



PM for nurturing reading habit promoting cultural heritage among youths

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today instructed the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to take initiatives to develop a reading habit among the younger generations and promote the country's rich cultural heritage among the youths. "We need to consider whether books can be brought to children through mobile libraries. At the same time, emphasis should be placed on developing reading habits through arranging reading circles,

book-reading competitions and other such initiatives," he said. The Prime Minister made the remarks at a meeting with officials during his visit to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs at the Secretariat as part of his regular activities, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadin. At the meeting, the ministry presented its programmes and plans centring on the Lalon Festival and Nazrul Year. The Prime Minister was also briefed on ongoing and proposed programmes for the winter cultural festi-

val scheduled to be held from December to May. The proposed festival will feature circus, folk culture, boat races, kite festivals, horse racing, puppet shows, diverse cultural events and programmes involving persons with disabilities, the meeting was told. Representatives of the July Museum, the Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum, Bangla Academy, the

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PM inspects mobile lab for food safety testing

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today inspected a mobile laboratory van at the Secretariat, observing how food samples are collected and tested to ensure safety. The Prime Minister inspected the van this morning before entering his office at the Secretariat, said his Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. He entered the mobile laboratory, stationed at the premises of the Prime Minister's Office at the Cabinet Division and observed its testing procedures as officials briefed him on its activities. Officials informed the prime minister that food sample testing and monitoring had been intensified as part of anti-adulteration drives across the country. Currently, mobile laboratories are being used to test food samples and monitor food safety in eight metropolitan areas, with plans to gradually expand the operations to all 64 districts. The activities are conducted through mobile courts led by executive magistrates and separately under the supervision of the Bangladesh Food

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Rizvi alleges plot by fallen regime associates to destabilise country

Staff correspondent

BNP acting Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on Wednesday alleged that the associates of the fallen fascist regime are trying to create instability across the country to put the government in an awkward situation. He made the allegation while speaking at a programme in Gazirtek of Charbhadrasan upazila, where he handed over the keys to a newly built house for the family of Lokai Biswas on behalf of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The programme, organised under the supervision of "Amra BNP Poribar", also featured the distribution of medical assistance and cash aid to disadvantaged families, along with sewing machines to sup-

port women's employment. "Leaders of the former fascist regime looted the country's banks, siphoned off wealth abroad and are now living lavishly while conspiring against the country from overseas," Rizvi said. He also said the harassment of former interim government Chief Adviser and Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in a New York airport tarnished Bangladesh's international image. Referring to recent fuel price adjustments, the BNP leader said the government was forced to adjust domestic fuel prices amid increases in global oil prices linked to the war. He urged BNP leaders and activists at all levels to remain united. The programme was presided over by Faridpur-4

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Zorarganj Thana Police, 702 sacks of raw material for plastic manufacturing were recovered

M Oliullah Nizami Chattogram district correspondent

Zorarganj Police Station, Chattogram. In an operation by Zorarganj Thana Police, 702 sacks of raw material for plastic manufacturing were recovered in connection with smuggling, 01 accused arrested and 01 covered van seized, 01 accused arrested on CR conviction warrant, and 06 accused arrested under Section 151 Cr.P.C. Under the leadership of Officer-in-Charge of Zorarganj Police Station, Mr. Abdul Halim, operations were conducted. SI (Unarmed) Abdullah Al Masud along with accompanying officer and force set up a temporary checkpoint on the paved road of the Dhaka-bound

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PM attends Salah Uddin Ahmed's namaz-e-janaza

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman today attended the first namaz-e-janaza of former lawmaker and BNP commerce affairs secretary Salah Uddin Ahmed at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The Prime Minister paid tribute to the deceased by placing a wreath on his coffin and standing there for a while. Earlier, Military Secretary to the President Major General ASM Bahauiddin placed a wreath on the coffin on behalf of President Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, paying his respects to the former lawmaker. Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Deputy

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Govt approves LNG purchases from five international suppliers

Staff correspondent

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recommended in-principle approval for proposals to procure liquefied natural gas (LNG) from five international suppliers to maintain the country's gas supply and meet emergency energy needs. The recommendations came at the committee's 33rd meeting of 2026, held virtually yesterday (on October 13) with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair where two proposals from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division were presented and discussed. The first proposal sought in-principle approval to process LNG supply proposals submitted by Cheniere Marketing International LLP and Trafigra Pte Ltd under the government-to-government (G2G) method. The proposal cited Section 68 of the Public Procurement Act, 2006, and Rules 99(2) and 107(2) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2025. The second proposal sought in-principle approval to purchase LNG directly from BP Singapore Pte. Limited, Sahara Energy Resource Limited and Shell International Trading Middle East Limited FZE to maintain an uninterrupted gas supply in the country in the

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Final Approval for Release of 11 Lots of Goods at Chattogram Customs; Revenue Collection Hits Tk 3.51 Crore



Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The auction branch of the Chattogram Custom House has finally granted delivery orders (DO) to Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory Limited (BMTF) for releasing 11 lots of goods purchased through auction. Following the verification of necessary information and payment of requisite dues, the

delivery order was issued on Tuesday (October 13) via a letter signed by Piyush Kumar Biswas, Revenue Officer of Customs. According to customs sources, a total of Tk 2,81,24,211.70—representing 60 percent of the reserve price for these 11 lots—was deposited into the government treasury. This payment was made through a pay order issued by the Gazipur Cantonment branch of Trust Bank Limited. Additionally, Tk 42,18,631.76 was collected as Value Added Tax (VAT), and Tk 28,12,421.77 was realized as Advance Income Tax (AIT). In total, government revenue amounting to Tk 3,51,55,264.63 was collected across these three sectors.

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Illegal Sand Extraction in Brahmaputra River Continues Unabated, Complaint Lodged with Prime Minister's Office

Omar Faruk Khan Jony, Hossainpur (Kishoreganj) Correspondent

Illegal sand extraction and sale from the Old Brahmaputra River in Hossainpur of Kishoreganj continues. According to locals, sand selling cannot be stopped even after conducting mobile courts. This has raised fears of damage to riverbanks, agricultural land, homesteads and public property. Written applications have been submitted to the Prime Minister's Office and various concerned departments seeking necessary action. On September 30, the application was made on behalf of Saheber Char Hajibari area of Hossainpur Upazila by former Upazila Parishad Chairman and Upazila BNP Convener Zahirul Islam Mobin. The application states that a syndicate has been illegally extracting and selling sand for a long time from the opposite side of the Old Brahmaputra River outside Saheber Char Hajibari area. As the river bank is being cut during sand extraction, the natural environment of the river and the stability of the bank are being destroyed. The application further

states that as a result, agricultural land, homesteads, roads and other property of common people on the riverbank are being damaged. Unplanned sand extraction is making the riverbed and banks deeper and weaker. As a result, river erosion is accelerating and local farmers may lose their cultivable land and main source of livelihood as well as be at risk of losing their homesteads. On behalf of the locals, the application demands on-site investigation and inspection on an urgent basis, suspension of sand extraction, sale and transportation until legal approval and validity are verified, and legal action against the dredgers, vessels and other machinery used. It also demands that the damage caused to agricultural land, cropland, homesteads and public property by cutting the river bank be assessed through on-site investigation and remedial measures be taken. Permanent and effective measures have been sought so that no one can illegally extract sand from the river in future and damage the agricultural land, homesteads

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In the upcoming Union Parishad election under the Ministry of Local Government

Special Correspondent

Mr. Sabbir Hossain A young emerging socially educated, humble, gentle, soft-spoken, prominent businessman and social worker, wants to transform the 6 No. Ichakhali Union Parishad of Mirsarai Upazila into a modern, safe, livable model union free from terrorism, extortion, drugs and corruption. He is at once an educated person, who is united with people of all classes of society in happiness and sorrow. Sabbir Hossain seeks blessings from his relatives as well as all the people of his village and union. When the representative of The Daily Bangla Sky spoke with Mr. Sabbir Hossain, he said, I am not a candidate. I am an ordinary resident of 6 No. Ichakhali Union. All the people of my area want to see me as Chairman. So I want to serve the people and I am the people's candidate.



Nobel prize pays tribute to historic 114-year-old Tagore-Russel correspondence

Staff correspondent

The official social media platforms of the Nobel Prize have shared a rare, 114-year-old handwritten letter exchanged between literature laureates Rabindranath Tagore and Bertrand Russell, highlighting a historic intersection of Eastern philosophy and Western thought. The Nobel Prize showcased the artifact with the caption, "Take a look at this 114-year-old correspondence between literature laureates Bertrand Russell and Rabindranath Tagore," drawing immense global attention to the rare document preserved in the Bertrand Russell Archives at McMaster University Library in Canada. The correspondence, penned by Tagore on October 13, 1912, reveals that the legendary Indian poet had just finished reading Russell's analytical

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Bangladesh, Italy discuss MoU to strengthen tourism cooperation

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and Italy today discussed the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen tourism cooperation through improved tourist attractions, transport links and visitor facilities. The issue came up when Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Antonio Alessandro paid a courtesy call on Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat at the Secretariat here, said a ministry press release. The proposed MoU would help expand tourism exchanges between the two countries and strengthen cooperation in developing attractions,

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Ujaer Hossain Sajib, A young emerging footballer aged seventeen-eighteen. His main position on the field is Central Back, but as per the needs of the game, sometimes in midfield, sometimes as right wing, sometimes as left wing and sometimes with counter-attacks, he leads the team towards victory. For this reason, he is an iconic player. Ujaer Hossain Sajib the worthy son of Bagerhat, is the future iconic star.

Ease the crushing debt burden on rural poor

The grim finding that the debt burden on the rural poor has nearly doubled over the past 15 years is deeply concerning. A study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), a government think tank, published on October 12, reveals that four out of every five poor rural households are now spending 40 percent of their incomes on repaying instalments to microfinance institutions (MFIs) and other informal lenders. The study found that the share of borrowers spending 40 percent of their earnings on loan repayments has risen to 41 percent, up from 22 percent in 2010. The BIDS research once again highlights how disproportionately the poor are bearing the burden of an inequitable credit system. The problem extends beyond this alarming headline figure. The survey also found that nearly one in three poor households had taken out two or more loans. In many cases, borrowers have resorted to taking out new loans to repay instalments on existing ones, trapping them in a crippling and potentially endless cycle of debt.

Experts have long advocated expanding formal banking services in rural areas to meet the substantial demand for credit through greater competition and an increased supply of affordable loans. Despite the growth of agent banking, formal banking services in rural areas remain limited, particularly in agricultural financing. Microcredit institutions have stepped in to fill the gap created by the absence or inadequate presence of commercial banks in the rural credit market. However, the interest rates charged by MFIs remain high, placing an excessive and often unaffordable burden on poor households. We fully endorse the view expressed at the presentation of the research findings that borrowing costs must be reduced and that the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) should take the lead in pressing MFIs to bring them down. This requires urgent action and greater transparency in all charges associated with lending, including management costs, fees and the spread between deposit and lending rates. The government should also explore ways to ease the accumulated debt burden, including relief on accrued interest or partial loan write-offs. Such measures deserve consideration, especially given the relief and concessions extended to large defaulters in the trade and industrial sectors. Poor borrowers should not be denied comparable consideration when they are struggling under the weight of unsustainable debt. Unfortunately, the BIDS study did not examine the wider consequences of mounting debt on the lives of poor borrowers. Such an assessment could have provided policymakers and other stakeholders with a stronger basis for debating possible remedies. Research institutions should therefore investigate the economic and social effects of indebtedness on individuals, families and communities. The findings should also prompt a broader review of the role of MFIs and an honest reassessment of why their lending activities.

PM for nurturing reading

National Book Centre and other departments and agencies under the ministry also presented their ongoing activities and future plans.The Prime Minister called for taking necessary initiatives to make the Shilpakala academies more active.“Our culture is thousands of years old. But perhaps we are not being able to present it properly to our younger generations. With the blessings of technology, we are becoming attracted to foreign cultures and getting acquainted with new things,” he said.“But that does not mean we should forget our own culture. We need to think about how to present our culture and heritage more extensively to the younger generation,” he added.Addressing the officials, Tarique Rahman said everyone present had some form of capability and urged them to work to the best of their abilities.“If we all give our best, we can collectively make at least some progress towards building the country we aspire to. We have an opportunity to contribute to the country, and we should make the most of it,” he said.Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury, State Minister Ali Newaz Mahmood Khayom, Prime Minister’s Adviser on Information and Cultural Affairs Dr Zahed Ur Rahman, Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Rumon and relevant officials were present at the meeting.

PM inspects mobile lab for food

Safety Authority. The procurement of 72 mobile laboratory vans is underway under a capacity-building project of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority in the current 2026-27 fiscal year. The vans also feature facilities to raise public awareness of food safety, including exterior monitors that display awareness videos. Food Minister Afroza Khanam, Jatiya Sangsad Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni, State Minister for Food Abdul Bari, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ABM Abdus Sattar, Public Administration Secretary Quamruzzaman Chowdhury and senior officials of the Food Ministry were present during the inspection.

Rizvi alleges plot by fallen

MP Md Shohidul Islam, wife Faridpur-3 MP Chowdhury Nayab Yusuf Ahmed attended as a special guest. Among others, district BNP Convener Advocate Modares Ali Isa, Member Secretary AK Kibria Swapan, Bhanga Upazila BNP Convener Khandaker Selim, Krishak Dal leader Khandaker Nasirul Islam and Jubo Dal leader Rajib Hossain attended the event.

Zorarganj Thana Police, 702

lane of the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in front of the Palli Bidyut Office under Zorarganj Police Station and detained accused Md. Siddik Hossain (39) along with 01 cargo truck (covered van). 5/6 persons got down from the vehicle and fled away running. In presence of witnesses, 702 sacks of raw material for making plastic were recovered from the covered van, each sack weighing 25 kg (702x25) = 17,550 kg of raw material for making plastic, whose total estimated value is Tk. 45,00,000/- (forty-five lakh) and a blue-yellow colored covered van type cargo truck bearing Reg. No. JESSORE-TA-11-4611 used for smuggling was recovered. The arrested accused could not produce any valid documents for the recovered raw material for making plastic. It is learned that the recovered raw material was brought into Bangladesh from China through smuggling by evading government duties and other legal taxes.

In this connection, Case No. 14, dated 13/10/2026, under Section 25B/25D of The Special Powers Act 1974 has been registered at Zorarganj Police Station against the arrested accused 1. Md. Siddik Hossain (39), father - Late Samsul Alam, mother - Firoza Begum, Village - Dakshin Sripur, P.S. - Sundarganj, District - Gaibandha, presently Village - Mohammad Ali's Colony, Abdul Hamid Road, P.S. - Khulshi, CMP, Chattogram and absconding accused 2. Anis Rahman Sultan (30), father - Unknown, Village - Roufabad, Oxygen, P.S. - Bayezid, CMP, Chattogram and 3/4 unknown accused persons.

ASI (Unarmed) Md. Zahir Hossain along with accompanying officer and force arrested accused in CR Case No. 127/17 warrant of conviction Md. Sajjad Hossain, father - Late Amjad Hossain, Business - Owner of M/S Mithila Enterprise, Takiya Market, Chinki Astana, Bariarhat, P.S. - Zorarganj, Upazila - Mirsharai, District - Chattogram, Permanent Address - Monir Uddin's House, Village - Paschim Jamalpur, P.O. Mahajanhata-4326, P.S. - Zorarganj, Mirsarai, District - Chattogram from Double Mooring Police Station area of Chattogram district at 02.30 AM today on 14/10/2026. SI (Unarmed) Abdullah Al Masud along with accompanying

Can government and fishers work together to restore hilsa abundance?

Fishers sort the last hilsa haul before the 22-day ban took effect at the New Fishery Ghat market in Chattogram on October 7, 2026. FILE PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

For years, the government has been enforcing an annual ban on hilsa fishing in October, which falls in the fish’s peak breeding season, so that brood fish can spawn in peace. For two decades, this move worked: hilsa production saw a steady rise. However, over the last few years, hilsa production has been in decline. In 2007-08, Bangladesh produced about 295,000 tonnes of hilsa. Fifteen years of conservation nearly doubled that figure to a record 5.71 lakh tonnes in 2022-23. Then the trend reversed: production fell to about 5.29 lakh tonnes in 2023-24 and to around five lakh tonnes in 2024-25—a loss of roughly 71,000 tonnes in just two years. The sea tells an even harsher story: hilsa catch dropped from about 3.22 lakh tonnes in 2021-22 to about 2.51 lakh tonnes in 2024-25—a decline of nearly 22 percent. Much of this decline unfolded while a Tk 229 crore hilsa development project, launched in July 2021, was underway.

What went wrong? The answer lies in a partnership that once worked and is now fraying: the partnership between the government and the fishers who live by the rivers.

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The annual ban of catching brood hilsa began in 2008 as an 11-day closure around the full moon in the month of Ashwin in Bangla calendar. When researchers found that hilsa also spawn around the new moon, the ban was extended to 22 days. The impact was dramatic: in 2008-09, only 17.62 percent of brood hilsa managed to spawn, but by 2017-18, spawning success rose to 47.74 percent. That season, around 7.28 lakh kg of hilsa eggs was released, adding an estimated 36,000 crore juveniles—“jatka”—to the population. Spawning success reached a record 52.5 percent in 2023. These gains did not come from the ban alone. They came because the government set the rules and offered support, while fishers stayed off the water.

Community co-management offers further proof. Between 2014 and 2019, the ECOFISH project, jointly run by the Department of Fisheries and WorldFish, brought co-management to 136 fishing villages around hilsa sanctuaries. It

officer and force for prevention of crime, while suspiciously loitering on the road in front of the ongoing petrol pump in Zorarganj UP at 01.45 AM on 14/10/2026, arrested 1. Md. Rana (26), father - Md. Gias Uddin, mother - Shabana Begum, Village - Sonapahar, Ward No. 8, 2. Md. Hridoy (24), father - Hiru Mia, mother - Peyara Begum, Village - Madhyam Sonapahar, Ward No. 7, 3. Md. Arif (23), father - Md. Belal, mother - Taslima Akhtar, Village - Madhyam Sonapahar, Ward No. 8, 4. Md. Monir (24), father - Md. Lal Mia, mother - Suraiya Begum, Village - Madhyam Sonapahar, Ward No. 7, 5. Md. Sohel (25), father - Latu Mia, mother - Paruli Begum, Village - Sonapahar, Ward No. 3, all of 3 No. Zorarganj UP, P.S. - Zorarganj, District - Chattogram under Section 151 Cr.P.C. SI (Unarmed) Abdullah Al Masud along with accompanying officer and force for prevention of crime arrested Md. Mosharraf Hossain (40), father - Late Delwar Hossain, mother - Samena Khatun, Village - Koyla (Ruhul Amin's House), Ward No. 6, 1 No. Karehat Union, P.S. - Zorarganj, District - Chattogram from Koyla Rastar Matha under Zorarganj Police Station at 02.30 AM on 14/10/2026 under Section 151 Cr.P.C. The accused have been produced before the learned court after taking appropriate legal action against them.

PM attends Salah Uddin

Speaker Kayser Kamal, Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, other cabinet members, whips and current and former lawmakers also attended the funeral prayer and paid their respects.

A special munajat was offered after the janaza, seeking eternal peace for the departed soul.Salah Uddin Ahmed died at Evercare Hospital in Bashundhara around 8:00 pm on Tuesday while undergoing treatment. He was 80. The former Dhaka-4 lawmaker had been suffering from lung problems and other complications. He was elected to parliament from the constituency on BNP tickets in 1991 and 2001. According to his family members, his next funeral prayer will be held in front of the BNP central office at Nayapalatan at 1:30 pm today, followed by another at Lal Masjid in Shyampur at 3:00 pm. He will be laid to eternal rest beside his father's grave at Jurain graveyard.

Final Approval for Release of

Goods Being Released: According to the delivery order list, the 11 lots include: Plastic scrap Methanol Duplex board ZF marine gearbox Stenter machine with auxiliary equipment Art paper Granite tiles Marlex High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Raw granite blocks Empty containers Applicable Conditions and NOCs: The customs authority has attached several conditions for the release of goods based on their specific nature: Plastic Scrap: Must be released in favor of actual industrial users holding an Industrial Registration Certificate (IRC) in accordance with the import policy. Methanol: Submission of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from both the Department of Explosives and the Department of Narcotics Control is mandatory prior to release. Other Goods: In addition to the specific conditions of the order, strict adherence to general auction rules and regulations has been instructed. 3-Day Release Deadline: The customs order explicitly states that BMTF must take delivery of the goods within the next 3 working days following the issuance of the DO. If the goods are not cleared within the stipulated timeframe, legal action will be taken in accordance with the National Board of Revenue's (NBR) standing orders on auctions and the regulations of the Custom House. Earlier, based on the recommendations of the auction committee meeting held on September 8, the sales order for the lots was issued on September 23. Subsequently, following the payment of all prescribed dues and necessary verification, the final handover order was issued to BMTF.

Govt approves LNG purchases

interest of public welfare and to meet urgent national requirements.The proposal cited Section 68 of the Public Procurement Act, 2006, and Rules 97, 98 and 107 of the Public Procurement Rules, 2025.Both proposals came from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

Illegal Sand Extraction in

and public property of the area. Copies of the application have been sent to the Prime Minister,

Md. Neyamul Hossain

formed 575 hilsa conservation groups, set up co-management committees in the six sanctuaries of the Padma-Meghna system, and trained around 400 community fish guards. Those years saw four consecutive seasons of bumper hilsa production. Feeling ownership of the resource, fishers themselves became the hilsa’s most reliable guardians.

Sadly, the partnership is breaking down at three points. The first is support: during last year’s ban, more than 6.2 lakh fishing households in 165 upazilas of 37 districts received 25 kg of rice each under the government’s VGF programme. For a family facing three weeks without income, that is far from enough. Furthermore, officials acknowledged that not every fisher received even this support last year. They promised to cover everyone this time and to raise the allocation in the future. Whether that promise is kept on the ground is going to be the first test of this season’s drive.

The second is fairness in enforcement. During the 2024 ban, in Barishal division alone, authorities conducted 3,212 drives, seized more than 1.3 crore metres of illegal nets and jailed 630 fishers. Such figures show official effort, but they also reveal who bears the punishment. Those caught are mostly poor, young and indebted fishers. The factories that produce current nets, the wholesalers who sell them, and the moneylenders whose advance loans, known as “dadon”, push fishers into the rivers largely escape. Every year, crores of metres of nets are burnt, and every year new nets appear. As long as the source stays open, burning nets will hardly make any difference.

The third, and most neglected, point is jatka-catching. The fry born during the October spawning drift into coastal rivers and estuaries from November. Because of this reason, catching, transporting or selling hilsa smaller than 25 cm is banned from November 1 to June 30. Violations carry up to two years’ rigorous imprisonment or a fine of up to Tk 5 lakh. But this eight-month jatka ban receives far less attention than the 22-day brood ban. Food support for the fishers doesn’t cover the entire ban period. Jatka is still sold openly in many markets. Putting so much effort into protecting the mother hilsa

Home Minister, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Inspector General of Police, Chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Deputy Commissioner of Kishoreganj, Superintendent of Police, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Hossainpur, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Officer-in-Charge of Hossainpur Police Station and various other concerned departments.

Several members of the conscious circle of Saheber Char area, on condition of anonymity, said that as people of the ruling party are involved in sand extraction, the administration is unable to take effective action against the syndicate. They allege that fertile cropland of many farmers is being forcibly cut and taken away by paying a nominal price. Hossainpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Reksona Khatun said, "Last Thursday, one Bahar Uddin was detained and fined Tk. 1.5 lakh. As the area is remote and under Pagla Police Station of Mymensingh, many flee in advance after getting news of mobile court operations." Reksona Khatun also said that very soon tender will be floated and lease will be called.

Nobel prize pays tribute to his

article titled "The Essence of Religion," which was published in the Hibbert Journal.Tagore wrote to the British philosopher that the piece deeply resonated with him, stating that the discourse reminded him of a sacred verse from the Upanishads—the ancient Sanskrit texts that form the core foundations for many Hindu traditions.The two twentieth-century intellectual giants had met personally when Tagore visited England earlier that year in 1912, setting off a profound cross-cultural philosophical friendship.In the letter, Tagore seamlessly bridges their shared concepts of ego-transcendence by transcribing the classical Sanskrit verse directly into the text, followed by a detailed English translation and commentary on how the "Infinite self" overcomes the limitations of the "finite self" to live a life free of fear.This monumental exchange took place at a major turning point in global literary history. Almost a year after writing this letter, Rabindranath Tagore achieved the historic milestone of becoming the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his poetry. Bertrand Russell would later follow in his footsteps, receiving the same prestigious global honor 37 years later in 1950.Cultural historians and literary archivists view the Nobel Committee's global feature of this epistle as a timely reminder of a golden era of philosophy, showing how ancient Vedic insights and modern Western rationale harmoniously converged to address the universal human condition.

Bangladesh, Italy discuss

connectivity and facilities for visitors.The growing number of Italian tourists visiting Bangladesh featured prominently in the discussions, with both sides highlighting the potential for further tourism exchanges.They also explored how the development and opening of Cox's Bazar Airport could make Cox's Bazar and other tourist destinations in Bangladesh more accessible and attractive to international visitors. The possibility of establishing a special “red zone” for foreign tourists was discussed to ensure their safety, comfort and an improved tourism experience. Alongside tourism, the meeting covered expanding air connectivity, attracting Italian investment in Bangladesh’s aviation sector and developing aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities. Responding to the Italian government’s interest in increasing flights on the Dhaka–Rome route, the minister said plans to raise flight frequencies would be considered after new aircraft join Biman Bangladesh Airlines’ fleet.He said the needs of the large expatriate community living in Europe would be taken into account in planning additional services.Biman currently operates six flights a week between Bangladesh and Italy, according to the release. The discussions also highlighted investment opportunities in establishing an MRO hub in Bangladesh, drawing on the experience and capabilities of Italian companies Edge Company, Atitech S.p.A. and Gilardoni.Both sides expressed optimism about strengthening the existing friendly relations and expanding cooperation in aviation and tourism. They said implementation of the initiatives could improve connectivity, create investment opportunities and accelerate tourism development.

Bobby Hajjaj for extending primary teacher training duration, PTI capacity boost

Staff correspondent

The government is planning to extend the duration of primary

and then allowing the jatka to be caught is like sowing a crop and cutting the seedlings before they can grow. The mother hilsa doesn’t always get spared either. After this year’s 22-day ban came into effect on October 8, several incidents of fishers being caught illegally catching brood hilsa have already been reported.

It all comes down to restoring the partnership between the government and the fishers, which demands action from both sides. First, the government must treat support during bans as compensation, not charity. Rice should be supplemented with cash, delivered before each ban begins and extended across the full jatka season. Second, fisher lists must be updated and made transparent, displayed at union parishads and verified in front of the community, so that genuine fishers are not left out and fake names do not slip in. Third, every landing ghat should have government-recognised fisher conservation groups to guard remote chars and channels at night, where patrol boats rarely reach, backed by a hotline that protects the identity of informants. Fourth, enforcement must move upstream to the factories, warehouses and traders of illegal nets, while the navy, coast guard and River Police should strengthen night patrols across the roughly 7,000 sq-km of core spawning grounds, which the Department of Fisheries has already sought. And lastly, the government must publish spawning success, jatka abundance and enforcement data every year, so that the public can see what works and where gaps remain.Fishers, too, carry responsibility. A brood hilsa is a fisher’s capital. The fish that spawns safely this October will return as many fish next season. A fisher who casts an illegal net during the ban is stealing from his own future income as well as his neighbours. If fisher associations, boatmen and elders take a stand against violators, that social pressure can achieve more than any drive.In my experience, most fishers want to follow the rules. What they seek is dignity, fair support and trust. If the government treats fishers as partners, the country will find its most dedicated river guardians among them. Hence, the government must provide fairness and security, and fishers must offer restraint and cooperation. When the two stand together to protect the mother hilsa and the jatka, the country’s hilsa abundance will return.

school teacher training to two-and-a-half to three years to improve the quality of primary education and enhance teachers' professional skills.It also plans to increase the annual training capacity of Primary Training Institutes (PTIs) six-fold, from around 7,000 to 42,000, to bring teacher training up to international standards.State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj came up with the plans in an interview with Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at his office in the Secretariat recently.In the interview, he spoke in detail about various initiatives to improve primary education, teacher recruitment and promotion, technology use in classrooms, the midday meal programme and government oversight of private and kindergarten schools.

New framework for teacher trainingExplaining the planned changes to the existing teacher training system, Hajjaj said the government was developing a new framework to ensure that teachers acquire modern teaching skills instead of remaining in classrooms for extended periods without adequate training. Under the proposed framework, teachers will initially undergo two months of in-campus training at PTIs before returning to their classrooms. They will then complete the remaining training modules and examinations in phases within a prescribed period of two-and-a-half to three years.

He said the National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE) had nearly finalised a new training module based on the existing one-year training system. Newly recruited teachers will receive training under this module, spending the first two months at PTIs before returning to classrooms.

They will complete the remaining 10 months of training through a combination of online and offline instruction within the stipulated period.

Hajjaj said the government had also taken an initiative to raise the annual training capacity of PTIs from around 7,000 to 42,000.

To achieve this target, the government may involve education departments of public and private universities alongside PTIs to equip teachers with modern teaching methods.

Teachers at private primary schools and kindergartens will also be brought under quality training programmes, he added.

"At the policy level, we have decided that no teacher will be allowed to remain permanently engaged in classroom teaching without receiving appropriate training," the state minister said.Midday meals in all government primary schools by 2027 Regarding the midday meal programme, which is a priority initiative to improve school attendance and ensure nutritional security for children, Hajjaj said the programme was currently running in 150 upazilas.

Expansion of the programme to the remaining upazilas had already begun, and a development project proposal was being prepared, he said.

"We hope to ensure nutritious midday meals for all children in every government primary school across the country by 2027," he added. One teacher, one tablet and digital ecosystemOn the proposed 'One Teacher, One Tablet' and smart classroom initiatives, Hajjaj said the government is working to establish a comprehensive digital ecosystem for classrooms rather than merely distributing electronic devices among teachers.

"With the support of major global technology companies, including Google, we are developing a comprehensive digital ecosystem for classrooms. Tablets for teachers will serve as a key connector in this system," he said.He also said work was under way, in coordination with the Power Division, to install solar panels and ensure internet bandwidth at primary schools in remote areas without electricity connections.Head teacher promotions and recruitment of assistant teachers

Regarding around 36,960 vacant head teacher posts across the country, Hajjaj said the legal process concerning promotions to the posts had been completed, and the government was awaiting the final certified copy of the court verdict.Discussions with the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) had already begun, he said, adding that the promotion process would be expedited as soon as the certified copy was received. Once the promotions were completed, the way would be opened for recruiting a large number of assistant teachers, he added. Hajjaj said the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) had been instructed to take necessary steps to reduce the burden of excessive textbooks on students, make learning enjoyable through storytelling, and incorporate activities like mathematics and science Olympiads. The government was also considering special allowances to encourage teachers to work in haor, char and remote hilly areas, as well as residential schools, where necessary.



president for zero-tolerance policy against drugs

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has called for pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against drugs and taking strict legal measures to keep all educational institutions, including universities, and their adjoining areas completely drug-free. He also

urged the country's youth and students to shun drugs and help build a beautiful society. The President said this when an Uttara University delegation, led by its Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Eaysmin Ara Lekha, paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban this morning. President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam said. During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor

briefed the President on the university's educational research and academic activities. The President assured the delegation of cooperation when they drew the President's attention to various facilities, limitations and problems of the university. The Vice-Chancellor invited the President

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Collective Efforts Essential for Sustainable Tourism Development in Mirsarai



Jwel Nag, Mirsarai Correspondent.

"The Role of Stakeholders in Sustainable Tourism Development" was held in Mirsarai, Chattogram, a region blessed with abundant natural beauty. The workshop emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts by the government, private entrepreneurs, local administration, and communities to unlock the area's tourism potential. With attractions such as

Khoiyachhora and Napittachhora waterfalls, Sonaichhari, Mohamaya Lake, the hills of Hinguli and Korerhat, and the coastal beaches along the Bay of Bengal, Mirsarai is gradually emerging as an attractive destination for domestic and international tourists. Participants noted that developing a well-planned tourism industry around these natural assets could create new opportunities for the local economy and generate employment. The workshop was held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, October 14, at the Mirsarai Upazila Auditorium, organized by the Bangladesh Tourism Board. Abu Selim Mahmudul Hasan, Director of the Bangladesh Tourism Board, inaugurated the workshop by joining

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Those involved in recruitment test question leak must face exemplary punishment: Aminul

State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque on Wednesday said exemplary punishment will be ensured against those involved in the question paper leak in the recruitment examination for the post of Assistant Upazila Youth Development Officer under the Department of Youth Development.

"Anyone found to be involved in the incident will face exemplary punishment, whether they are an official of the ministry or someone from outside," he said while talking to reporters at a press briefing on the Youth Volunteer Award at Secretariat. Aminul said the recruitment examination was scheduled to be held at 11am

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Fire at Drug International factory in Tongi under control after 4 hours

Staff correspondent

Firefighters brought the fire that broke out at the Drug International Ltd factory in Cherag Ali area of Tongi, Gazipur, under control after four hours of efforts on Wednesday afternoon. Twenty-one firefighting units brought the blaze under control around 1:35 pm, Brigadier General Sultanul Afrin Zunaid, director general of the Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) told reporters near the factory. No casualties have been reported so far but a firefighter suffered from respiratory problem while working inside the factory, he said. "There are still some pockets of fire inside the factory and we need more time to extinguish it completely," he added. The fire originated on the third floor of the factory's four-storey building and spread to an adjacent building. The presence of various chemical substances inside the factory exaggerated the fire, DG Zunaid said. The building where the fire broke out was damaged, with some floors sustaining extensive damage, he added. The fire broke out at Unit-2 of the company around 10:15am, said Station

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Legal Action for Violating Building Codes: Public Works Minister

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Housing and Public Works Minister Zakaria Taher has warned that anyone violating building codes, breaching regulations, or engaging in illegal activities during building construction will strictly be brought to justice. He made these remarks on Wednesday afternoon

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Woman killed, husband injured in knife attack by son in Kurigram

Staff correspondent

A woman was killed and her husband critically injured after their son stabbed them with a knife at Palashbari village in Kurigram Sadar upazila early Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Munira Begum, 56, while her husband, Sardar Ali, 65, a retired textile engineer, sustained serious injuries in the attack. Their son, Suman Mia, who is reportedly addicted to drugs, went into hiding after the incident. Police and locals said Suman has long been addicted to drugs. His parents had sent him to drug

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NBR detects Tk 85.21cr revenue evasion thru misuse of bonded warehouse facility

Staff correspondent

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has detected Tk 85.21 crore in alleged revenue evasion through the misuse of bonded warehouse facilities by a company in

Siddhirganj, Narayanganj. In a press release issued today, the NBR said an investigation found no effective production system at the factory, although the company had declared exports on paper. Machinery installed for production also remained unused for a long period. Acting

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US should provide Bangladesh with increased support amid rising imports: Finance Minister

Staff correspondent

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury today said Bangladesh should receive increased support from the United States in view of improving bilateral relations and the country's growing imports from the US. He made the remarks while briefing journalists after a meeting with officials of the US Treasury Department here today. The meeting discussed debt management, US assistance and overall

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Development partners confident in govt's economic recovery strategy: Titumir

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir today said international development partners have expressed confidence in the government's strategy to revive Bangladesh's fragile economy inherited from the previous administration. "Discussions with the World Bank, IMF, US Treasury Department and other multilateral development institutions had reflected a shared understanding of the country's economic challenges and the government's approach to addressing them," he said. The adviser made the remarks while speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group here. Titumir said the discussions had established a consensus on three key issues: the government had inherited a fragile economy and was addressing its weaknesses through transparency and accountability; it was pursuing measures to tackle fresh inflationary pressures stemming from the Middle East crisis; and its programmes for economic recovery, banking sector reform and poverty reduction were considered realistic by international partners. "We are addressing the problems with transparency and accountability instead of sweeping them under the carpet. We have our own strategy, and international partners have developed confidence in that strategy," he said. The adviser said the government was holding discussions with the World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic

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8 Digital Forensic Labs to Be Set Up Across Divisions to Combat Cybercrime: Home Minister

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

CHATTOGRAM . Digital forensic laboratories will soon be established in all eight divisional headquarters across the country to boost capabilities in detecting cybercrime, analyzing digital evidence, and investigating tech-based offenses, Home Minister Salheddin Ahmed announced yesterday. He added that initiatives are also underway to expand the overall scope of cyber investigations from the central level down to district and upazila levels. The minister made the remarks while addressing questions from journalists following the inauguration of the "Cyber Police Center" and "Digital Forensic Laboratory" at the Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Lines in Dampara on Wednesday (October 14) at 11:00 AM. Constructed under the leadership of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) with financial and technical assistance from



the South Korean government, the state-of-the-art facility meets international standards. Expressing high hopes, the Home Minister said, "This modern technology will usher in a new era in police crime investigation and play an effective role in ensuring swift justice through scientific evidence." Focus on Tackling Tech-Based Crime Highlighting how crime patterns are rapidly evolving globally, the minister noted, "Cyberattacks, various forms of fraud, and even stock market

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UP elections in five phases from Jan 21

Staff correspondent

Elections to around 4,300 Union Parishads (UPs) across the country will be held in five phases from January 21 to May 27, 2027. According to the schedule announced by the Election Commission (EC), voting in the first phase will take place on January 21, followed by the second phase on February 4, the third on April 29, the fourth on May 13 and the fifth on May 27. The first phase is expected to cover around 800 UPs. Election Commissioner Brigadier General Abul Fazal Md. Sanaullah (Retd.) announced the schedule following a commission meeting on Monday. He said the terms of approximately 4,300 UPs had expired and elections to these local government bodies must be completed by May 27, 2027, under the law. The relevant district election officers will announce the detailed sched

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Govt to procure 2.37 lakh MTs of fertilizer

Staff correspondent

Government has approved separate proposals for procuring 2.37 lakh metric tons of urea, muriate of potash (MOP) and diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilisers from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Canada and Russia to meet the growing demand of such key agricultural inputs in the country. The approvals came from the 49th meeting of the Cabinet

Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) in this year held yesterday virtually with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair. Following two proposals from the Ministry of Industries, the government will import 40,000 metric tons of bulk granular urea fertilizer from Saudi Arabia's SABIC Agri-nutrients Company at Tk 220.65 crore, at US\$446.67 per ton, and another 42,000

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Bus Services Resume on Bandarban-Thanchi Route Following Strict Security Assurances from Administration

Staff Reporter

After six consecutive days of disruption due to a resurgence of armed threats and extortion demands in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, bus operations on the Bandarban-Thanchi highway have finally returned to normal. The vital transport route, which had come to a complete standstill on October 8 following kidnapping threats to drivers and violence warned by an armed regional group, resumed operations under a heightened security framework guaranteed by the Bangladesh Army. According to transport operators, an armed hill group had been demanding a substantial sum in extortion money. Following explicit threats of driver abductions and attacks on vehicles if the demands were not met, the Bandarban Road Transport Owners' Association halted all bus operations to ensure the safety of their

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SABCCI expresses concern over workers' plight in KSA; urges peaceful resolution

Staff correspondent

The Saudi Arabia-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SABCCI) has expressed deep concern over the ongoing conflict and security situation in the Middle East, urging an early and peaceful resolution through dialogue. In a statement issued on Wednesday, SABCCI expressed sympathy for all those affected by the conflict, including Bangladeshis, and called for urgent and effective intervention by the Bangladesh government and the international community to ensure the safety and security of all including Bangladeshis living in Saudi Arabia. The chamber called on the Bangladesh government, relevant ministries, manpower

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Attack for obstructing encroachment of Waqf Estate land in Brahmanbaria

M Badal Khandakar (District Representative) Brahmanbaria

The occupiers have carried out a brutal attack on two leaders of the mosque committee for protesting against the illegal occupation of Waqf Estate and mosque land and the construction of drains and roads without permission in Brahmanbaria. They were severely injured by beating with local weapons and iron rods. At that time, there was an allegation of snatching cash of 2 lakh 10 thousand taka. The incident took place on Tuesday (13 October 2026) at around 12:30 pm on the premises of Abdul Alim Waqf Estate in the West Paikpara area of the city. The injured are Zahirul Islam, Joint General Secretary of Abdul Alim West Paikpara Jame Mosque, and Alamgir Hossain, Secretary of

Abdul Alim Waqf Estate. In this incident, the injured Zahirul Islam has filed a written complaint at Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station against 4 persons named and 10/12 more unknown persons. The accused are: Al Mamun Sarkar, Shafiq of West Paikpara area, Titu Mia of West Medda area and Helal of North Portitala. According to the complaint, from the night of 10 October to the early morning of 11 October, the accused in a pre-planned manner illegally constructed a drainage system for water drainage and a road for movement by dumping sand on the land of the Waqf Estate and Jame Mosque. Seeing the matter, Alamgir Hossain, Secretary of the Estate, filed a written complaint at Sadar Model Police Station on 12 October.

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president for zero to attend the university's upcoming convocation. President accepted the invitation and assured them of attending the convocation. President's Military Secretary, Secretary and Press Secretary, along with the university's advisers, assistant professors and members of its Board of Trustees, were present at the meeting.

US should provide

Bangladesh-US relations, the minister said. He also held discussions with representatives of the US Export-Import Bank (EXIM Bank) and other US agencies involved in providing assistance."Bangladesh did not receive much from the United States in the past. But, as Bangladesh-US relations have progressed, we are purchasing several aircraft and importing oil, soybeans and various other products and commodities from the US. Therefore, we should receive additional support from them. They agreed on this. Now, let us see," Amir Khosru said. The finance minister said the government's economic policy prioritises reducing dependence on loans and increasing foreign direct investment (FDI) and joint investment. Khosru said he had held extensive discussions with the US EXIM Bank on the issue and expressed hope that Bangladesh could move forward with this approach."The main focus of our economic policy is investment. We want to move away from loans and focus more on direct investment and joint investment," he said.Highlighting Bangladesh's substantial imports from the United States, the minister said purchases of aircraft, oil, soybeans and other commodities had implications for bilateral trade as well as Bangladesh's external balance of payments."We have strongly told them that Bangladesh is importing so much from the United States, and bilateral relations have reached their current stage. If support does not come from the US now, when will it come? The assistance we expect should come now," he said.Amir Khosru said the relevant US parties agreed with Bangladesh's position. However, he added, the extent and modalities of the expected assistance would become clear in the coming days.

Govt to procure 2.37

metric tons of bulk granular urea fertilizer from Fertiglobe Distributions Limited of the UAE at Tk 275.78 crore, at US\$531.67 per ton.The Ministry of Agriculture will also import 40,000 metric tons of MOP fertiliser, with a possible additional 10 percent, from Canada's Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) at Tk 188.89 crore, at US\$382.38 per ton. Another proposal covered 35,000 metric tons MOP fertilizer from Russia's JSC Foreign Economic Corporation (Prodintorg) at Tk 166.09 crore, at US\$383.80 per ton. A separate proposal involved another 40,000 metric tons of MoP fertilizer from CCC at Tk 188.90 crore, at the unit price of \$382.38. The committee also considered importing 40,000 metric tons of DAP fertiliser, with a possible additional 10 percent, from Saudi Arabia's MA'ADEN at Tk 425.58 crore, at US\$861.50 per ton.For sugar, the Ministry of Commerce will purchase two lots of 5,000 metric tons each from Meghna Sugar Refinery Ltd. through the e-GP system. The stated costs were Tk 51.475 crore and Tk 51.975 crore, including VAT and taxes, bringing the combined quantity to 10,000 tons at Tk 103.45 crore. Two other proposals concerned contract variations under the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (Phase I),3rd revised project. A proposed Tk 360.65 crore variation would raise the main contract value to Tk 20,959.30 crore, while a Tk 405 crore variation would increase the consultancy contract value to Tk 1,176.72 crore.

Collective Efforts Essential

virtually. He stressed the need to accelerate tourism development in Mirsarai, a region with significant potential for nature-based tourism, through government initiatives and collaborative efforts by private-sector entrepreneurs. Highlighting the economic significance of tourism, he said that a tourist's journey from leaving home to returning could directly and indirectly generate employment opportunities for approximately 12 people. He added that tourism development could play a vital role in stimulating the local economy, creating jobs, and increasing people's incomes. Mirsarai Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Somaiya Akter emphasized the importance of utilizing the area's natural tourism potential and improving its tourist destinations. She said the authorities had listened carefully to the opinions and suggestions of the participants and that their proposals would be forwarded to the relevant ministry for consideration.

THE
Daily
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Journalist M Badal Khandakar
District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria • The Daily Bangla Sky

He Will Judge Me

ournalist M Badal Khandakar.

Have you set up a court to judge me?

O holder of society!

You have made me stand in the dock,

Piercing my heart with question after question!

Who are you? By what right?

You sit on the judge's seat with arrogance!

You do not see your own sin with your own eyes,

You put the curse on others' shoulders!

I do not say I am a sinless angel,

I have made mistakes, I have many pages of mistakes.

But you who are pretending to be saints,

Have you ever seen yourself in front of the mirror?

Do not give verdict quickly on people's words,

Do you keep track of the truth house to house?

Yesterday you are laughing, mocking,

Tomorrow you too will be ruined!

I am not afraid of this crowd of yours,

I am not afraid of your false principles.

Because I know, I believe...

He will judge me,

Who is the only driver of this universe.

He sees what you do not see,

He knows what you do not know.

Your judgment is on paper and pen,

His judgment is written in the core of the heart.

Your court will break one day,

The power of power will disappear.

But His court is true, eternal,

There will be my final judgment - the end.

Appropriate measures would then be identified to support the development of tourism in Mirsarai. Mirsarai Upazila Land Officer Tanvirul Kader said that coordinated initiatives and long-term planning could help transform Mirsarai into an environmentally sustainable tourism destination while creating new economic opportunities for local residents. The workshop explored the vast potential for developing tourism centered on Mirsarai's hills, waterfalls, coastal areas, rivers, and lakes. Participants emphasized that sustainable development would require environmental and biodiversity conservation, planned infrastructure development, tourist safety, effective waste management, and meaningful participation by local communities. Local journalists, tourism entrepreneurs, community leaders, and administrative officials attended the workshop. local journalist Robi Karim, stand by and delivery his speech as a opinion Considering the influx of local and foreign tourists due to the Mirsarai Economic Zone, the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation can establish a bar here for the convenience of tourists."

Those involved in recruit

on October 10 and they received information about the question paper leak around 10 am on the day.He immediately informed the officials concerned and asked them to verify whether the leaked questions matched those in the original paper. The authorities later suspended the examination, he said.He expressed his sincere regret over the incident saying that many candidates had travelled from different parts of the country in the hope of securing jobs but they were disappointed by the suspension of the examination.Aminul said an investigation committee was formed immediately after the incident, and a new date for the examination was also set.The rescheduled examination will be held at 3pm on Friday, October 16.The state minister said the committee was initially asked to submit its report within three days but it sought more time to examine the incident thoroughly, identify the actual cause and determine who was involved.The committee has been given until Sunday to complete its investigation, he said.Aminul said investigators are also examining whether any syndicate involved in previous question paper leaks had links to the incident.The National Security Intelligence (NSI) and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) are working on the matter.Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police has formed a forensic team to collect evidence related to the incident, he added.The roles of members of the recruitment committee, as well as those involved in printing or photocopying the question papers and distributing them to different examination centres, are being examined, Aminul said.Asked why the examination is being rescheduled while retaining the existing recruitment committee, Aminul said the identities of those involved in the leak have not yet been established.He said he did not want to accuse anyone before the investigation is completed.owever, when asked whether the recruitment committee could avoid responsibility, he replied, "Definitely not." He added that a strict message hadbeen conveyed to those concerned.The state minister expressed hope that the investigation would identify those involved in it.

Development partners con

Development Bank, China Exim Bank and various US assistance agencies to secure financing for its reform programmes.He expressed hope that progress on the required financing would be made through negotiations over the next two to three months.Titumir said protecting ordinary people from inflationary pressure remained a major government priority alongside economic recovery. Higher fuel prices amid the Middle East crisis could raise transportation and production costs, eventually affecting the prices of essential commodities, he said. The government had taken various measures to contain inflationary pressures and ease the cost-of-living burden on low-income people, he added.He said the Family Card and Farmers Card programmes announced by the Prime Minister had received appreciation from international partners. These initiatives would help support families and farmers affected by rising prices and reduce the risk of further deterioration in poverty, he added. The government aimed to ensure that the burden of external economic shocks did not fall entirely on ordinary people, he said.Titumir added that economic recovery involved not only managing immediate crises but also creating jobs, increasing investment, strengthening banks' financial positions and achieving long-term growth.

The adviser said a major objective of the government's reform programme was to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio without raising tax rates.He attributed the country's tax-to-GDP ratio of below seven percent to weaknesses in tax administration, including patronage and oligarchic practices under the previous administration.

The government was working to make the tax system more transparent, taxpayer-friendly and technology-driven, he said, adding that digital transformation was under way across different levels of tax administration.Expanding the tax net, preventing tax evasion and ensuring administrative transparency would help increase revenue without raising tax rates, he said.Regarding the separation of tax policy formulation from revenue collection, Titumir said a committee formed to examine the issue had already submitted its report.The government had agreed in principle to the reform and was moving towards implementing it through an executive order, he added. Titumir said the government had specific plans to restore discipline in the banking sector, reduce non-performing loans and strengthen banks' balance sheets.

Time-bound measures were being taken to rebuild the financial foundations of banks weakened by past irregularities, he said.Customers of Sammilito Islami Bank had started receiving their money back, while the government had also taken steps to ease potential financial pressure on depositors.The initiatives were aimed at restoring confidence in the banking sector, he said, adding that international partners had expressed confidence in the government's strategy and timeline for the reforms.

On monetary policy and central bank independence, Titumir said the government was emphasising coordination between fiscal and monetary policies without directly interfering in the Bangladesh Bank's operations.He said creating an environment conducive to higher investment and production was as important as controlling inflation.

The government had outlined a special financing package of around Tk 60,000 crore to help restart closed factories and increase credit flows to the private sector, he said.

The package was expected to boost investment, revive productive activities and create employment opportunities.Titumir said Bangladesh Bank was working to restore stability in the banking sector through its own strategies and institutional mechanisms.Maintaining the central bank's independence while coordinating economic policies would be important for rebuilding confidence in the financial sector and increasing the flow of funds to private investment, he added.The adviser said the government's reform agenda had been designed in line with Bangladesh's own needs and political commitments rather than being imposed from outside.The reform outlines covering taxation, banking, investment and economic governance had been included in the government's election manifesto, he said."We want the ownership of reforms to remain with our political authorities. Reforms are not something to be imposed from outside; we have developed our own strategy based on the needs of the country," he said.

He added that the government's five-year economic strategy

and reform plans reflected this approach.Political commitment, identification of structural weaknesses and implementation of reforms within specific timelines had helped build confidence among international partners, he said.Titumir said the ongoing Middle East crisis had created additional pressure on Bangladesh's economy, particularly through higher fuel prices and their potential impact on transportation, production and essential commodity prices.

Bus Services Resume on

workers and passengers. The six-day shutdown caused severe disruption, leaving local residents isolated and tourists stranded in uncertainty.

A breakthrough was achieved yesterday following an emergency meeting between the Bandarban Sadar Zone authorities of the Bangladesh Army and leadership from the transport owners and workers associations. During the meeting, military officials assured full security measures along the route, including armed escorts and dedicated security checkpoints. Following these guarantees, transport leaders made the decision to call off the strike.

Operational Adjustments Under New Safety Rules:

Strict Vigilance: Law enforcement and military forces will maintain rigorous monitoring across vulnerable stretches of the highway.

Controlled Timings: Considering current safety conditions, a total of four buses—two departing daily from each end—will operate initially.

The resumption of bus services after six days of paralysis has brought immense relief to both the local hill population and visiting tourists. However, local observers emphasize that establishing a permanent and robust security infrastructure remains essential to guaranteeing long-term peace and safe travel in the region.

Fire at Drug International

Officer Talha Bin Zashim of the Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) headquarters' media cell.Fire at Drug International factory in Tongi under control after 4 hoursThe FSCD received information about the fire at 10:15am and dispatched firefighting units, he said.Twenty-one firefighting units from Tongi, Uttara, Gazipur Chowrasta Modern, Mirpur, Kurmitola, Rajendrapur and Purbachal fire stations joined to douse the fire fully.Meanwhile, a Bangladesh Army vehicle carrying water arrived at the scene to assist firefighters in tackling the blaze.he blaze quickly spread across parts of the factory, reportedly destroying medicines, machinery and other equipment inside the facility. Station Officer of Tongi Fire Station Shahin Alam said firefighters rushed to the spot and began efforts to extinguish the fire.

Legal Action for Violating

(October 14) while responding to questions from journalists after laying the foundation stone for street number pillars/directional signposts in Ward No. 1 of Rajshahi city. Minister Zakaria Taher said, "I have recently learned that some individuals are obstructing the mobile court operations conducted by the Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA). Strict legal action is being taken against those who interfere with such government operations. No wrongdoer will be spared. We have already filed a case against one individual." Earlier on Wednesday morning, Minister Zakaria Taher inspected various ongoing and upcoming development projects under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works across Rajshahi city. After laying the foundation stone for the street number pillars at noon, he inaugurated the RDA Prantik Residential Area developed in the Kashiadanga area. Later, he released fish fry into a pond within the residential complex.

8 Digital Forensic Labs to

manipulation are occurring via cyberspace. There is no alternative to modern forensic labs to prevent and curb these tech-based crimes. The government is actively working to equip the police with modern technology and skilled manpower." He further revealed that a dedicated, specialized police cyber unit officially commenced operations on October 1 under the leadership of an Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP). BDT 60 Crore Project

According to Police Headquarters sources, this initiative is being implemented under the project titled "Safe Cyber Space for Digital Bangladesh." Supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) at a cost of approximately BDT 59.08 crore, the project includes the construction of a four-story modern building at the CMP Lines along with the installation of necessary technologies. Multiple national and international training sessions have already been conducted to train personnel in cybercrime investigation.

Law and Order Situation

Responding to queries regarding upcoming local government elections, the political climate, and recent attacks on police officers, the Home Minister asserted, "Every effort is being made to suppress criminals. Encountering resistance or attacks while apprehending criminals is not new, but the government shows zero tolerance when it comes to maintaining law and order. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone who obstructs arrest drives or aids suspects."

The inauguration ceremony was attended by special guests, including Kim Ji-jun, South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh; Syed Ali Noman, Member of Parliament for the Chattogram-10 constituency; and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md. Ali Hossain Fakir. Presided over by CID Additional IGP Barrister Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, senior officials from KOICA and Bangladesh Police were also present.

SABCCI expresses concern

and employment authorities, and international stakeholders to take coordinated steps to resolve the uncertainty of the workers over joining their workplaces in Saudi Arabia.SABCCI said it is closely monitoring the situation and warned that such instability could adversely affect not only social and humanitarian condition but also employment, remittances, imports and exports, trade and investment.Considering the longstanding brotherly ties, strong economic and trade relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, and the mutual interests of their people, a swift normalisation of the situation is essential, it said.Citing media reports, it said the cancellation of 82 flights over the past few days has disrupted the joining of more than 13,000 Bangladeshi workers scheduled to travel to Saudi Arabia for job. If the situation persists, the workers could face uncertainty over joining their jobs on time and securing their employment, putting the financial security of their families at risk, it added.Bangladesh's foreign exchange earnings and overall economy could also be adversely affected, SABCCI said.

It also urged the authorities to consider extending visa validi-

ty where necessary, coordinating with employers, arranging alternative measures for workers to join their workplaces and providing necessary administrative and financial assistance to those affected.SABCCI expressed confidence that the situation could be resolved swiftly and peacefully through mutual cooperation, effective diplomatic initiatives and international dialogue. The chamber also urged all concerned parties to ensure the safety, employment and welfare of Bangladeshi expatriates in Saudi Arabia while maintaining the friendly relations, trade cooperation and economic progress of the two countries.

Woman

rehabilitation centres several times in an effort to help him return to a normal life, but he escaped from the centres each time.The family was preparing to send Suman to a rehabilitation centre again. In the early hours of Wednesday, staff from a Sirajganj-based centre arrived to take him. Agitated, Suman stabbed his mother in the chest and his father repeatedly in the abdomen before fleeing.The rehabilitation centre staff members rescued the couple in critical condition and took them to Kurigram General Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared Munira dead. Sardar Ali was referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.Officer-in-Charge of Kurigram Sadar Police Station Kamal said several police teams were conducting drives to arrest Suman, who remained absconding. The body was sent to the morgue of Kurigram General Hospital for an autopsy.

NBR detects

on a tip-off, a preventive team of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate raided UAGM BD Limited at B/240, Mizmizi South Para in Siddhirganj on September 9. The company operates under the Customs Bond Commissionerate, Dhaka (South), as a deemed exporter. It had been importing various raw materials, including PVC flex, PVC film, PET film, artificial leather, duplex board and colour board, duty-free under the bonded warehouse facility.According to the NBR, the company claimed to manufacture products using the imported materials and export them through back-to-back letters of credit (LCs).During the raid, officials found major discrepancies between the company's declared production volume and its electricity consumption. A review of electricity bills showed that power consumption was extremely low compared with the reported level of production.The investigation also found no alternative electricity connection, solar power system or gas-fired production facility at the factory.

UP elections in five

ules, generally 42 to 45 days before polling. The EC plans to hold elections first in UPs near district headquarters, followed by those close to upazila headquarters, according to EC sources. The approach is intended to facilitate the coordinated deployment of law enforcement personnel at the district and upazila levels. Additional forces may be brought in from neighbouring districts if necessary.The commission has pledged strict action against electoral interference, violence, intimidation and the use of muscle power. Judicial and executive magistrates will be deployed to enforce electoral laws, with provisions for immediate legal action and cancellation of candidacies in cases of serious violations.Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmanel Mashud told BSS that the commission would take all necessary measures to ensure free, fair and acceptable elections in accordance with the law."We will certainly strive to hold good elections in line with the standards of the 13th parliamentary election held on February 12," he said.Mashud said political parties will be consulted during preparations and their cooperation will be sought to maintain a peaceful electoral environment.He warned that the commission would not grant special concessions to anyone involved in disrupting the electoral process, regardless of political affiliation. Candidates found involved in violence or other prohibited activities could face legal action and cancellation of their candidacies.However, he said the EC's objective was not merely to punish offenders or halt elections, but to create an environment in which people complied with the law and refrained from electoral offences.The amended electoral rules provide for penalties for irregularities, voter intimidation, the use of force and obstruction of voters during UP elections. The success of the five-phase polls will depend on effective enforcement of electoral laws, maintaining law and order and taking prompt action against violations. Fresh polling may also be held at centres where irregularities are established.

Attack for obstructing

The occupiers became angry after hearing the news of filing a complaint at the police station. On Tuesday afternoon, when Zahirul Islam and Alamgir Hossain went to observe the illegal drain and road, the accused suddenly attacked them with sticks, iron rods, pipes and sharp weapons (Ramda). The complaint states that the main accused Al Mamun Sarkar grabbed Zahirul by the throat with the intention of killing him. When he tried to chop his head with a Ramda, he tried to block it with his hand and the bone of his left hand was broken. Later, when he fell to the ground, he was beaten with an iron pipe and 2 lakh taka for buying construction materials from him was snatched away. When Alamgir Hossain came forward to save him, the accused Helal also beat him and injured him and snatched 10 thousand taka. Later, locals rescued them and took them to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. Victim Alamgir Hossain said, "I have been maintaining this Waqf Estate as Secretary for a long time and paying taxes every year. Suddenly I heard that someone is building drains and roads.



ESTD-2006

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে



এখন প্রতি
শুক্রবার
বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপথ্যালমোলজী)
এমপিএইচ (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপথ্যালমোলজী)
পিএইচডি (অপথ্যালমোলজী)
সিনিয়র কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল ওয়াকফ ফ্যাকাল্টি সেন্টার

০১৭৩২-৫৫৮৭৫৯
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ওয়াপদা গেট,
অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

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



Why Saudi Arabia struggling to repel Houthi attacks



International Desk

Saudi Arabia has one of the world's most expensive and sophisticated arsenals, filled with American warplanes, missile defenses and other cutting-edge technology. But in recent days it has appeared helpless in the face of barrages of missiles and drones fired by the Houthi rebel group from neighboring Yemen. The attacks have struck Saudi airports, killed at least 14 people and forced school-children and businesspeople to stay indoors and work from home. The Iran-backed Houthis, once seen as little more than a ragtag militia, have grown into a formidable fighting force. They have inflicted damage on the region's top oil producer, threatened critical supply routes in the Red Sea and now risk reigniting a full-scale war on the Arabian Peninsula that displaced millions and killed tens of thousands. The Houthis are attacking Saudi Arabia because it supports government forces in Yemen the rebels seek to overthrow. As Saudi Arabia investigates how its air defenses failed to stop the Houthis' attacks, it must also consider how to respond and what the rebels might do next. Here's what we know and don't know about the Saudi and Houthi conflict: Saudi Arabia has a vast arsenal of US weapons Saudi Arabia is the world's top purchaser of American weapons, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. It says the Saudis received 12% of all U.S. arms exports from 2021-2025. Over the years, the Saudis have purchased American F-15 warplanes, Patriot air defense systems, as well as advanced radars and offensive missile systems, according to the think tank, which tracks global arms transfers. Saudi Arabia's annual budget for 2026 listed \$83 billion for military expenditures. Earlier this year, it struck a \$9 billion deal with Washington for 730 Patriot missiles. But it has a huge area to defend The Houthis have been able to exploit Saudi Arabia's large size. Vulnerable energy, civilian and military assets are scattered across the country's sparsely populated territory roughly

three times the size of Texas. Its border with Yemen stretches more than 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) through rugged desert areas. "Expecting a country the size of Saudi Arabia to intercept every missile is simply unrealistic. No defense can guarantee complete protection," Ali Shihabi, a Saudi analyst, said in a post online Monday. At the same time, regional officials say that Saudi Arabia is running low on interceptors and has reached out to allies for help. Saudi Arabia recently struck a joint defense pact with Pakistan and Turkey. But so far, the two countries appear to be largely staying on the sidelines or limiting their support. President Donald Trump said this week he is evaluating whether the U.S. should join Saudi strikes on the Houthis. But he has not yet announced a decision. Houthi weapons and tactics are battle-tested Like their patron Iran, the Houthis have deployed asymmetric warfare for the 21st century by capitalizing on their strengths — primarily drones and missiles. For the Houthis, success on the battlefield doesn't require toppling Saudi Arabia; disrupting the Saudi economy and sowing fear within its society may be enough to give the Houthis leverage in any possible negotiations to end the fighting. The Houthis have a large arsenal capable of striking targets well over 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away. Some warheads change direction during flight and pose an extra challenge to air defenses. The group has fired hundreds of drones and missiles at Israel since its war in Gaza erupted in October 2023. While most were intercepted, a handful managed to land, in one case killing an Israeli man. Another strike hit an Israeli airport last year. Andreas Krieg, a professor at King's College London, said this experience in challenging Israel's cutting-edge air defenses has given the Houthis confidence and expertise as they now strike Saudi Arabia. "They've learned how to over-saturate the radars," he said. The Houthis, working with allied militias in Iraq, have also targeted Saudi oil

installations, including a vital pipeline used to export oil through the Red Sea while movement through the Strait of Hormuz is limited. The Houthis have also seized territory in Yemen near the Bab el-Mandeb, a key Red Sea waterway, putting additional pressure on Saudi oil exports. Saudi Arabia appears to have miscalculated Michael Ratney, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, says the kingdom assumed the Houthis wouldn't strike civilian targets like airports. Doing so marked "a paradigm shift," he said. Ratney, now an adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the Saudis now find themselves in a position where they have to respond while also trying to prevent the fighting from spinning out of control. "They can't not strike back — they were attacked in a very brutal way by their archenemies," he said. "They need to exert military pressure on the Houthis and then find a way to kind of deescalate." Rather than sending troops into Yemen, the Saudis will likely launch airstrikes against the Houthis and ramp up support of nationalist forces, several analysts said. "It will be surrogate warfare," Krieg said. The Houthis are now a formidable force While the Houthis don't have the firepower of Saudi Arabia, they have grown into a fearsome force controlling roughly one-third of Yemen thanks to help from Iran. The United Nations estimates that the Houthis by 2024 had recruited up to 350,000 fighters. That's up from just 30,000 in 2015, when Saudi Arabia intervened in the internationally recognized Yemeni government's civil war against the Houthis and imposed a naval blockade. Ratney says the Houthis now have a "symbiotic relationship" with Iran and should not be seen as an Iranian puppet. The strikes on Saudi airports and economic assets symbolize a sharing of lessons in asymmetric warfare between the Houthis and the Iranians: how to not just puncture expensive air defenses, but also damage vulnerable energy installations and threaten global maritime routes. "Over the course of the past few years, the Iranians have been innovating and sharing that with the Houthis and it's gone both ways. The Houthis have been innovating, and sharing it with the Iranians," Ratney said. "It's no coincidence that they've ended up with a similar approach." Their recent military successes have made the Houthis feel "untouchable," said Farea Al-Muslimi, a fellow at Chatham House focused on Yemen. "It's very hard to convince a man he's going on the wrong side if he just moved forward and he has a gun in his hand," he said. But the Houthis are now likely to suffer a brutal Saudi counterattack, he said.

Trump announces Greenland resource exploration, but hurdles remain

International Desk

US President Donald Trump has announced plans for "massive" oil, gas and mineral exploration in Greenland, but it remains unclear which projects he was referring to, as the Arctic territory faces major obstacles to commercial resource extraction. In a Truth Social post on Wednesday, Trump described Greenland as "our new and beautiful Greenland". However, the self-governing territory belongs to the Kingdom of Denmark and is not part of the United States. Greenland has significant deposits of rare earth minerals and potential offshore oil and gas reserves. But harsh weather, limited infrastructure, difficult geology and Arctic ice have hindered exploration and commercial extraction for decades. Trump's announcement came less than a month after he signed an agreement with Danish and Greenlandic leaders to strengthen Arctic and North Atlantic security. The deal allows for an expanded US military presence but does not grant Washington special rights to explore Greenland's natural resources. The United States is seeking to reduce its dependence on China, which dominates global supplies of rare earth minerals used in electronics, batteries and renewable energy technologies. Trump also highlighted Greenland's strategic importance for US and European defence. The island hosts the Pituffik Space Base, where roughly 200 US personnel support missile warning, missile defence and space surveillance operations for the United States and NATO.

Ukraine. "Ahead of a tough winter for Ukraine, Donald Trump's swing back toward Russia bodes ill," Rym Montaz of Carnegie Europe wrote in an assessment on Tuesday. "But instead of panicking, Kyiv's European allies are focusing on action." Britain, along with the European Union, is also considering further sanctions against Russia. London has urged Moscow to respect a partial ceasefire announced by Trump and stop attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Zelenskyy has said Ukraine is complying with the energy ceasefire. Burnham made Kyiv his first foreign destination after becoming prime minister in July, offering to share technology for producing long-range missiles with Ukraine. Russia subsequently accused Britain of taking part in the war on Ukraine's side.

Zelenskyy to meet Burnham in London as Ukraine seeks more military support

International Desk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scheduled to meet British Prime Minister Andy Burnham in London on Wednesday as Ukraine seeks greater support to defend itself



against Russia's intensifying attacks. Ukraine and its European allies are working to strengthen the country's defences amid growing Russian bombardment and uncertainty over the Trump administration's commitment to supporting Kyiv in its war against Moscow, which began in February 2022. Burnham's office said the UK would provide "urgent support" to Ukraine in the coming weeks and speed up deliveries of air defence missiles needed to protect the country ahead of the harsh winter. US President Donald Trump's recent decisions have repeatedly raised concerns among Ukrainian and Western European leaders. Last week, Trump announced a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to import large quantities of Russian diesel. The announcement came as Western countries continued efforts to impose sanctions on

Eye tests could help identify early signs of dementia

International Desk

Researchers in Australia have developed new visual tests that could help detect early signs of dementia associated with Parkinson's disease, potentially enabling earlier diagnosis. The researchers at Australia's University of Queensland (UQ) led the development of the tests to detect early signs of dementia in Lewy body disease, which includes Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies, according to a UQ statement released on Wednesday. Lewy body disease is the second most common form of degenerative dementia and occurs when Lewy bodies, abnormal clumps of a protein called alpha-synuclein, build up in the brain's nerve cells and interfere with how they work. Difficulty processing visual information is an early feature of Lewy body disease and can appear before other obvious symptoms, said neurologist Professor Peter Nestor from UQ's Queensland Brain Institute, who led the development of the tests. The researchers examined two visual pathways: one involved in recognizing what we are looking at, and the other in processing where something is located. The study, published in the Journal of Neurology, examined visual processing across the full spectrum of Lewy body disease, including in people with Parkinson's disease who were not experiencing any cognitive symptoms, as well as people with Alzheimer's disease.



Two 'Cockroach' movement leaders jailed for five days after Delhi protest

International Desk

A court in India has sentenced two leaders of the youth-led "Cockroach" movement to five days in jail after police detained them during a protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the group said on Wednesday. Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das were among around a dozen people detained on Tuesday after climbing over barricades to enter the grounds of Jantar Mantar, a historic observatory in central New Delhi that has long been used for protests. Police said the site was no longer an officially designated protest venue and accused Ranka and Das of trespassing and violating prohibitory orders. The arrests came after a major police crackdown over the weekend to prevent mostly young demonstrators from gathering in New Delhi to demand Kumar's resignation. Police briefly detained thousands of protesters. "Jantar Mantar belongs to the people of India. We will reclaim it," opposition leader Rahul Gandhi wrote on X, condemning the arrests as "an act of cowardice."

The protests have grown over a nationwide revision of voter lists that has removed more than 130 million names since last year. Critics allege that the process is politically motivated and could prevent millions of eligible voters from casting their ballots. However, the Election Commission and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government say the exercise aims to remove duplicate and ineligible entries from the lists. Abhijeet Dipke, founder of the "Cockroach" movement, also criticised Modi in a post on X. "If you're so determined to crush dissent, have the courage to officially declare an Emergency instead of hiding behind these cowardly tactics," Dipke wrote. The "Cockroach" movement emerged as an online satirical campaign this summer after India's chief justice compared unemployed young people to parasites. Many young Indians adopted the cockroach as a symbol of resilience in response to the remark. Protests organised by the group led to the resignation of Modi's education minister in July, marking a rare political setback for the prime minister, who has been in power for more than 12 years.

Ukraine's drone industry remains heavily dependent on Chinese technology

International Desk

Ukraine has become a global leader in military drone technology since Russia launched its full-scale invasion more than four years ago, helping its forces counter a much larger enemy. However, the country's growing drone industry still relies heavily on electronic components made in China, a key Russian ally. Ukraine fears Beijing could restrict supplies of essential components or give Russian defence companies preferential access to Chinese factories. Over the past two years, Ukraine has tried to reduce its dependence on China by expanding domestic production and importing more components from Taiwan, Europe and the United States. These efforts have reduced its reliance on Chinese motors, flight controllers and other parts, but completely replacing Chinese supplies remains difficult because of their lower prices and China's huge production capacity. "If China stops their production to us ... we are blinded," said Andrii Taganskyy, an executive at Ukrainian weapons manufacturer Odd Systems, which develops cameras for drones. China has tightened export controls on drones and related equipment several times in recent years, citing concerns about the military use of civilian technology and the continuation of the war. Although the restrictions have not stopped Chinese components from reaching Ukraine, they have caused delays, increased costs and forced Ukrainian companies to use intermediaries in other countries. "China has leverage," said Robert Tallost, a researcher at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), a think tank. He warned that Beijing could direct more supplies to Russia while limiting shipments to Western countries. China's Foreign Ministry said Beijing follows a "prudent and responsible" approach to military exports, opposes the use of civilian drones for military purposes and urges all sides to seek a political settlement. Replacing Chinese components would raise costs Ukraine's drone industry has gained international recognition for developing and assembling advanced systems that have changed modern warfare. However, many essential components remain difficult to produce domestically. Around a dozen Ukrainian manufacturers said they still depend largely on China for magnets, motors, chips, thermal sensors, battery cells and other materials. Oleksandr Yakovenko of TAF Industries, a major Ukrainian defence company, said replacing Chinese components entirely with Western alternatives could increase costs by as much as 60% and reduce production by a similar proportion. He and other industry executives said such a trade-off would not be practical. Nevertheless, Ukrainian manufacturers have made progress in increasing domestic production. Three years ago, drone maker Vyriy relied on China for nearly 90% of the components used in its attack drones. Today, about 70-80% of its components are made in Ukraine, said its founder, Oleksii Babenko. Greater domestic production also allows companies to respond more quickly to battlefield demands. Locally made drones and components can be redesigned within days, while changes involving foreign supply chains may take months, said Artur Savchil, an analyst at the Kyiv-based Serpens Center for International Security. Ukrainian customs data show that nearly 90% of the country's imported drone components came directly from China at the beginning of 2024. The figure fell to 28% during the first eight months of 2026. However, the decline may be less significant than the figures suggest, as some components recorded as imports from Poland and the Czech Republic may have been manufactured in China and shipped through those countries. Thermal cameras highlight the challenge Ukraine's continued dependence on Chinese technology is

particularly clear in thermal cameras used by military drones. Ukrainian companies design the cameras but rely on imported sensors that detect infrared radiation and lenses that cannot currently be manufactured domestically, industry representatives said. Germanium, an important raw material for these lenses, is widely available in China, helping Chinese manufacturers produce them at lower prices than European suppliers. Although the United States and Europe also manufacture thermal sensors, much of their output is used in their own markets. Taganskyy said Ukraine could produce thermal cameras entirely from European components, but limited production capacity and high costs remain major obstacles. Europe produces about 600,000 thermal sensors annually, compared with Ukraine's estimated requirement of four million, he said.

For now, some Chinese components remain essential. "Without this 5%, there is no camera," Taganskyy said. Ukraine competes with Russia for Chinese supplies Experts say Russia is even more dependent on Chinese components than Ukraine, partly because Western sanctions have restricted its access to other markets. However, Moscow does not face the same concern that Beijing could favour Ukraine when supplying military-related technology. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently raised concerns about China's closer commercial relationship with Russia. "They are slightly on Russia's side. And by 'slightly,' I mean not direct weapons supplies, but a greater openness to them, a greater willingness to help them rather than us," Zelenskyy said. He added that even a limited preference could have significant consequences given China's size. Competing with Russian buyers for supplies from the same Chinese factories also risks revealing Ukraine's military requirements to Moscow. Babenko recalled that Ukrainian forces recovered a Russian drone fitted with advanced antennas for long-range reconnaissance and guidance. His company traced the technology to a Chinese supplier. When Ukrainian representatives sought to purchase several hundred units, the supplier initially refused before agreeing on the condition that the deal remain confidential because the technology had been developed for Russia, Babenko said. The incident reinforced the need for domestic manufacturing, he added, warning that Ukraine should prepare for a situation in which China fully sides with Russia. Companies find ways around export restrictions Since 2023, China has repeatedly tightened controls on exports of drones and related components. Further restrictions introduced this summer have prevented Ukrainian companies from directly purchasing some long-range civilian drones, motors, cameras and infrared imaging equipment from Chinese suppliers. To maintain supplies, Ukrainian defence companies have turned to intermediaries in third countries. Executives said the restrictions had disrupted deliveries and increased costs. One executive described a system in which partner companies purchase components in other countries before they are shipped through additional locations to Ukraine. Another executive said some companies alter product descriptions on official paperwork to get around export controls. Both spoke anonymously to avoid exposing their methods. Joseph Webster, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, said Chinese manufacturers' continued willingness to sell to Ukrainian buyers and the ability to route goods through third countries made it difficult to stop the trade completely. "This dependence is not going to go away in a war where both sides are burning through equipment at a horrifying scale," said Samuel Bendett, an analyst of military robotics. "Where domestic industry cannot keep up, China can."





Daisy Edgar-Jones, Esmé Creed-Miles bring new life to ‘Sense and Sensibility’



Entertainment Desk

Daisy Edgar-Jones had one important question after being cast as Elinor Dashwood in the new film adaptation of Jane Austen’s “Sense and Sensibility”: who would play her younger sister, Marianne? A longtime Austen fan, Edgar-Jones had read all the author’s novels and watched as many adaptations as possible. She now stars as the sensible elder sister in the new film, which opens in theatres Friday. Directed by Georgia Oakley, it is the first major film adaptation of “Sense and Sensibility” directed by a woman. For Edgar-Jones, however, finding the right actress to play Marianne was just as important as landing the role herself. The film also features George MacKay, Frank Dillane and Herbert Nordrum. “The film, as I saw it, would kind of live or die by the relationship between those two actors,” Oakley said, recalling the challenge of finding actresses who could convincingly portray sisters. The search led to Esmé Creed-Miles, who already had a history with Edgar-Jones. The two actresses had spent a summer in Yorkshire as teenagers while filming the independent movie “Pond Life” and watching the reality show “Love Island” together. Edgar-Jones said their shared experiences helped them quickly connect with their characters. Their chemistry became clear during an audition session in which they performed challenging scenes, including one where Elinor finally tells Marianne that she is also heartbroken over a man. Creed-Miles said Edgar-Jones felt like family to her, adding that they felt deeply connected to the characters. Their off-screen friendship also impressed Oakley. During the audition session, Creed-Miles even ate some of Edgar-Jones’



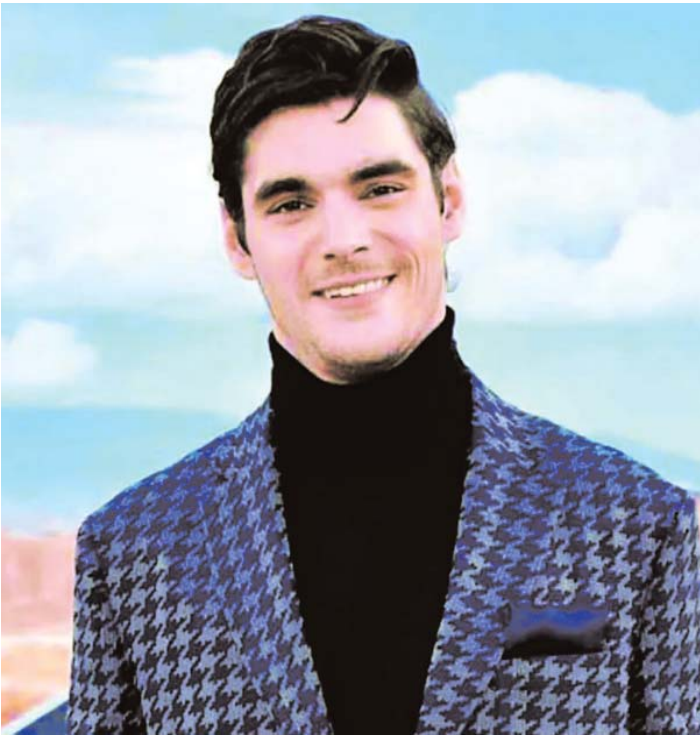
Entertainment Desk

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.

Walter from ‘Breaking Bad’ commits suicide

Entertainment Desk

RJ Mitte, actor from popular television series ‘Breaking Bad,’ has died. He died in Brownsville, Texas, on Monday local time at the age of 34. The American actor became popular for playing the physically disabled young man Walter White Jr in the TV series. The actor’s management company confirmed the news of his death in a statement. Later, a publicist told reporters that RJ Mitte committed suicide. However, no further details were released about the specific circumstances of his death. RJ Mitte played the only son of the main character Walter White in the crime drama series ‘Breaking Bad’, which aired from 2008 to 2013. Mitte was only 14 years old when the pilot episode of the series began filming in 2007. The series, which spanned multiple seasons, won a total of 16 Emmy Awards.



lunch while waiting for her turn. Oakley said their natural humour and playful exchanges immediately reminded her of the relationship between Elinor and Marianne. Creed-Miles, whose parents are actors Samantha Morton and Charlie Creed-Miles, began acting at the age of six in a Harmony Korine film. She later starred in the Amazon Prime series “Hanna” but has explored interests beyond acting. Her other pursuits include photography, music and film-making. Her photographs from the set have appeared in “Vogue”, while she is also a member of the alternative rock band Cusk and has directed a short film. She was particularly interested in working with Oakley, whose debut film “Blue Jean” follows a closeted gym teacher in England in the late 1980s. Oakley said she was drawn to Austen’s ability to explore complex and challenging themes without presenting her work as an explicit political statement. **A more natural look at the Regency era** The new film tells the story of the Dashwood family, four women who must rebuild their lives after losing their fortune. Caitriona Balfe plays their mother, while Bodhi Rae Breathnach portrays the youngest sister. Oakley wanted to move away from the polished appearance often associated with period dramas set during the Regency era. Instead, she aimed to present the characters as more natural and relatable. To develop the film’s visual style, she drew inspiration from Andrea Arnold’s “Wuthering Heights” and Kelly Reichardt’s “Meek’s Cutoff”. She also created playlists featuring violin music and referenced dresses marked with raspberry stains and soil. Oakley said she wanted audiences to feel close to the characters rather than view them from a distance. The family’s difficult circumstances, she explained, meant they would not always be concerned about their appearance or how others perceived them. Edgar-Jones welcomed the approach, saying she had not seen an Austen adaptation presented in this way before. Creed-Miles said the film was not intended to reject traditional Regency-era hairstyles or makeup. Instead, it sought to explore aspects of the women’s inner lives that had not been fully shown in earlier screen adaptations. Working on the film also deepened her appreciation of Austen’s work. Creed-Miles said the two actresses’ different levels of familiarity with the author could help make the film appealing to a wider audience, including people who had never read Austen’s novels. She hopes the adaptation will introduce a new generation of viewers to the author and her characters.

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

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 wants 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.

Miscreants attack house of Mamunur Rashid

Entertainment Desk

Renowned playwright and actor Mamunur Rashid’s ancestral house in Palasholi area of Tangail city was raided by miscreants. At that time, they broke the lock of the balcony grill of the house and entered the house and destroyed the cupboard and wardrobe. Mamunur Rashid’s sister Afia Khan filed a written complaint with Tangail Sadar Police Station on Monday regarding the incident. Afia Khan said, “I have filed a complaint with the police station. I was in Dhaka on the day of the incident. I went to the police station after returning to Tangail. This house is very dear to my parents. I have become mentally ill. My brother has spoken to the OC. We have three steel cupboards, a wooden wardrobe and a file cabinet here. It will take me time to understand what was stolen. I have become ill.



They have done a lot of harm to me, a lot. You will see if I send the video.” In this regard, Mamunur Rashid said, “They (miscreants) have broken open the cupboards, file cabinets, and other things in my house and scat-

tered them around. My mother (deceased) used to live there. I heard that it was stolen, but my sisters are still unable to figure out exactly what was stolen. It will take some time to figure out what was there and what was not.”

Ronti Das wins ‘Best Melody Singer’ at Dhallywood Awards

Entertainment Desk

Ronti Das has been officially singing for two decades. She gained recognition in 2006 through the ‘Close Up 1: Tomakey Khujchhe Bangladesh’ competition. Since then, she has been singing regularly. She has also received various recognitions. This time, Ronti has added a new award to her bag. She has received the ‘Dhallywood Award 2026’. She received the ‘Best Melody Singer’ award at this year’s event held in New York, USA recently. Popular singer Rizia Parveen presented the award to her. Ronti Das is excited about this special award. With this award, she will focus more on music. She will continue her journey through music. She said, “I want to live through music, music is my identity.”



How Priyontee Urbee doing after camera fell on her face during shooting?

Entertainment Desk

Actress Priyontee Urbee was injured while shooting. The incident occurred during the shooting at the Mohakhali Cancer Institute on Monday. The actress herself informed about the matter. In a message on Tuesday, Urbee said, “I had an accident while shooting yesterday. Honestly, the experience was horrible!” Describing the incident, Urbee wrote, “I was doing a mute shot where I was lying on a hospital bed and everyone was pulling the bed and taking me to a room. For a close-up shot, our DOP was climbing on the bed and setting the camera in front of my face. In the middle of the shot, the bed shook, causing our DOP to lose his balance and fall directly on my face with the camera. For a moment, I couldn’t see anything, couldn’t speak. The pain was unbearable!” Urbee said they immediately went to the hospital. She underwent an X-ray. She is now taking medication as per the doctor’s advice. Urbee is not blaming anyone for the incident. She said, “I want to make one thing clear, no one is at fault here. It was an accident. Everyone was doing their job properly. But the accident happened to me, and the pain I went through is very real.” Priyontee Urbee said that she had severe pain in her nose. Her nose was also swollen. However, she expressed gratitude to Allah that nothing more serious had happened. However, Urbee did not take a break from work due to this accident. She is still shooting yesterday. The actress has asked everyone for prayers for her full recovery.

Bipasha Basu returning to acting after 6yrs

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood actress Bipasha Basu is returning to acting after a long six years. According to a report by The Telegraph, Bipasha has started shooting for an untitled web series directed by producer Hansal Mehta. The series also stars Sunny Kaushal and Vishal Jethwa. It will be released on OTT platform Prime Video. However, the name of the series, Bipasha’s character and the release date have not been revealed yet. The series is scripted by Kashyap Kapoor and Raghav Raj Kakkar. The series is being produced by Prabhleen Sandhu under the banner of her production company Almighty Motion Pictures. The new series revolves around a small town that is slowly becoming one of the main centers of the heroin trade on the continent. The situation becomes complicated as the influence of the criminal world grows there. Sunny Kaushal plays the role of an honest and uncompromising police officer in the series. While performing his duty, he has to deal with powerful people inside and outside his department. While maintaining his integrity, he also has to face the test of human values. However, details about Bipasha

Basu and Vishal Jethwa’s characters have not been revealed yet.

The makers have also not revealed at what stage their characters will become important in the story.

Bipasha Basu has been seen in relatively few films since her marriage. After marrying actor Karan Singh Grover in April 2016, she devoted most of her time to her family.

The couple welcomed their daughter Devi in November 2022. Bipasha previously starred in the web series ‘Dangerous’ opposite Karan Singh Grover in 2020.

The crime thriller series was one of her last notable on-screen roles. She previously played a dual role in the horror film ‘Alone’, which released in January 2015. She played the role of twin sisters named Sanjana and Anjana in the film. Bipasha was opposite Karan Singh Grover. Taking part in the shooting of a new series after a long break is going to start a new chapter in his acting career. However, the audience will have to wait to know exactly what kind of character he will be seen in this work.





Swanson scores first goal since Olympics as US draw 2-2 with Spain



Sports Desk

Mallory Swanson scored her first goal since the 2024 Olympic gold medal match to help the United States earn a 2-2 draw against Spain in a women's international friendly on Tuesday night.

Swanson scored in the 86th minute after Ashley Sanchez had pulled one goal back early in the second half. Spain had taken a 2-0 lead through first-half goals from Alexia Putellas and Salma Paralluelo.

"The mentality of this team has always been that you stay with it. That's what this crest means," Swanson said after coming on as a substitute in the second half.

The match was the second of two friendlies between the teams. Spain, the 2023 Women's World Cup champions and the world's top-ranked team, won the first match 2-0 in Washington, DC, on Saturday.

Spain has already qualified for next summer's Women's World Cup in Brazil, while the United States used the matches to prepare for World Cup qualifying later this year.

Putellas, a two-time Ballon d'Or winner, marked her 150th appearance for Spain by opening the scoring in the 27th minute. She tapped in a pass from Clara Pinedo at the far post to score her 43rd international goal.

Five minutes later, US goalkeeper Phallon Tullis-Joyce misplayed a ball forward, allowing Spain to attack. Putellas set up Paralluelo, whose powerful shot struck the crossbar before going into the net to make it 2-0.

It was the first time since 2011 that the United States had conceded two first-half goals in consecutive matches.

Sanchez reduced the deficit early in the second half with a shot into the far corner. It was her first start for the United States since a match against Argentina on Oct. 30, 2024.

Sanchez has been in strong form for North Carolina Courage in the National Women's Soccer League, scoring a league-leading 20 goals in 27 matches.

Swanson completed the comeback attempt when Michelle Cooper collected a long pass from Kate Del Fava and sent the ball across for Swanson to volley home.

Swanson's previous goal for the United States came in the 1-0 victory over Brazil in the gold medal match at the Paris Olympics. She spent 2025 on maternity leave after giving birth to her daughter.

"One of our big things in the game plan was finding those spaces in the box and being clinical in the box, and you could see that," Swanson said.

Lily Yohannes nearly scored a late winner for the United States in stoppage time, but Spain goalkeeper Misa Rodriguez made a diving save.

"We always want to win. That's the type of team that we are, and I think if we had 20 more minutes, we definitely probably would have won," Sanchez said. "But it was good just to get a tie against a team like that and come back from 2-0 down."

Spain controlled much of the match despite missing several key players. Aitana Bonmati was still recovering from a broken leg, while Vicky Lopez, Mariona Caldentey and goalkeeper Cata Coll were also unavailable because of injuries.

Chicago Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson, Mallory Swanson's husband, and tennis player Ben Shelton, who is dating US player Trinity Rodman, were among the spectators at Subaru Park.

Liton, Hasan rise in latest ICC Test rankings

Sports Desk

Bangladesh wicket-keeper batter Liton Das and pacer Hasan Mahmud have climbed into the latest ICC Test rankings following their impressive performances in the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Liton scored 53 in the first innings and followed it up with a century in the second, moving up three places to join 29th in the Test batters' rankings with 610 rating points.

Meanwhile, Nazmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim each dropped one place while Tanzid Hasan Tamim leapfrogged 10 places to 92nd.

Hasan made further progress in the Test bowlers' rankings, rising seven places to 38th after taking five wickets in the first innings including a hat-trick against Afghanistan and another in the second.

He also became the first Bangladeshi fast bowler to claim a hat-trick in Test cricket.

Among other Bangladeshi bowlers, Mehidy Hasan Miraz moved up one place to 22nd while Ebadot Hossain climbed 11 places to 67th.

Tajjul Islam, however, slipped three places to 18th.

Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah, who scored a century and a 50 in two innings of the Bangladesh Test, rose 13 places to 13th in the Test batters' rankings.

Sediqullah Atal climbed 41 places to 91st following a landmark century in fourth century that helped Afghanistan eke out a draw while Mohammad Saleem moved up 21 places to 72nd in the bowlers' list.



Inter-University sports competition begins at NU

Sports Desk

Chess and women's football events of the Inter-University Sports Competition 2026-27 have begun at National University (NU).

The competition was formally inaugurated yesterday, organised by the university's Office of Physical Education and Culture Affairs.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest, NU Pro-VC Professor Dr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah said the university had taken various initiatives to promote students' physical well-being and create a joyful learning environment as part of the current government's 'Learning with Happiness' programme.

He said organising sports competitions was one of these initiatives.

National University would continue to organise such sports and cultural programmes throughout the academic year, which would play a supportive role in fostering healthy and joyful minds among

students, he added.

University Treasurer Prof. Dr. Nazmul Hossain attended the programme as special guest.

Director of the Office of Physical Education and Culture Mohammad Shafiul Karim, the Controller of Examinations, deans of the university, heads of various offices and students, teachers and guardians from different universities also attended the event.

A total of 108 students from 27 universities across the country, including the host National University, are participating in the competition.

Arbiters from the Bangladesh Chess Federation are serving as judges in the chess competition.

Meanwhile, on the opening day, female students from eight universities took part in four matches in the women's football competition at the Bangladesh Open University field.

The four-day competition will conclude with a closing ceremony and prize distribution on

Fulham coach Arbeloa fined £25,000 over comments on referee after Man United draw

Sports Desk

Fulham manager Alvaro Arbeloa has been fined £25,000 (\$33,200) and warned over comments he made after a Premier League draw with Manchester United that questioned the referee's impartiality.

Arbeloa accepted a charge of "acting in an improper manner" over his remarks following the 1-1 draw between the teams at Fulham's Craven Cottage on Sept. 20.

"I think all fouls for them," the Spanish coach said after the match, referring to Manchester United, who had lost to Manchester City the previous weekend following a controversial goal.

"Every decision was for them," Arbeloa added. "And I knew, I knew after the game against Man City that they don't let Manchester United lose here."

In its written explanation published on Wednesday, an independent commission said it believed Arbeloa's remarks suggested that match officials had repeatedly favoured Manchester United during the game.

The commission also said his comments implied that the officials or others might have deliberately tried to compensate for a mistake made in a different match.

Arbeloa is in his first season as Fulham manager after leaving Real Madrid.



Bangladesh Women suffer 3-0 whitewash in Australia

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Women's team tasted a whitewash at the hands of Australia after suffering a humiliating eight-wicket defeat in the third and final match at Allan Border Field in Brisbane.

Chasing a target of 173, Australia reached 175-2 in just 22.4 overs, with an unbeaten partnership between Annabel Sutherland and Ellyse Perry sealing the hosts' emphatic win.

Put into bat first, Bangladesh struggled early as Murshida Khatun and captain Nigar Sultana Joty fell for 1 and 3 runs respectively.

Sharmin Akter and Shorna Akter attempted to steady the innings, with Sharmin scoring 50 off 93 balls and Shorna remaining unbeaten on 54 off 71 deliveries.

However, a lack of substantial contributions from the other batters saw Bangladesh dismissed for 172 in 49.5 overs.

Megan Schutt led Australia's bowling attack, taking 4-16 in her 10 overs.

Annabel Sutherland and Ashleigh Gardner claimed two wickets apiece.

Australia's chase suffered early setbacks as Georgia Voll and Beth Mooney departed for 11 and 21 respectively.

But Sutherland and Perry took control with an unbeaten third-wicket partnership to guide their team home.

Sutherland struck an unbeaten 74 off 52 balls, including 12 fours, while Perry contributed 65 not out from 64 deliveries, hitting eight fours.

Australia had also dominated the first two matches of the series. They won the opening ODI by seven wickets after bowling Bangladesh out for 166.

In the second match, Bangladesh posted 220, thanks to Sobhana Mostary's career-best 118, but Australia chased down the target for the loss of just one wicket.

Infantino received undisclosed \$1.7m World Cup payment: Report

Sports Desk

Embattled FIFA president Gianni Infantino received a previously undisclosed \$1.72 million World Cup payment, according to FIFA and IRS documents obtained by ESPN.

According to the report published on Tuesday, the lack of transparency surrounding the compensation is a potential violation of FIFA statutes.

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Infantino received the compensation in 2024 from FWC2026, the official U.S.-based organization set up by FIFA to manage and operate the 2026 World Cup held this summer in North America, according to IRS records.

The \$1.72 million was in addition to Infantino's salary and benefits from FIFA for 2024, which amounted to about \$4.9 million.

The additional compensation was not disclosed in FIFA's annual report in 2024, per the report.

According to FIFA's own statutes, "The individual compensation of the FIFA President, the members of the Council and the FIFA Secretary General shall be made public."

A FIFA spokesperson told ESPN that the organization "strongly rejects any suggestion there has been a violation" of the statutes.

"FIFA does not pay a second salary to the FIFA President and complies with all reporting requirements in relation to compensation," read a FIFA statement.

"The FIFA President's annual compensation.



FIFA to offer members \$6.35-billion development fund windfall

Sports Desk

Football's world governing body FIFA is planning to set up a \$6.35-billion development fund for the next four years, AFP learned Wednesday from a source close to the matter.

The plan is due to be approved at its Council meeting on Thursday in Zurich, where FIFA president Gianni Infantino and the 36 other members of the federation's executive will gather.

To finance this development fund for the 2026-2030 period, which would allow money to be distributed to FIFA's 211 federations as well as to the regional confederations, it would draw in part on its financial reserves after a commercially triumphant 2026 World Cup.

The plan, first revealed by the Associated Press, would allow for the payment of \$25 million to each of its 211 member federations.

This is far more than the \$10 million called for by two of Infantino's chief critics, Aleksander Ceferin, the boss of the European confederation UEFA, and Victor Montagliani, the

head of CONCACAF, the confederation of North and Central America and the Caribbean.

Thursday's gathering is the first such meeting since April 28, and comes amid a crisis in the governance of world football, following Infantino's announcement this summer of his desire to open FIFA's premium competitions such as the World to private investors.

That plan was ultimately abandoned in the face of widespread criticism from the football world, with a rebellion led by UEFA, CONCACAF, and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

At the end of September, Infantino launched a consultation process with the federations to reform how the global body operates, announcing that the first proposals could be examined as early as Thursday's Council meeting.

The 56-year-old, who has headed FIFA since 2016, is running for re-election in March 2027.

His opponents have so far failed to agree on a candidate.

Ceferin has chosen to stand for a new term at the helm of UEFA and, according to several media outlets, Montagliani is expected to do the same at CONCACAF.

Sports Desk

Kusal Mendis knocked a solid half century and medium pacer Dasun Shanaka grabbed three wickets as Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the third and final Twenty20 international on Tuesday.

Skipper Mendis hit a 48-ball 87 with four sixes and nine boundaries as Sri Lanka chased down the 169-run target in 17.1 overs for a consolation win at Pindi Stadium.

Pakistan won the series 2-1 with four-wicket and 82-run wins in the first two encounters, also in Rawalpindi.

Pakistan, sent in to bat, were lifted to 168-8 by in-form skipper Sahibzada Farhan who scored a 47-ball 76 that included three sixes and seven boundaries.

Mendis credited disciplined bowling for the turnaround.

"We didn't bowl well in the first two games but yesterday our bowling was disciplined and we kept them to a gettable total," said Mendis.

Farhan blamed lack of runs in the final match.

"We batted well in the first two games but this 168-run total was not enough so we have to analyse this for future games,"



Samad (15) helped Farhan push the score but it was in the final five overs that Pakistan accelerated by adding 59.

The final flurry came through Arafat Minhas who helped Farhan add 66 for the seventh wicket to take the total to some respectability.

Minhas hit two boundaries and two sixes in his 20-ball 34 not out.

Besides Shanaka, Nuwan Thushara and Eshan Malinga also grabbed two wickets apiece.

Saudi league postpones three matches after Houthi attacks

Sports Desk

The Saudi Arabian football league (SPL) has postponed three fixtures, including one involving Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr, following the dramatic escalation in the country's war with the Houthis.

The matchweek nine fixtures have been pushed back in the calendar for "logistical considerations, taking into account the mandatory minimum rest period between matches", according to a statement published on Tuesday on the SPL's website.

The meeting between league leaders Al Hilal and Al Riyadh and the match between Al Ittihad and Al Shabab have been postponed to December 19, while the clash between Al Ahli and Ronaldo's Al Nassr has been rescheduled for March 6, 2027.

The SPL added, however, that the other matchweek nine fixtures "will be played according to the previously announced schedule with no changes".

On Monday, Al Nassr's AFC Champions League match against Uzbek side Neftchi Fergana in Riyadh was delayed by an hour after the coalition announced it had intercepted a missile fired by the Houthis towards the Saudi capital.

Premier League move a Sage decision for new Palace boss

Sports Desk

Pierre Sage has admitted the opportunity to manage in the Premier League was one he could simply not refuse as he prepares to return to his native France with Crystal Palace this week.

Palace are in Europa League action on Thursday at Lyon, which is a special fixture for Sage who got his coaching break there in late 2023 and enjoyed a whirlwind 14 months in charge.

Sage, 47, had no top-level management experience when he was appointed coach of Lyon in November 2023 by their then American owner, John Textor -- who also formerly held a significant stake in Palace.

The seven-time former French champions were bottom of Ligue 1 and heading for relegation.

Sage transformed their fortunes so remarkably that they ended up qualifying for Europe and reaching the French Cup final.

Yet he was sacked halfway through the following campaign. There were talks with Queens Park Rangers that came to nothing before he bounced back in spectacular fashion last season at Lens.

Under Sage, the side from far northern France won the French Cup for the first time in their history and came second in Ligue 1 behind all-conquering Paris Saint-Germain.



Unsurprisingly his achievements attracted interest from elsewhere, and a new chance arose to move to England as Palace sought a successor to Oliver Glasner.

- 'Historic' achievements -

"It was a difficult decision because we had such an incredible year -- historic even -- that I could sense what kind of impact it might have," he said of leaving Lens.

"But at some point you also have to think of yourself and that is what led me to my decision."

Sage, who played as a goalkeeper at amateur level, worked his way up in coaching circles to become the head of Lyon's youth academy before getting his big break at OL.

He has now joined a small band of Frenchmen to have managed in the Premier League, following most notably in the footsteps of Arsene Wenger and Gerard Houllier.

"I am the 10th French coach to have worked in the Premier League and the slightly crazy thing is that I am the first to have done so without having had 100 matches as a manager."

"Arsene Wenger and Gerard Houllier did incredible things here," he added of the legendary former Arsenal boss and the late ex-Liverpool manager. "When the opportunity comes along you obviously say to yourself that it might not come up again."

Sage is learning all about the differences between French football and the Premier League, beyond the enormous financial gulf -

- Palace's resources now far outstrip those of Lyon, who have fallen on harder times amid a wider economic crisis in Ligue 1.



Cooking Gas Crisis in Mathbaria, Ordinary People Held Hostage by Syndicates



Mathbaria (Pirojpur) Correspondent

Allegations have surfaced that cooking gas (LPG) is being sold at inflated prices in Mathbaria, in blatant disregard of government-fixed rates. Compounding the issue is a severe supply shortage; many consumers are unable to secure a cylinder even when willing to pay the higher price. Consequently, ordinary residents and low-income families in Mathbaria Upazila, Pirojpur, are facing immense hardship. Although the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has fixed the price of a 12kg LPG cylinder at Tk 1,837, the reality on the ground is quite different. A survey of markets in Mathbaria Municipality and various unions reveals that gas is being sold at prices ranging from Tk 1,950 to Tk 2,000 or even higher—an increase of Tk 200 to Tk 300 over the regulated rate. Local consumers allege that, due to a lack of administrative oversight, a section of

unscrupulous traders is creating artificial shortages and manipulating prices at will through syndicates. This is making it increasingly difficult for ordinary people visiting the market for daily essentials to manage their household expenses. Salma Akter, a housewife from Ward No. 3, lamented that even after paying a higher price, they have to make the rounds of multiple shops to secure the gas they need.

However, retail traders attribute the high selling prices to irregularities in the wholesale market. According to them, they are forced to purchase cylinders at prices exceeding the rates set by the BERC—right from the dealer and wholesale levels. Many dealers are failing to supply gas at the stipulated prices. Furthermore, there has been a severe supply shortage of Bashundhara Gas over the past two months, and wholesale prices for cylinders from other companies have also risen by as much as Tk 200. Mathbaria Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ataur Rabbi stated that the Upazila administration is taking a strict stance to ensure LPG is sold at the rates fixed by the BERC. Regular market monitoring and inspection drives have already commenced. Legal action will be taken against any traders found charging prices above the stipulated rates.



Special instructions of UNO to village police for security of Durga Puja in Bakerganj

Bakerganj (Barisal) Correspondent

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Milton Chandra Pal has given special instructions to the village policemen to maintain law and order situation and ensure security on the occasion of upcoming Durga Puja in Bakerganj of Barisal. He gave this instruction during an exchange of views with the village police members at the Upazila Parishad ground on Wednesday (October 14) at 1 o'clock. During Durga Puja, he urged everyone to be vigilant and responsible in maintaining law and order in the Pujamandap and surrounding areas. Besides, he ordered to perform duties with caution to avoid any kind of unpleasant situation. Apart from this, UNO gave directions regarding the participation of the village police members in the meeting scheduled by the Prime Minister on November 7. He directed the village police members to participate in the meeting in a disciplined manner by wearing prescribed and proper attire. Mentioning the important role of the village police in the peaceful and uninterrupted celebration of Durga Puja and maintaining the overall law and order situation, he stressed on everyone to fulfill their duties properly.

Indian crystal meth ice worth Tk 2.5cr seized in Satkhira

Satkhira Correspondent

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has seized 500grams of Indian crystal meth ice, a highly valuable narcotic drug worth an estimated Taka 2.5 crore, during an anti-drug operation along the Satkhiraborder. The information was disclosed in a press release signed by Lieutenant Colonel Kazi Ashikur Rahman, commander of the Satkhira 33 BGB Battalion, on Wednesday afternoon. According to BGB, a special team from Ghona Border Outpost (BOP) conducted the operation on Tuesday night at the border area near Datbhanga Shashanghatin Sadar upazila following a tip-off that a large consignment of narcotics was being smuggled into Bangladesh from India. Sensing the presence of BGB personnel, the smugglers fled the scene, leaving behind a polythene packet containing 500 grams of crystal meth ice. The seized drug has an estimated market value of Taka 2.5 crore, the press release said.



Chhagalnaiya UNO, OC Visit Radha Krishna Central Ashram; Set Example of Communal Harmony

Staff Reporter

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Chhagalnaiya Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md. Abu Taher paid an official visit to the traditional Sri Sri Radha Krishna Sebashram Central Temple in Chhagalnaiya upazila of Feni. The visit was aimed at strengthening communal harmony and assessing the overall security arrangements as well as preparations ahead of upcoming religious festivities. During the visit, the administration officials were accompanied by the president of the Upazila Puja Udjapan Committee, the president of the temple management committee, and local dignitaries. The two top officials inspected the temple premises and exchanged views with the temple management committee members. Speaking on the occasion, the officials highlighted the region's long-standing tradition of harmony. "Chhagalnaiya upazila has always been a bright example of communal harmony. All religious festivals here are celebrated in a peaceful and festive atmosphere, and the local administration remains vigilant to ensure safety and security at all times," they remarked. Expressing gratitude, the president of the temple committee commended the administration's proactive initiative, stating that the presence of the UNO and OC has significantly bolstered confidence and a sense of security among the local Hindu community. At the conclusion of the visit, the administration officials extended their warm wishes for the continued prosperity of the shrine and reaffirmed their commitment to providing all necessary support whenever needed.

Seven Arrested with 85 Yaba Tablets in Daudkandi Police Raids



M A Khayer Emon, Comilla Correspondent

Police have arrested seven people in separate operations in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla district, recovering 85 yaba tablets from one of the suspects, police said on Wednesday. The arrests were made during separate drives conducted by Daudkandi Model Police Station. Among those arrested, one was detained with yaba tablets, two were wanted in connection with arrest warrants, and four were apprehended under Section 34 of the Police Act, according to police sources. Police said the operations were carried out under the leadership and directives of Daudkandi Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Sajedul Islam as part of routine law enforcement activities in the area.

Mia arrested Salam, 29, and Md Kamal Hossain. Both were wanted under arrest warrants, police said. Meanwhile, separate drives led by SI Madhusudan Majumder and SI Adhir Chowdhury resulted in the arrest of four more individuals under Section 34 of the Police Act. The arrested individuals were identified as Minhajul Ahmed, also known as Sourav, 20; Md Arif, 30; Mofazzal Hossain, 25; and Md Russell, 25. Confirming the arrests, OC Mohammad Sajedul Islam said the seven detainees were produced before a court on Wednesday afternoon and subsequently sent to jail custody. Police said the operations were part of their ongoing efforts to maintain law and order and take action against suspected criminal activities in the upazila.



Grants distributed to 42 puja mandaps in Feni on behalf of Environment Minister

Feni Correspondent

On behalf of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo, grants were distributed among the 42 Durga Puja mandaps in 17 unions and two municipalities of Sonagazi and Daganbhuiyan upazilas of the district yesterday. The cheque of the grants were handed over to the puja committees this noon following a view-exchange meeting with members of the Hindu community on the occasion of the 'Sharadiya Durga Utsab', the greatest religious festival of the Hindus. The financial supports were provided from the minister's own fund. Upazila BNP and Jubo Dal organized the meeting at the Sonagazi Municipality auditorium in the district. The minister's son Tajwar Awal was present in the event as the chief guest with Sonagazi Upazila BNP Member Secretary Syed Alam Bhuiyan in the chair. Upazila Jubo Dal Convener Khurshid Alam Bhuiyan moderated it. A member of the puja committee said, on behalf of the Environment Minister, a financial grant of Tk 15,000 per mandap, totaling to Tk 6,30,000 has been provided to 42 mandaps in the two upazilas, including 23 in Sonagazi and 19 in Daganbhuiyan. Besides, Sonagazi Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Abul Hasim said necessary pre-cautionary measures have been taken to ensure security in and around the puja mandaps.

Nine Arrested in Separate Police Drives in Cumilla's Brahmanpara

■ One warrant-listed accused held; eight others sent to court for summary trial over drug use

M A Khayer Emon, Cumilla Correspondent

Police arrested nine people in two separate operations in Brahmanpara upazila of Cumilla district on Wednesday. Of the nine, one was wanted in a General Register (GR) case, while the other eight were detained for drug use and sent to the court for summary trial, according to police. The operations were conducted by separate teams of Brahmanpara Police Station as part of their law enforcement activities in the area. Warrant-listed accused arrested Police said Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Md Nur Al Hsan, accompanied by other police personnel, conducted one of the operations on Wednesday and arrested Md Sajid Arefin, 28, who was wanted in a GR case. Sajid is the son of Abu Kawsar and a resident of Manra village under Shashidal in Brahmanpara upazila of Cumilla. He was subsequently taken into police custody for further legal proceedings, according to the information provided by the police. Eight detained over drug use In a separate operation on the same day, police detained eight people for drug use and sent them to the court for summary trial. The operation was led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Md Rafiqul Islam, accompanied by ASI Md Nur Al Hsan, ASI Lincoln Kumar Nath and other members of the police team. The eight individuals were identified as Md Alamgir, 35; Abul Kalam Azad, 39; and Kazi Mozammel Haque, 42, from Barirchar village

in Chandina upazila of Cumilla.

The others are Md Rahim, 22, and Md Juraid



Haque, 24, from Purkuil Purba Para village in Kasba upazila of Brahmanpara; Md Aminul Islam, 22, from Keura village in Kasba; Md Jisan, 26, from Chhatiani village in Brahmanpara; and Md Khairul Amin, 28, from Ashabari village in Brahmanpara, Cumilla. Police said the eight were detained for drug use and forwarded to the competent court for summary trial. Police continue law enforcement activities The two operations resulted in the arrest or detention of nine people in total, including one accused wanted under a court warrant and eight individuals facing proceedings over alleged drug use. The information was provided in a special operation report issued by Brahmanpara Police Station on October 14, 2026. The allegations against the eight individuals remain subject to the relevant legal proceedings. Source: Brahmanpara Police Station, Cumilla.



Three Accused Arrested in Sylhet in Connection with Land Dispute Murder

Naeem Ahmed, Sylhet

Three accused in a murder case stemming from a land dispute in Domar upazila of Nilphamari district have been arrested in Sylhet during a joint operation by SRB-9 and SRB-13 on Tuesday night (October 14). According to sources, the victim, a resident of Hossaraj village in Domar upazila, had a longstanding dispute with his relatives over land and various family matters. The dispute escalated into a violent clash on the morning of June 5, 2026, over access to the disputed land. During the incident, the victim was allegedly attacked with locally made weapons by members of the opposing party, leaving him critically injured. He was initially taken to a local hospital and later transferred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated. He died while undergoing treatment on June 14. Following the incident, the victim's wife filed a murder case at Domar Police Station in Nilphamari district. Law enforcement agencies subsequently launched an operation to arrest those involved in the killing. As part of the investigation, a joint operational team from SRB-9, Sylhet, and SRB-13 conducted an operation in Sylhet at approximately 12:05 a.m. on Tuesday (October 14) and arrested three accused named in the case. The arrested individuals were identified as Md. Abul Hossain (40), Mosammat Amena Begum (35), and Md. Khodor Islam (19). All three are residents of Domar upazila in Nilphamari district. Sources said the arrested individuals would be handed over to the relevant police station for further legal proceedings. Note: Please verify the official name of the force before publication. The original information provided in the image identifies the units as SRB-9 and SRB-13, not SRB-9 and SRB-13.



Moral values essential to eradicate drugs, extortion: MP Helal

Khulna Correspondent

Lawmaker of Khulna-4 constituency and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Central Information Secretary SK Azizul Bari Helal yesterday said that drug abuse, terrorism and extortion could not be eradicated through law enforcement alone unless people developed a strong sense of morality. "Raising moral awareness and strengthening social values among people, alongside enforcing the law, were essential to eliminating drugs, terrorism and extortion from society," he said. He made the remarks while addressing a reception programme for newly admitted Class XI female students for the 2026-2027 academic session at Syed Arshad Ali and Saburunnisa Girls College in Aichghati under Rupsha upazila of Khulna. He said an initiative had been taken to introduce a third language alongside Bangla and English, with students being able to learn one of several languages, including Chinese, Japanese, French, Arabic and Spanish. He also highlighted the importance of polytechnic education in developing skilled human resources. Dr Syed Kamrul Islam, president of the college governing body presided over the event while Principal Professor Muhammad Abdur Rashid of Rupsha Government College and Md Julfikar Ali Khan, joint convener of Khulna District BNP, attended the programme as the special guests.

Call for providing legal aid to marginalized communities



Rangpur Correspondent

Speakers at a networking meeting yesterday called for establishing an effective referral mechanism between government and non-government organizations to provide legal aid to marginalized communities. The Rangpur district unit of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organized the event at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room in the city. Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur Israt Jahan presided over the meeting, moderated by Coordinator of BLAST Rangpur unit Advocate Dilruba Rahman. Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Shariful Alam, Assistant Commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police Shakil, Additional Superintendent of District Police Sanjay Kumar Sarkar, Deputy Director of the Department of Women Affairs Seloara Begum, Deputy Director of the District Social Services Office Nusrat Fatema, ASI Nabayin Akter Champa of the Victim Support Center, Coordinator of the One-Stop Crisis Center at Rangpur Medical College Hospital Dr Soheli Binte Mostafa and Advocate Monalisa Akter of BLAST, spoke, among others. The speakers said that marginalized commu-

nities, particularly women, children, Dalits, plain-land ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and people living in climate-affected areas, constantly face obstacles in accessing justice and institutional services. In this context, establishing an effective referral mechanism is essential. Therefore, various government and non-government agencies must work together at the district level to prevent various forms of violence and provide legal aid to marginalized communities. The speakers further mentioned that the government has emphasized the amicable settlement of disputes other than criminal offenses. The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Legal Aid Office is working to resolve disputes through mediation and ensure access to justice. This spares litigants from financial expense and harassment. Furthermore, as disputes are resolved, there is no scope for new conflicts to arise in the future. "Therefore, encouraging the marginalized population to seek amicable settlements, alongside providing them with free legal aid, will foster peace and order in society and ensure that vulnerable litigants receive justice," she said. Representatives from the district administration, Department of Social Services, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, District Legal Aid Committee, One-Stop Crisis Centre, Victim Support Centre, and other local non-governmental legal aid organizations participated in this event