in a democracy both a right and a responsibility. The prospect of more names being removed from voter lists, however, has left her worried that the right to vote cannot be taken for granted. She said the controversy had made the fight over the electoral process more urgent. “When we talk about the institution of voting, it is an important institution, but it is an institution that needs to be cleansed,” Ribeiro said. Police crackdown fuels anger among young protesters The extensive police crackdown has given young Indians another reason to protest, demonstrators said, describing the response to a planned rally as dispro-

portionate in a democracy. Aryan Kajaniya, a 21-year-old philosophy student, said the dispute reflected wider disillusionment among young people with the country’s political system. He said he and other protesters were increasingly uncertain about how to exercise their right to freedom of expression when authorities could restrict gatherings and detain demonstrators. “People are actively trying to gather more information about what’s going on in the capital. They are joining in from different cities, but the system is actively trying to suppress us,” he said. The movement’s influence extends beyond those taking part in street demonstrations. Many protesters said they did not identify with any particular organisation or political party but were motivated by shared concerns. Ribeiro said discussions among friends, debates at home and exchanges on social media had transformed private frustrations into collective action. After years of feeling powerless, the protests have given young Indians like her a renewed sense of political agency, they said. That change was evident during the “Cockroach” protests earlier this summer, when demonstrators broke a long-standing taboo by openly mocking Modi. “I do believe that we are at a point where we have been so disillusioned that we are now more resilient than ever,” Ribeiro said. Challenging Modi will require more than street protests Mounting a sustained challenge to Modi, an established figure in Indian politics for more than a decade, will be difficult. His Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has built a formidable electoral organisation, while opposition parties have struggled to turn previous public discontent into a lasting nationwide challenge. The youth protests have yet to develop into a coherent political alternative. For many demonstrators, however, creating space to question the government has itself become a struggle, one that has carried personal costs. Rawat said politics had become a recurring source of tension within her family. She believes her parents’ views have been influenced by television coverage sympathetic to Modi’s party, and disagreements have sometimes led her to stop speaking to relatives. “I do still try my best to have a conversation with them, but I have been failing so far,” she said. For Ribeiro, the key question is whether young Indians can transform their anger into a sustained movement demanding transparency and accountability. She said the protests had helped young people recognise that their voices could make a difference. “I think for the first time in a very long time ... I have felt a sort of renewed belief in what democracy can do,” Ribeiro said.

Explosions rock Riyadh as Iranian strikes on vessels in Hormuz intensify

International Desk

Saudi Arabia’s capital Riyadh came under attack by Yemen’s Houthi group on Monday night, with the group claiming to have targeted the city’s airport following repeated strikes over the weekend. The Houthis said they targeted the airport with a ballistic missile and also claimed an attack on King Khalid Air Base near Khamis Mushait. A Western official in Riyadh confirmed to Middle East Eye (MEE) that multiple blasts and explosions were heard across the capital, while videos circulating on social media appeared to show large fires. MEE said it could not independently verify the footage. The strikes highlight the widening scope of the war in Yemen and pose a serious challenge to Saudi Arabia’s economic ambitions. The Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia come amid rising tensions across the Middle East, with the region facing the possibility of renewed US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Meanwhile, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Monday that it had attacked a supertanker in the Strait of Hormuz as the vessel attempted to leave the waterway. The reported strike would mark the third attack on vessels in the strait in two days Malaysia to remain open economy despite geopolitical tensions

International Desk

Malaysia will remain committed to keeping its economy open and maintaining its status as a trading nation despite ongoing geopolitical tensions fracturing the global economy, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Johari Abdul Ghani said on Tuesday. The global political and economic landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, with countries increasingly prioritizing the protection of domestic industries and strategic economic interests, often at the expense of global economic integration and the multilateral trading system, Johari said in his remarks at the EU-Malaysia Business Day 2026. As a highly open economy deeply integrated into global supply chains, Malaysia would continue to engage constructively with all its economic partners, he said, adding that Malaysia strongly believes that dialogue and cooperation must always take precedence over unilateral action.



What is behind the student protests in France?

International Desk

France has seen thousands of arrests, hundreds of injuries, and schools set on fire as the new school year descended into nationwide student protests that are influencing France’s presidential election campaign and drawing international attention. It’s the latest challenge to Emmanuel Macron’s presidency in a country beset by crises, both foreign and domestic. The majority of protesters have been peaceful, but violence on the fringes is having an impact, with a daily menu of fireworks thrown at police and volleys of tear gas fired at high school pupils. On Tuesday, climate and social justice activist Greta Thunberg joined students at a high school in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, as France faced a new day of nationwide marches and strikes on top of the blockades at schools. Here is what to know about the movement: The protests started in a Paris suburb Demonstrations first erupted last month in a high school in Creteil southeast of Paris over a lack of staff. From there, class strikes, blockades and demonstrations spread to other Paris suburbs and then nationwide, even in smaller towns. Hundreds of schools had to close because of damage or attacks on staff. High schoolers are expressing broad grievances over schools that are under-resourced, with dilapidated facilities and insufficient staff, notably in lower-income neighborhoods. French media have shown videos of scampering rats, collapsed ceilings, leaks, broken furniture and other woes in dilapidated schools. Some students also complain that during summer heat waves, they roast in classrooms without air-conditioning, while in winter they freeze. They say school days, which often run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., are too exhausting and the university entrance system is complex and unfair. Some university students have also joined the protests. There have been broader concerns in France that the country’s education system is losing ground to other countries and failing in its mission to enable children from disadvantaged backgrounds to move up the social ladder. Scores in reading comprehension and mathematics have plunged, according to the latest PISA report, which evaluates students worldwide. A muscular police response has drawn criticism Riot police have liberally used tear gas and wielded their batons to disperse crowds.

Four killed, 30 injured as passenger train derailed in Pakistan

International Desk

At least four people were killed and 30 others injured when a passenger train derailed in central Pakistan early Tuesday, police and a Pakistan Railways spokesman said. The train was travelling from the southern port city of Karachi to the northwestern city of Peshawar when it went off the tracks in Sher Shah city in Punjab province, railway spokesman Kaleem Akhtar said. Rescuers recovered the bodies of all four victims and evacuated the injured from the train’s 14 carriages, he said. The injured were taken to a hospital for treatment, while emergency responders and paramedics were dispatched to the scene. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed their grief over the deaths in separate statements and urged the authorities to ensure the best possible medical care for the injured. Train accidents are relatively common in Pakistan, where the railway system has suffered from decades of under-investment, outdated tracks and ageing signalling systems. In 2023, 10 carriages of a passenger train derailed in southern Pakistan, killing 30 people and injuring more than 90 others.

Poland blames Starlink sabotage on Russia

International Desk

Poland is blaming Russia for an arson attack on a Starlink satellite station in September and two Turkish citizens have been arrested in connection with the suspected act of sabotage, authorities said. The suspects, whose names were not released in line with Polish privacy rules, were arrested in Germany, Polish officials said Monday. They are accused of deliberately setting fire to Starlink infrastructure on Sept. 23 in Wola Krobowska, Poland, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Warsaw. “We have no doubt that Russian intelligence services are behind this act of sabotage,” Tomasz Siemoniak, Poland’s minister overseeing intelligence services, said in a news release, noting that Russian intelligence services are increasingly turning to people with ties to the criminal underworld. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, in a post on X, called the incident “another act of hybrid warfare.” Other details were not immediately available. The Poland arson in September was one of more than 210 incidents across Europe that Western officials consider sabotage and malign activity linked to Russia tracked by The Associated Press since Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. A British court last year found three men guilty of arson in a March 2024 plot that targeted a London warehouse with Starlinks for Ukraine inside. British prosecutors said it was masterminded by Russia’s intelligence services. Officials say one goal of the attacks is to undermine support for Ukraine, spread fear and discord in European societies and drain investigative resources. Russia often uses proxies for such attacks and some perpetrators say they have no idea they have been hired by Moscow. Tech titan Elon Musk has allowed the Ukrainians to use his Starlink satellite communications system inside their own territory, including in Russian-occupied regions, but has restricted use of the satellite system inside Russia. Starlink has become deeply embedded in Ukraine’s military operations, with commanders and soldiers relying on satellite connectivity to communicate and coordinate operations. Polish spy chief says Ukraine’s allies are facing near-constant Russian subversion



Man stabs 8 people at shopping mall in S. Korea



International Desk

A 59-year-old man stabbed at least eight people Tuesday at a shopping mall in the South Korean city of Incheon, police and fire officials said. One victim was in life-threatening condition and received surgery at a nearby hospital. The suspect attacked shoppers as he moved through the mall before business owners and bystanders subdued him, according to Incheon’s Namdong District Police Station and witnesses. The man has a history of violent offenses and mental illness and was required to wear an electronic monitoring ankle, according to South Korea’s Justice Ministry. The man’s name was not released, in keeping with South Korean practice for most criminal suspects. Witnesses told South Korean media that the attacker appeared to have knives tied to both hands and stabbed people in different parts of the mall while moving up and down the floors on an escalator. Nah Hyun-joon, who helped subdue the attacker using chairs with several other

people, said he saw the man attack about four people in the second-floor food court before moving up to the third floor, where he stabbed at least one woman. Nah said the attacker then headed toward a multiplex movie theater on the fourth floor but was blocked by several people holding chairs at the top of the escalator. Nah said he and others trapped the man from below and eventually subdued him near the escalator’s third-floor entrance, pushing him down with chairs and removing his knives, before police arrived. “He just went around stabbing people,” Nah told OBS television. “He didn’t even say anything. He just stabbed whoever he saw.” The injured were taken to nearby hospitals, including one woman in her 20s who underwent surgery after arriving in cardiac arrest, Incheon’s fire department said. The department didn’t provide details on the severity of the other injuries. The suspect was sentenced to four years in prison for attempted murder in 2015, according to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency. He was placed under electronic monitoring in 2019 and had committed no repeat offenses while under supervision, the Justice Ministry said. The suspect was booked last month on suspicion of carrying a weapon after using a kitchen knife to puncture a protest sign outside a hospital where he had a dispute, and was receiving treatment for alcohol dependence and unspecified mental illnesses, according to the ministry. Earlier on the day of the attack, the suspect attended a counseling session from 10 to 11 a.m. and then met his probation officer from 11:20 to 11:55 a.m., the ministry said. The attack began at 1:40 p.m. The officer confirmed that the suspect had taken his medication and had lunch with him until 12:30 p.m. Authorities detected no attempts to destroy his monitoring device, the ministry said. “We sincerely apologize over the great public concern caused by the knife attack by an individual under electronic monitoring,” the ministry said in a statement, adding that it would review both the supervision of the suspect and broader electronic monitoring procedures.



AFD, Liberation War Museum to present Le Voyage de Rézé tonight

Entertainment Desk

A fusion of music, live drawing and visual storytelling will take centre stage in Dhaka as Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) and the Liberation War Museum jointly present Le Voyage de Rézé on Tuesday evening.

The multidisciplinary performance, scheduled for 7 pm at the Liberation War Museum, will take audiences on an artistic journey exploring cultural diversity, human encounters, borders and the connections that bring people together.

Created by Les Productions du Bazar, the production combines live music, singing, percussion, illustration and video in an intimate setting where sound and images develop alongside one another.

Moving beyond the conventional concert format, the performance brings together songs from different cultures, original compositions, familiar melodies and lesser-known or newly created pieces. Live sketches by artist and illustrator Emé will transform observations of people, places and encounters into drawings before the audience, adding a visual dimension to the musical experience.

The four-member team features Rézé, a guitarist, singer and composer whose musical influences include jazz and African and Brazilian traditions; Sofiran, a percussionist and vocalist exploring African, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian rhythms; Emé, who specialises in illustration and live drawing; and Christoo,



whose work spans video, photography and artistic production.

Together, the artists combine their distinct creative approaches to build a performance in which music, images and movement become interconnected forms of expression.

For the artists, travel extends beyond geographical boundaries to encompass the discovery of different people, languages, cultures and personal stories. Through this approach, Le Voyage de Rézé seeks to create a space for cultural dialogue and shared experiences.

The production has been staged at theatres, cultural centres, schools, libraries and festivals across France. The artists have also undertaken international projects in Réunion, El Salvador, Burkina Faso and Brazil, incorporating workshops, exhibitions, meetings and travel journals into their artistic journeys.

Alongside its performances, the project maintains an educational and participatory focus. The artists regularly organise intergenerational workshops on music, rhythm, percussion, drawing, photography and video, using creative practice to encourage learning and exchange between generations. The Tuesday performance is open to audiences aged six and above. Registration is required, and interested attendees can confirm their participation by emailing their name and mobile number to communication@afdghaka.org.

RJ Mitte, ‘Breaking Bad’ actor and disability rights advocate, dies at 34

Entertainment Desk

Actor and disability rights advocate RJ Mitte, who drew on his experience with cerebral palsy to portray a key character in the acclaimed television series “Breaking Bad,” died on Monday at the age of 34, authorities and his representatives said.

Cameron County Justice of the Peace Cyndi Hinojosa told The Associated Press that she declared Mitte dead at around 1:30pm at what she believed was his home in Brownsville, Texas. She said the cause of death was not immediately known and that an autopsy would be conducted.

Mitte played Walter White Jr., the son of Bryan Cranston’s chemistry teacher-turned-methamphetamine dealer Walter White, in nearly every episode of the five-season AMC series. The show was recently ranked the best television series of the 21st century in a New York Times poll.

Cranston expressed profound grief over the actor’s death, describing Mitte as his “sweet son.” “I met him when he was only 14 years old when he was cast as Walter White Jr., a part he played with such joy and enthusiasm,” Cranston wrote in a Facebook post on Monday night.

“Born with Cerebral Palsy, he never — ever — allowed that challenge to be an excuse for anything. He met the demanding shooting schedule head on

with great determination,” he added. In an interview with the AP in 2014, Mitte said his experience with disability,



ity, including physical therapy, family challenges and high medical expenses, had helped him become a better actor. These issues were also among the themes explored in the series.

“You develop a different mentality and you develop a different look at how the world sees you and how you see the world,” he said. “You’re able to use that. And I think it’s an asset instead of something that would hinder.”

Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Mitte moved to Los Angeles in 2006 to pursue an acting

career. He initially landed small guest roles on sitcoms before securing his role in “Breaking Bad” in 2007. The series aired from 2008 to 2013.

Cranston recalled that Mitte was relatively inexperienced when filming began but gradually developed into a talented actor.

“That kid was pretty raw when we started shooting the pilot,” Cranston wrote, “but little by little we watched him grow into a really fine actor.” He added, “I loved him, and thoroughly enjoyed being with him throughout the years on the series, and after the spotlight on Breaking Bad dimmed.”

In a statement announcing his death, Mitte’s representatives said he had brought authenticity to his role while using his public profile to raise awareness about disability and promote inclusion.

They said he had used “his platform to challenge stereotypes and promote greater representation.”

Mitte’s subsequent acting credits included the ABC Family series “Switched at Birth” and the superhero satire “Guardians of Justice.” He also worked as a producer on several independent films.

Beyond acting, Mitte served as an ambassador for United Cerebral Palsy and Shriners Children’s. He also led his own Mitte Foundation, which supported philanthropic and community initiatives related to disabilities.



Entertainment Desk

FI Manik’s movie was ‘Chachchu’. It was released in 2006. It was a popular and commercially successful movie. The movie has a special place in the careers of Shakib Khan, Apu Biswas and Monowar Hossain Dipjol.

However, the movie is also important in the career of ‘Jui’, the child at the centre of the story, or Prarthana Fardin Dighi. In the movie, Shakib Khan played the role of Dighi’s ‘Chachchu (uncle)’. Although at one point in the story, Dipjol is also seen in that role.

However, in the story, Shakib’s brother’s daughter ‘Jui’, also known as Dighi, is the family’s daughter. Dighi was suddenly seen with that ‘uncle’ Shakib. Shakib is familiar in a black shirt-blazer and sunglasses; and Dighi is in a blue-gold patterned dress. The actress posted the picture on Facebook. She captioned it with one word, “megastar.”



‘The Dirty Picture 2’ coming after 15yrs, will Vidya Balan stay?

Entertainment Desk

After a long 15 years, Bollywood’s popular movie ‘The Dirty Picture’ is back in the news. Producer Ekta Kapoor has confirmed that the sequel will be made.

However, it is not yet confirmed whether Vidya Balan will be in the new movie or not.

The 2011 film ‘The Dirty Picture’ was a huge success with audiences and critics alike.

Inspired by the life of South Indian actress Silk Smitha, the film starred Vidya Balan in the lead role. It also starred Naseeruddin Shah, Emraan Hashmi and Tusshar Kapoor.

Vidya also won the National Film Award for Best Actress for her performance in the film. Recently, while talking about her upcoming film on Ranbir Allahbadiyar’s podcast, Ekta Kapoor revealed her plans to make ‘The Dirty Picture 2’.

She said that she had been thinking about making a sequel for a long time but could not find a story that she liked.

Now, she has found a story that she wanted to present to the audience. However, Ekta has not yet revealed the story of the new film. She has not made it clear whether the life story of Silk Smitha from the previous film will be retold on screen or whether the story of another woman’s life will be told.

Where did Dighi meet ‘Chachchu’ Shakib?

Where did the two meet? Based on the address given by Dighi, it was found that they met in New York, USA.

The Dhallywood Awards were held there on October 10. And they attended that event. The two were caught on camera during the event.

Netizens are making various comments after seeing the picture of Shakib-Dighi. Some wrote, “Did you go to New York with your uncle?” Some asked, “I want to see them together as a couple”; and some commented, “They look beautiful together.” Within an hour, Dighi’s post had over 5,000 reactions. There were nearly 250 comments.

It is clear that Dighi’s followers are excited to see the moment. It is worth noting that Dighi was quite successful as a child artiste. She was seen in many movies in the 2000s. Shakib Khan is in most of the movies.

Apart from ‘Chachchu’, they were seen together in ‘Dadima’, ‘Chachchu Amar Chachchu’, ‘1 Takar Bou’, ‘Tor Karone Ami Achhi’ etc.

Veteran actress Nasima Khan passes away

Entertainment Desk

Veteran film actress Nasima Khan has died. She died in hospital around 7:00pm on Sunday while undergoing treatment. Nasima Khan had been ill for several days. On Sunday, when her physical condition deteriorated, she was admitted to the hospital. She did not return from there.

The death of actress Nasima Khan has cast a shadow of grief over the film industry. Nasima Khan was a popular face in Bengali and Urdu language films from the sixties to the eighties. She made her big screen debut in 1959 with the film ‘Jago Hua Savera’. She played her first heroine role in film ‘Je Nodi Moru Pothe’ released in 1961. The actress gained recognition and popularity among the audience with this film. She was last seen in the film ‘Kusum Kusum Prem’ of Impress Telefilm in 2011.



Sadia Ayman captivates fans with stunning new glamorous look

Entertainment Desk

Popular actress Sadia Ayman, who often makes headlines for her beauty and fashion, seems to have added a different dimension to her fashion statement this time.

She spread a little warmth by going outside the familiar box; this Sadia Ayman, framed in a new look, seems a bit unfamiliar this time.

Sadia Ayman shared a series of glamorous photos of herself on social media with her fans. In the photos, she is seen looking stylish in a beautiful off-shoulder white top and black high-waisted trouser. Additionally, her confident look with a matching branded bag in her hand and loose hair instantly resonated with fashion lovers. In keeping with her new look, Sadia wrote in the caption, “Life is a runway and I am serving looks”, meaning, “Life is a runway and I am spreading the glow of looks.”



Adhora accuses director of unprofessional behaviour

Entertainment Desk

Dhallywood actress Adhora Khan has pulled out of the film ‘Violence’, alleging the director’s unprofessional behaviour and lack of proper communication.

She claimed that she lost several important international work opportunities, including in Hollywood, while waiting for the film. The actress has also faced financial and professional losses due to this.

Kamal Hossain Babor is producing the movie ‘Violence’. Adhora has accused him of unprofessional behaviour.

Adhora Khan, in a Facebook post on Sunday, gave details about her withdrawal from the film. She said that she had decided to withdraw from the film a long time ago. However, she had remained silent on the matter for a long time as there was no official announcement from the concerned parties.

Adhora wrote, “Many of you have asked why I have withdrawn from the movie ‘Violence’! I withdrew myself from the movie a long time ago due to the director’s unprofessional behaviour and lack of proper communication. Although the matter was informed to the concerned parties, but since there has been no official announcement from them, I am clarifying my position to answer the questions of my fans, well-wishers and respected journalists.”

I want my work to definemy identity: Niha Chowdhury

Entertainment Desk

Model and actress Niha Chowdhury has begun a new chapter in acting with the single-episode drama ‘Chhuye Dilam Tomay’, opposite Tawshif Mahbub. Although she previously appeared in a BTV serial, she considers this a fresh start. In an interview with Md Jahidul Islam



of the Daily Sun, Niha discussed her acting journey, working experiences, social media influence and future aspirations. There is no extraordinary story behind my decision. I have wanted to act since childhood but never had the right opportunity. ‘Chhuye Dilam Tomay’ happened quite unexpectedly. One day, director Rubel bhai’s team contacted me, and filming began within two or three days. Everything happened very quickly. However, my interest in acting goes back many years. Last year, I also completed an acting course and joined theatre to develop my skills. My love for acting ultimately brought me here. How was your experience working on your first drama? It was wonderful. Everyone welcomed me warmly and made me feel comfortable. Many people working in the industry watched my work and encouraged me. Some appreciated my acting and expressed interest in seeing me in future productions. Such encouragement gives a newcomer confidence to move forward. Did you find acting in front of the camera challenging?

Initially, it was somewhat challenging, particularly because I was still getting accustomed to performing before the camera. However, the nervousness gradually disappeared, and I began enjoying the experience.

Adhora accuses director of unprofessional behaviour

She also said, “I have been silent for so long because I did not want my statement to have any negative impact on the ongoing shooting of the film or the work of co-stars and crew associated with it. However, this experience has caused me to face major financial and professional losses.

While waiting for ‘Violence’, I could not take up several important international work opportunities, including Hollywood. Due to contractual confidentiality obligations, I can’t disclose the details of those projects.

At the same time, I have also received warnings from my casting director and agency here for not being able to maintain other work schedules and professional commitments for this film.

It was also very disappointing for me that they tried to contact me just a day before my shooting for this film. I got involved with ‘Violence’ out of my genuine love for Bengali cinema.” Referring to the incident as a lesson for her, the actress further wrote, “This experience will be a big lesson for me. I also see joining this project without further considering the issues of proper professionalism, communication and mutual respect as a big ‘mistake’ of my career. My intention in writing this is not to belittle anyone or harm any film; rather, to clarify my experience and position by answering questions from my fans, well-wishers and respected journalists.”





Australia 'closely monitoring' after attacks on Asian Cup host Saudi Arabia



Sports Desk
Football Australia told AFP on Tuesday it was "closely monitoring" the situation in 2027 Asian Cup host Saudi Arabia following attacks by the Iran-backed Houthi group. Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr had their Asian Champions League match delayed by an hour on Monday after the Saudi-led military coalition said it had intercepted a missile fired by the Houthis towards Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, which is due to host Asia's continental showpiece in January and February, has recently come under a series of attacks

from the group, including strikes on oil facilities, tankers and transport hubs. There have also been deadly hits on Riyadh's international airport. With kickoff to the 24-team Asian Cup less than three months away, Football Australia said it was "closely monitoring the situation in Saudi Arabia". "The safety and wellbeing of our players, staff and supporters remains paramount," a spokesperson told AFP. "Our experienced security team is actively monitoring developments and providing regular updates. Risk assessment is part of our planning for every national team camp, and it will be a key focus of our preparations for January." Australian football authorities are in contact with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) "regarding its plans for the tournament", the spokesperson said. AFP has approached regional football governing body the AFC for comment. The Asian Cup is scheduled to begin on January 7 and take place in Riyadh, Jeddah and Al Khobar.

Liton sets world record on his 32nd birthday



Sports Desk
Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter Liton Das has inscribed his name in Test cricket history with an outstanding performance in the Abu Dhabi Test against Afghanistan, becoming the first wicketkeeper to score 50 or more runs in both innings and register nine dismissals in a match. The record came on a day when he was celebrating his 32nd birthday. However Afghanistan eked out a draw by producing a stellar show of stubbornness amid shimmering weather. Liton reached the milestone on the fifth day when he took a spectacular diving catch to dismiss Afghanistan's Ikrām Alikhil off the bowling of Ebadot Hossain on the stroke of lunch session.

The catch was Liton's eighth of the match. He also completed a stumping to take his total dismissals to nine. With the bat, Liton scored 53 in Bangladesh's first innings before playing a sublime 102 in the second innings. He eclipsed the previous benchmark set by South Africa's Dennis Lindsay, who scored 69 and 182 against Australia in Johannesburg in 1966 and recorded eight dismissals, including six catches in the first innings and two in

the second. Liton also was on the verge of the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in a single Test match but he later could add any to his nine dismissals in the match. England's Jack Russell, South Africa's AB de Villiers and India's Rishabh Pant recorded 11 dismissals each. Russell achieved the feat against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1995. De Villiers equalled the mark against Pakistan at the same venue in 2013, while Pant recorded 11 dismissals against Australia in Adelaide in 2018. Before the fifth day, Liton had already set a Bangladesh record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in a Test match, surpassing Khaled Mashud's seven against Zimbabwe in 2004.



Afghanistan bat out 142 overs to deny Bangladesh victory

Sports Desk
Afghanistan batted for 142 overs to save the one-off Test against Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. They finished on 346 for eight after spending the final day fighting to avoid defeat. Sediqullah Atal led the resistance with his maiden Test century, scoring 111 off 332 balls, while Qais Ahmad struck two sixes in the final over to cap a tense finish. Afghanistan had been set a target of 479 and needed to survive the day after resuming at 132 for three. Bangladesh had put themselves in a strong position by taking a 106-run first-innings lead. They scored 346 before dismissing Afghanistan for 240, then declared their second innings at 372 for seven. Atal, who had scored 35 not out at the end of the fourth day, continued to frustrate Bangladesh's bowlers. His innings included nine fours and three sixes. Rahmat Shah made 51 off 124 balls before Ebadot Hossain had him caught behind by

Litton Das. Hashmatullah Shahidi added 36, while Ikrām Alikhil scored 33. Bangladesh kept taking wickets but could not finish the job. Ebadot claimed three for 50 and Mehidy Islam finally removed Atal in the 119th over, leaving Afghanistan at 281 for seven and giving Bangladesh a chance to dismiss the tail. But Afghanistan's lower order held on. Bangladesh missed two run-out opportunities and Hasan Mahmud dropped a catch, allowing the visitors to extend their resistance. Yamin Ahmadzai faced 85 balls for his 19 before falling to Miraz. Zia-ur-Rehman then helped see out the remaining overs, while Qais, struggling with hamstring cramps, remained unbeaten on 49 off 80 balls. With the draw assured in the final over, Qais launched Taijul for two sixes, the second clearing deep midwicket off the last ball. Afghanistan's 142 overs of batting made this one of the longest fourth-innings rearguards in Test cricket by a team saving a draw.



Women's hockey development programme begins in Thakurgaon

Sports Desk
The second phase of the 'BRAC Bank Aparajeyo Alo Women's Hockey Development Programme began at Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium in Thakurgaon today, aiming to promote women's hockey at the grassroots level and develop talented players. The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), with sponsorship from BRAC Bank, is organising the month-long programme to identify and nurture promising young female hockey players. BRAC Bank regional head manager Md Fazlul Kabir inaugurated the programme as the chief guest. Among others, Thakurgaon District Sports Association and Bangladesh Handball Federation member Md Mohebbullah Abu Nur Chowdhury, Thakurgaon District Sports Officer Md Yamin Hossain, District Sports Association and Women's District Sports Association members Anjuman Ara Parvin and Aziza Akter Jahan, and District Sports Association and BHF member Abu Yasin Md Masud Rana attended the inaugural ceremony. Speakers said women's participation and success in Bangladesh's sports arena were increasing day by day. They expressed hope that the initiative would help unearth talented female hockey players from Thakurgaon who could represent the country at national and international levels. The programme began with trials and training sessions. Selected young female players from the district will receive modern and advanced coaching during the month-long initiative.



Hockey Dhaka United, Shishu Kishore Sangha notch win

Sports Desk
Hockey Dhaka United and Shishu Kishore Sangha won their respective matches in the First Division Hockey League held at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium here today (Tuesday). In the day's first match, Hockey Dhaka United recorded a convincing 6-1 victory over Dhaka Yung Star. They dominated the first half, taking a commanding 5-0 lead. Nazmul Sabit Mahmud scored twice from field goals for the winners', while Mohammad Rifat, Rajib Das and Ashrafal Alam added one field goal each. Mohammad Ramim Hossain scored the other goal from a penalty corner. Elias scored the consolation goal for Dhaka Yung Star from a penalty corner late in the match. In the day's second match, Shishu Kishore Sangha defeated Combined SC 2-0 in a closely contested encounter. After a goalless first half, Mohammad Rabbi broke the deadlock with a field goal in the second half before Mohammad Tahsan added another field goal to seal the victory for Shishu Kishore Sangha.

Zheng Qinwen withdraws from Wuhan Open with shoulder injury

Sports Desk
Chinese tennis star Zheng Qinwen withdrew from the Wuhan Open on Monday due to a shoulder injury, a day after winning her first WTA title in two years at the China Open and celebrating with a karaoke performance for fans. Olympic gold medalist Zheng and French Open champion Mirra Andreeva, who lost to Zheng 7-5, 6-4 in Sunday's China Open final, both pulled out of the WTA 1000 tournament in Wuhan. Zheng said she had been feeling exhausted after a demanding schedule over the past six weeks, which included the US Open, the Billie Jean King Cup and the China Open. "Since returning from injury ... I have played a demanding stretch of tennis over the past month and a half, competing at the U.S. Open, the Billie Jean King Cup, and the China Open. My body is feeling very fatigued after this intense run of matches," Zheng said in a statement released by the WTA. "I look forward to returning to the Wuhan Open next year and stepping onto the court in my best possible form!" she added. Andreeva, who has climbed to No. 3 in the world rankings, cited a change in her schedule as the reason for withdrawing from the Wuhan tournament. Zheng's victory in Beijing marked a major step in her comeback after a difficult year. An elbow injury caused her ranking to drop from a career-high fourth last year to 160th this season. She entered the China Open last week ranked 54th after receiving a wildcard entry. Following her title-winning performance, she is set to return to the world's top 30, according to the WTA.

Arafat Rahman Koko's idea to be followed to unearth cricketing talents

Sports Desk
The Arafat Rahman Koko Memorial Trust has outlined a nationwide T20 cricket tournament and 10 regional academies to revive grassroots cricket and rebuild Bangladesh's player-development pipeline by following the model introduced by Koko during his tenure at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). The proposed tournament and academies are intended to create a more structured pathway for young cricketers, from grassroots competitions to higher levels of domestic cricket and eventually the national team, a model Arafat Rahman successfully executed during his tenure in shaping Bangladesh cricket. Arafat Rahman Koko, the youngest son of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, served as Chairman of the BCB's Games Development Committee from 2002 to 2005. During his tenure, several initiatives were taken to bolster age-group cricket and improve the country's player-development structure. He was also active in developing the BCB's talent pipeline, with players like Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad subsequently becoming stalwarts in Bangladesh cricket. Koko, himself a cricketer, furthermore promoted a more professional approach to cricket, helping create opportunities for players and officials to pursue the game as a full-time profession. As part of a wider cricket development programme, the BCB's High Performance (HP) programme was established to improve the skills of promising cricketers. Koko also emphasized grassroots development, including the appointment of coaches in 64 districts and the regular organization of district leagues alongside school cricket. These initiatives helped strengthen the foundations of Bangladesh's cricketing talent pipeline. Bangladesh cricket eventually reaped the reward of that pipeline when Tamim, the incumbent BCB President and co. had produced glittering performance that saw Bangladesh played 2015 World Cup quarterfinal and 2017 ICC Champions Trophy semifinal. In this period, they played Asia Cup final several times and also clinched a tri-nation trophy ahead of 2019 World Cup. However, district-level cricket has struggled to maintain the momentum of earlier years, leaving the domestic game increasingly centred on Dhaka. The decline in opportunities outside the capital has raised concerns about the depth of the national talent pool and the ability to produce quality replacements for established players. The consequences are evident in Bangladesh's dependence on

a relatively small group of cricketers across all three international formats. Leading cricketing nations like Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand and India have greater squad depth, allowing them to field separate teams in Tests, ODIs and T20Is during overlapping schedules in different parts of the world. Bangladesh, by contrast, often relies on the same five or six key players across formats. The demanding workload leaves them with limited opportunities for rest and recovery, increasing the risk of injuries and placing additional pressure on the team. BCB Director Sharforaj Ahmed, who also coordinates the Arafat Rahman Koko Memorial Trust, believes Koko's development model could help address these problems by expanding the pool of players available for national selection.

"While we came up with several plans, we were not given any space to work with cricket through our trust during the last 17 years," Sharforaj told BSS. He said the trust's immediate priorities were to organize a nationwide T20 tournament and establish cricket academies in regional centres to provide emerging players with greater opportunities to develop their skills in collaboration with the BCB.

The proposed T20 tournament will be organised in 10 regional phases, covering the country's eight administrative divisions, with Faridpur and Cumilla treated as separate regions.

The champions from each region will qualify for the final phase in Dhaka, where the semifinals and final will be held. "There are many cricketers in remote areas of our country who do not get opportunities to play. Through this tournament, they will get a chance to participate in a good competition," Sharforaj said. There will be no specific player-category restrictions for the competition. Cricketers from the national team, the Premier League, first division and other levels will be eligible to participate, subject to their availability during the tournament. Sharforaj said the competition would be organised entirely by the trust, with the primary objective of developing a broader talent pool for the BCB. "This will be entirely under the Arafat Rahman Koko Memorial Trust...The organiser is the Arafat Rahman Koko Memorial Trust," he said. Alongside the tournament, the trust plans to establish 10 cricket academies to provide budding cricketers with structured coaching and improved training facilities. "The academies will be held in 10 divisions, although there is eight division in the country but for cricket we have 10 regional phases. We are determined to establish 10 academies to give the budding cricketers of those regions world class facilities," he said.



Sports Desk

Gianni Infantino could survive weeks of criticism and secure re-election as FIFA president in the absence of a heavy hitter to challenge him, observers have told AFP. The 56-year-old Swiss has lost the support of many associations in his bid to be re-elected to a fourth and final term since he launched and then hastily shelved his plan to allow private investment into the World Cup.

Infantino, though, does crucially retain his core support in Africa and South America.

His FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) plan, which came to light in July just after the hugely successful World Cup, would have created a commercial subsidiary to run FIFA's biggest events, such as the World Cup.

However, with two of his fiercest critics, Aleksander Ceferin and reportedly Victor Montagliani opting to run for re-election as heads of European governing body UEFA and North American grouping CONCACAF respectively, the opposition to Infantino is desperately seeking a viable candidate to challenge him in the election next March. Candidates have to declare by November 18. Terrence Burns, who was marketing strategist for two successful World Cup hosting bids, said Infantino was always in the box seat.

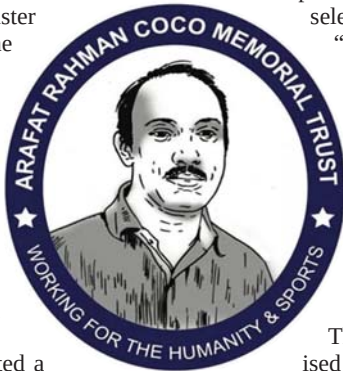
"He holds all the cards and always has," he told AFP. "Any prospective challenger at this point feels either performative or strategic to cut deals."

Former International Olympic Committee (IOC) marketing chief Michael Payne said "everyone is surprised" that no serious candidate has come forward to challenge Infantino.

"If he is re-elected, which is looking increasingly likely, it will redefine the term Houdini," Payne told AFP. Long-time Infantino critic Lise Klaveness, the head of the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF), has impressed many but has ruled out running.

However, even if Klaveness changed her mind she would face a huge challenge in becoming the first woman to run world football and emulate Kirsty Coventry, who last year became the first woman elected as IOC president.

"People within the IOC administration were working towards the goal of Coventry being elected, as (her predecessor) Thomas Bach's wish was for her to be president," a source close to the world of football governance, who asked not to be identified, told AFP. "Lise faces exactly the opposite. FIFA staff would be working to stop her being elected." - Legal challenges -





Final Preparations for Durga Puja Underway at 54 Mandaps in Atrai; Artisans Busy Crafting Idols



Nazmul Haque Nahid, Atrai (Naogaon)

Correspondent: The grandest religious festival, Sharadiya Durga Puja, is set to begin with the invocation of Goddess Durga the symbol of motherhood and power for the Hindu community to the earthly realm. A festive spirit has descended upon nature, ushered in by the pristine white Kash flowers of autumn and the clear blue sky. Amidst this, the principal religious festival of the Hindu community, Sharadiya Durga Puja, is fast approaching. Extensive preparations are underway in Atrai, Naogaon, for the occasion. Artisans are working tirelessly to craft the idols, putting the finishing touches on painting and ornamentation day and night. Simultaneously, preparations regarding the decoration and illumination of the puja mandaps (worship pavilions) are progressing steadily. Organizers stated that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure the festival is celebrated in a peaceful and joyous atmosphere. A visit to various puja mandaps in the upazila revealed artisans crafting the image of Goddess Durga using clay, bamboo, straw, twine, and paint, infusing the work with their artistic touch. Working day and night, they are skillfully sculpting the idols of Kartikeya, Ganesha, Lakshmi, Saraswati, and Asura alongside Goddess Durga. The idol-making process is now in its final stages. Artisans from various locations, alongside local craftsmen, are showcasing their skills through intricate painting. Meanwhile, makers of traditional musical instruments such as dhak (drums), dhol, kashi (gongs), and flutes are also busy repairing and crafting instruments for the festival. Local Hindus describe Durga Puja as one of their most significant religious festivals. The festival brings them together for joy, prayer, and family reunions. Wishing for everyone's happiness, peace, and well-being, they expressed hope that the festival would be celebrated in a peaceful and joyous atmosphere. They also voiced the expectation that the bonds of harmony would be further strengthened through the participation of people across all religions and backgrounds. Sharadiya Durga Puja, the largest religious festival for the Hindu community, is set to begin with the invocation of Goddess Durga the embodiment of motherhood and power to the earthly realm. The main rituals of the festival will commence next week with Shasthi Puja. As the festival approaches, idol artisans in the Atrai Upazila of Naogaon are busy with

the final touches of decorating the idols.

With the skillful touch of artisans, the clay modeling phase is complete, and the painting process is now underway. Idols of various deities, including the ten-armed Goddess Durga, are being brought to life through the artists' brushstrokes. For followers of the Sanatan faith, Goddess Durga symbolizes power and beauty. Every year, the Goddess descends to earth to vanquish evil; thus, devotees believe this festival is

organized to eradicate injustice, inequity, and impurity from society.

Preparations for decorating the temples are in full swing to ensure the festival is celebrated in all its grandeur. After constructing the structural frameworks of the idols using straw, wood, thread, and clay, the artisans are now applying paint. With deft hands, they are painting the idols of Goddess Durga, Saraswati, Lakshmi, Ganesha, and others. Women artisans from the families are also assisting the men in the idol-making process. However, the cost of idols has risen due to the increased price of raw materials.

The five-day-long Sharadiya Durga Puja the Hindu community's largest religious festival will take place from October 1 to October 5. In addition to local artisans, artists from various other locations have arrived to craft and paint the idols. Meanwhile, alongside the idol makers, artisans crafting traditional musical instruments such as dhak (drums), dhol, kan-shi (gongs), and flutes are also busy at work. With the global COVID-19 pandemic situation having largely subsided, followers of the Sanatan faith are preparing to welcome the Goddess.

Idol artisan Jugol Kumar stated that the painting process would begin within a day or two. "I am working with the utmost focus to ensure the idols are crafted beautifully and flawlessly. I hope to complete the work ahead of schedule," he said.

He added, "Although the cost of materials for making the idols has risen, buyers are offering low prices. I am compelled to sell them at these rates, so I am not seeing much profit." Atrai Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md. Moniruzzaman stated that necessary supervision and security measures have been strengthened to ensure the Puja is celebrated with due religious solemnity and safety at every mandap (worship venue).

Md. Mahabun Alam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Atrai Police Station, spoke about the preparations for the festival.

He mentioned that law enforcement agencies are maintaining a vigilant watch to ensure the peaceful conclusion of Sharadiya Durga Puja, the largest religious festival for the Sanatan community. A three-tier security arrangement has been implemented, and Sub-Inspectors (SIs) and Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) have been assigned to oversee various mandaps and conduct regular patrols. He expressed hope that no untoward incidents would occur during this year's Puja but sought everyone's cooperation to ensure this.

46th anniversary of daily runner newspaper celebrated in Fakirhat



S A Kalam, Fakirhat, Bagerhat. In Fakirhat, Bagerhat, the 46th anniversary of the daily runner newspaper published from Jessore and Dhaka was celebrated. On this occasion, a colorful rally and discussion meeting were held. On Tuesday (October 13) at 10 AM, the colorful rally started from the premises of the Upazila Parishad expanded complex building and circled various roads. Later, a discussion meeting was held. The chief guest at the event was the Upazila Executive Officer Md. Rokunuj Zaman. The discussion was presided over by the Fakirhat correspondent of daily runner newspaper and general

secretary of Fakirhat Journalists Union S M Moniruzzaman Moni. During this time, the Upazila BNP President Sheikh Kamrul Islam Gora, Upazila Agricultural Officer Sheikh Sakhowat Hossain, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Imrul Kayes, Secondary Education Officer Md. Golam Mostafa, Social Service Officer Subrata Kumar Biswas, Women's Affairs Officer Tahira Khatun, Cooperative Officer Milan Kumar Das, Assistant Programmer Md. Alomgir Hossain, Upazila Academic Supervisor Asaduzzaman, DG of Rural Electricity Anand Kumar Kundu, Secretary of Upazila Jamaat-e-Islami Abul Ala Masum, Acting Station Officer of Fakirhat Fire Service Md. Shahjahan Mia, President of Fakirhat Journalists Union Manna Dey, Joint General Secretary M Zakir Hossain, Sports and Cultural Affairs Secretary Sheikh Asaduzzaman, Publicity Secretary Syed Anuj, Member Syed Jalis Mamud, S A Kalam, Sheikh Azmal Hossain, and Journalist Sardar Hafizur Rahman were also present.

After 23 Years, Selim Uddin Regains Possession of 21 Decimals of Ancestral Cropland Occupied by Others



Aminul Haque Bulbul, Nandail (Mymensingh) Correspondent

After 23 long years, Md. Selim Uddin has regained possession of 21 decimals of ancestral cropland that was under the occupation of others in Nandail, Mymensingh.

The land was handed over to him at around 11:00 AM on Tuesday (October 13) with the cooperation of the upazila administration and police, in light of a court verdict. Selim Uddin is the son of the late Asir Uddin of Bir Kamatkhal village under Bir Betagair Union of the upazila.

According to the details of the incident, the two sons of the late Hashmat Mandal, Akhtar Uddin and Asir Uddin, were own brothers. They had equal shares in 42 decimals of land. That is, each had a share of 21 decimals. But Akhtar Uddin sold his younger brother Asir Uddin's 21 decimals of land in addition to his own 21 decimals. As a result, a total of 42 decimals of land was sold to Moj



Fugitive Sentenced to 10 Years in 20 Robbery and Arms Cases Arrested in Cumilla

Police arrest Shahjalal in an early-morning raid in Chandina

M A Khayer Emon, Cumilla Correspondent

CUMILLA, October 13, 2026: Chandina Police have arrested a fugitive convict sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in connection with 20 robbery and arms cases in Cumilla district.

The accused, Shahjalal, 48, was arrested during an operation in the Chhagurapara area of Mahichail Union under Chandina Upazila at around 4:30am on Tuesday, October 13, according to a press release issued by Chandina Police Station. Shahjalal is the son of the late Abu Taher and a permanent resident of Chhagurapara village in Mahichail Union, Chandina, Cumilla.

Police Conduct Early-Morning Operation

According to the police press release, the operation was conducted under the direction of the Superintendent of Police in Cumilla and the overall supervision of the Assistant Superintendent of Police of Daudkandi Circle.

An experienced team from Chandina Police Station, led by the Officer-in-Charge, carried out the operation in the Mahichail Union area and arrested Shahjalal from Chhagurapara.

Fugitive Convict Arrested

Police said Shahjalal had been sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in connection with 20 robbery and arms cases and had remained at large.

His arrest came as part of the police operation to apprehend the fugitive convict.

Further legal proceedings against the arrested man are expected to follow in accordance with the law. However, the police press release did not provide details regarding whether he had been produced before a court.

Under the leadership of Mr. Abdul Halim, Officer-in-Charge of Zorarganj Thana, conducting operations



Staff Reporter. Zorarganj Police Station, Chattogram

In an operation by Zorarganj Thana Police - 01 accused in a previous case, 01 accused with CR warrant and 6-month CR sentence warrant, 01 accused under CR warrant and 04 drug abusers sentenced.

Under the leadership of Mr. Abdul Halim, Officer-in-Charge of Zorarganj Thana, conducting operations.

SI (Unarmed) Matiur Rahman along with fellow officers and force conducted an operation and arrested Md. Nur Hossain (24), father - Amir Hossain, mother - Rokhana Akter, Village - West Alinagar, Ward No. 8, No. 1 Karethat UP, PS - Zorarganj, District - Chattogram, who was a suspected accused in the investigation of Zorarganj Thana Case No. - 05, Date - 07/10/2024, Sections - 143/341/323/325/326/307/379/506/109/114 Penal Code, from Madhyam Karethat Bazar at 00:10 hours on 23/10/2026.

ASI (Unarmed) Md. Abdul Momin along with fellow officers and force arrested a total of 02 accused: 1. Badsha, father - Rabiul Haque, Village - Sattarua, present Koyla, PS - Zorarganj, District - Chattogram, who was convicted in Forest Case No. 14/17, Section - 26(1A) of the Forest Act and accused in Forest Case No. 242/22 (Zorarganj), Section - 26(1A)(Kha)(Gha) of the Forest Act, from Sattarua area under Zorarganj Thana on 12/09/2026 at 20:30 hours, and Md. Didar, father - Late Nurul Amin Driver, Village - Koyla, Post Office - Koyla Bazar, PS - Zorarganj, District - Chattogram, accused in Forest - 97/23 (Zorarganj), Section - 26(1A)(Kha)(Gha) of the Forest Act, from Koyla Bazar area under Zorarganj Thana on 12/09/2026 at 21:30 hours.

As part of the anti-narcotics operation under the leadership of Mr. Abdul Halim, Officer-in-Charge of Zorarganj Thana, under the direction of the Honorable Range DIG, Chattogram, regular opera-

tion

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Rally and discussion meeting on the occasion of International Disaster Mitigation Day in Bakerganj Bakerganj (Barisal) Correspondent.

A rally and discussion meeting was held on the occasion of International Disaster Mitigation Day at Barisal's Bakerganj with the theme of "Starting from Home, Building a Disaster Resilient Country".

On Tuesday (October 13), various programs were held on the occasion of the day organized by the Upazila Administration and Disaster Management Department.

BNP President Nasir Uddin Jomaddar, General Secretary Shahabuddin Talukdar Shahin, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Md Kamruzzaman, Upazila Women Affairs Officer Khan Shamim Parvez, President of Reporters Unity Danisur Rahman Limon and others attended the discussion under the chairmanship of Upazila Assistant Commissioner Bhumi Avhryjoti Baral. This program is organized with the aim of reducing the risk of disasters, increasing public awareness and strengthening disaster preparedness. Representatives of upazila administration, officials of various organizations, representatives of development support organizations and related persons participated in it. The program highlights the importance of advance preparedness, awareness raising, disaster resilience building at household level and collective initiatives to reduce disaster losses. Upazila project implementation officer Md. Kamruzzaman said that only government initiatives are not enough to deal with disasters; Rather, it is important to increase awareness and preparedness at the family, community and local levels. Through collective efforts it is possible to reduce disaster risk and build a safe and disaster resilient society. Related organizations including Wave Foundation, ACT, Oxfam, NSS, CIPRB and Saint-Bangladesh are cooperating in the program.

A drug dealer was arrested with 286 pitch yaba at night in Mohipur



Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

Mohipur police station of Patuakhali from Char Dhulasar Gangamati area of Dhulasar Union on Monday night. A team of Narcotics Control Patuakhali has recovered 286 pieces of Yaba from a person named Russell (32). A regular case against him is under process at Mahipur

alert and cooperate with the administration.

Mohipur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Shamim Howladar said, preparations are underway for a case against Russell under the Narcotics Act, he was handed over to the Kalapara court on Tuesday afternoon.

Transforming Paba's Borgachi Union Chairman Md. Helal Uddin's Commendable Success in Curbing Drugs, Terrorism, and Child Marriage

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

A wave of visible development and social transformation is sweeping across Borgachi Union No. 8 under Paba Upazila in Rajshahi. Under the overall direction and dynamic leadership of the local Union Parishad (UP)

Chairman, unprecedented success has been achieved in making the area free from drugs, terrorism, and child marriage, as well as in developing local infrastructure.

Zero Tolerance for Drugs and Terrorism

UP Chairman Md. Helal Uddin has adopted a zero-tolerance policy to protect the union from the deadly grip of drugs and all forms of terrorist activities. Through regular awareness meetings, close coordination with law enforcement agencies, and the active cooperation of locals, it has been possible to dismantle criminal networks. As a result, a safe living environment and peace have once again been restored for general citizens in the area.

Paving Mud Roads and Infrastructure Development

Efforts to improve the communication system have been intensified to relieve union residents of their long-standing commuting troubles. Paving unpaved (muddy) roads, renovating drainage systems, and modernizing key locations including local bazaars are progressing rapidly. Thanks to the newly constructed paved roads, local farmers, traders, and students can now reach their destinations safely and quickly, breathing new life into the area's overall economic activities.

Social Movement to Prevent Child Marriage Child marriage remains one of the major issues in rural areas. To make Borgachi Union completely free of child marriage, strict monitoring and social resistance have been established. Joining hands with local Kazis (marriage registrars), teachers,

and youth, Chairman Md. Helal Uddin and his panel have directly intervened to stop multiple child marriages. Alongside this, awareness programs highlighting the importance of education and the harmful effects of child marriage are being vigorously conducted among parents and young girls.

Residents' Satisfaction and Vision for the Future

Expressing their satisfaction, local residents shared, "Under the capable leader-

ship and tireless efforts of the current Chairman, Md. Helal Uddin, peace has returned to our area. Road issues have mostly been resolved, and criminal activities have significantly decreased."

Regarding these achievements, Chairman Md. Helal Uddin stated, "My primary goal is to build Borgachi Union into a modern, safe, and model union. Our fight against drugs, terrorism, and child marriage will continue. Driven by the love and trust of the common people, I want to work for the overall development of this union until the very end."

Local civil society members hope that if this positive trend of transformation continues, Borgachi Union will soon earn recognition as one of the top exemplary and socially conscious unions in Paba Upazila.



Ice cream factory in Pirojpur's Nesarabad fined Tk 20,000 for unhygienic production

Nesarabad Correspondent

A mobile court has fined a factory named 'Ruchi Ice Cream' Tk 20,000 in Nesarabad, Pirojpur, for producing ice cream in unhygienic conditions and lacking a packaging registration certificate. A large quantity of ice cream was seized from the factory and destroyed in public view. Additionally, orders were issued to keep the factory closed until the necessary documents and approvals are obtained. The raid was conducted on Tuesday (October 13) afternoon at the 'Ruchi Ice Cream' factory, owned by local resident Abul Hossain, in the NW Bazar area of ??Sohagdol village.

Nesarabad Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Md. Raihan Mahmud led the operation. The factory owner was fined Tk 20,000 after evidence was found of ice cream production in unhygienic conditions and the manufacturing and sale of products without a packaging registration certificate. According to local sources, Abul Hossain had been producing ice cream at the factory for a long time without the required documents or approvals. Upon learning of this, the raid was carried out on Tuesday afternoon. After confirming the irregularities, the mobile court imposed the fine and destroyed the seized ice cream publicly. Furthermore, a written undertaking was obtained from the owner promising not to resume factory operations until the necessary documents and approvals were secured. Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md. Raihan Mahmud stated that the fine was imposed under the Weights and Measures Standards Act, 2018, for the offense of producing and selling ice cream in an unhygienic manner without a packaging registration certificate. An order to keep the factory closed was also issued via the written undertaking. Anti-adulteration drives will continue in the public interest. Md. Tahsin Alam, an inspector from BSTI Barishal, was present as the prosecutor during the mobile court proceedings. A team from the Nesarabad Police Station was also present at the scene.



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction Celebrated in Rajapur

Md. Ohid Saiful, Rajapur Correspondent

With the theme "Start from Home, Build a Disaster-Resilient Country," the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction has been celebrated in Rajapur, Jhalakathi. On the occasion, a colorful rally, firefighting and rescue drill, and a discussion meeting were held on Tuesday (October 13) morning.

A colorful rally was brought out from the upazila parishad premises at 9:30 AM. After the rally, a disaster management drill was demonstrated on the upazila parishad premises at the initiative of Rajapur Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Later, a discussion meeting was held in the conference room of the upazila parishad. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rifat Ara Mouri, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Md. Abul Bashar, Station Officer of Rajapur Fire Service Md. Abul Kalam Azad, journalists Md. Ohid Saiful and Abdur Rahim and other concerned persons were present.

The meeting discussed raising public awareness to reduce disaster damage, taking advance preparations, and what to do during disasters.