



Efforts to build clean Bangladesh must start now: PM

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today called upon the younger generation to take an active role in building a clean and healthy Bangladesh, stressing that efforts to ensure a better environment for future generations must begin now. "The work of building a beautiful, clean and healthy Bangladesh for future generations must begin now, as you will

lead the country in the future," he told students. The Prime Minister made the call while visiting Mirpur Bangla College in the capital and addressing members of the Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) and Scouts, said his Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. Tarique Rahman said Bangladesh is a densely populated country in terms of its size, particularly in Dhaka, where keep-

ing the city clean is a major challenge. So, the task can be accomplished through collective efforts. He urged the young people not to limit their involvement in cleanliness activities to organised campaigns but to take personal initiatives and encourage their friends, relatives and neighbours to keep their surrounding areas clean. Emphasising the link between cleanliness and public health, the

♦ see page 2

Universities should focus on building skilled workforce for employment: President

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir today said the primary objective of public and private universities should be producing a skilled workforce suitable for employments at home and abroad. "The higher education system must be developed through a coordinated and holistic approach so that it can produce a skilled workforce suitable for labour markets at home and abroad, ensuring that no one remains unemployed," he said. The President said this when a delegation of Southeast University Board of Trustees led by its Chairman Rezaul Karim paid a courtesy call on him at the Bangabhaban today. Southeast University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Yusuf Mahbubul Islam was present, among others, President's Press Secretary Md. Sarwar Alam told BSS. The President, also chancellor of the university, said, "We have to recruit workers from abroad to run various industries, factories,

♦ see page 2



Death toll rises to 10 in Cox's Bazar resort fire

Jahangir Alam Staff Reporter

A devastating fire broke out at 'Tuptup Resort' along the scenic Marine Drive road in Cox's Bazar on Saturday morning, leaving at least five tourists dead and four others critically injured with severe burn injuries. Three units of the Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and brought the flames under control after a grueling operation lasting nearly two hours. Meanwhile, the resort owner and all staff members reportedly fled the scene immediately following the incident. The fire broke out unexpectedly around 7:00 AM on Saturday (October 17). According to local sources and fire service officials, the fire originated in one part of

the resort and rapidly engulfed the entire property within minutes. Upon receiving the news around 8:00 AM, three firefighting units from Cox's Bazar quickly arrived at the scene and launched a rescue mission. They managed to bring the blaze under control around 10:00 AM. Rescuers retrieved five charred bodies from the debris. Four other heavily burned victims were rescued in critical condition and rushed to a nearby hospital for emergency medical treatment. The identities of the deceased and injured could not be immediately confirmed, but fire service personnel suspect they were tourists visiting Cox's Bazar from various parts of the country. Confirming the incident, Syed Muhammad Moreshed

♦ see page 2



Human Chain Demanding the Removal of Health and Family Planning Officer in Nilphamari

Crime Reporter, Rangpur

Health assistants staged a human chain demanding the removal of Dr. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, Health and Family Planning Officer of Nilphamari Sadar Upazila. The hour-long programme was held on Thursday (October 15) afternoon in front of the office of the Sadar Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, organized by the Nilphamari District Branch of the Bangladesh Health Assistant Association. The human chain was presided over by the organization's president, Anzarul Haque Milon. Speakers included General Secretary Md. Mominur Rahman, Acting President of the Sadar Upazila Branch Md. Shahannur Islam, General Secretary Sudeb Chandra, Joint General Secretary Jahurul Islam, and Vice-President Roksana Akter, among others. During the human chain, the speakers raised various allegations of irregularities and corruption against Dr. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal. They alleged that although separate allocations were provided for microphone announcements during the Vitamin 'A' Plus Campaign and various other programmes, the allocated funds were embezzled without being spent. Instead, health

♦ see page 2



O Allah, O Allah, please heal Uzair Hossain Sajib quickly and bring him back among his friends

Sports Reporter, Bagerhat

Uzair Hossain Sajib is an icon of Bagerhat. This 17-18 year old player, who came up from a remote village, has won the hearts of lakhs of spectators. He is very sick. He is currently admitted to Sadar Hospital with dengue fever. He is praying and seeking prayers from all his friends, relatives, supporters, well-wishers, so that he gets well soon. At the same time, the Daily Bangla Sky family is also praying to the Almighty Rabbul Al Amin for the quick recovery of Uzair Hossain Sajib, Ameen

10 shops gutted in two separate fires in Gazipur

Staff correspondent

Ten shops were gutted in two separate fire incidents in Tongi of Gazipur district early Saturday. However, no casualties were reported. Fire Service officials said eight shops were damaged in a fire that broke out at Kadira Gate in the Millgate area of Tongi around 12:30am. Two firefighting units from the Tongi Fire Station rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control in about one hour and 15 minutes. Goods worth Tk 5 lakh were damaged in the fire. Meanwhile, two semi-pucca shops were damaged in a fire that broke out on Kha Para Road in Auchpara, Tongi, around 1:45am.

♦ see page 2

NBR asks customs houses to keep import-export operations open during Durga Puja holidays

Staff correspondent

National Board of Revenue (NBR) has asked all customs houses and stations across the country to keep import and export activities operational on a limited scale during the government holidays from October 20 to 22 on the occasion of Sharadiya Durga Puja. The NBR issued the directive in a letter dated October 15 to ensure uninterrupted import-export trade during the festival holidays. Signed by Rezaul Karim, second secretary (Customs Policy), the letter requested the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to continue import and export-related activities during the holidays. The directive applies to customs houses and stations in Dhaka, Chattogram, Benapole, Kamalapur, Mongla, Pangaon, Chattogram ICD and Bhowra, among others. It also covers Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerates across the country, including those in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Jashore, Khulna, Sylhet, Rangpur, Cumilla, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Barishal, Mymensingh and Cox's Bazar. The NBR has also requested the governor of Bangladesh Bank to inform all commercial banks about the directive. In addi

♦ see page 2

Home Minister stresses equal rights, religious freedom for all on Durga Puja



Staff correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Friday emphasized that no citizen should face discrimination based on religion, stressing that constitutional rights, religious freedom, and security must be guaranteed for all. Speaking as the chief guest at the Banani Puja Mandap in the capital on Friday night, the minister called it tragic that religious communities still

need to seek security to celebrate their festivals. "Every citizen's right to freely practice their religion is constitutionally recognized. It is unfortunate for our national life that we repeatedly have to discuss ensuring security for religious celebrations," he said. Highlighting government support, Salahuddin said that Bangladesh has arranged the highest number of Puja mandaps, the highest budget allocation, and the longest holiday period for Durga Puja this year. On politics, he urged parties not to view any religious community as a vote bank, stating that citizens have the right to decide according to their conscience. Calling for mutual respect across faiths, the minister praised the

♦ see page 2

Govt plans policy support, export diversification to revive tea sector

Staff correspondent

The government plans comprehensive financial, technological and policy reforms, higher productivity, solar power investment and export diversification, to restore the economic viability of Bangladesh's tea sector, which faces ageing plantations, rising costs and mounting loan defaults. The plans emerged at the first meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee on Tea Industry Development, chaired by Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar at the Ministry of Commerce last month. The meeting called for a long-term development strategy, garden-specific action plans and coordinated support from relevant ministries and financial institutions to

♦ see page 2

Dr. Rafi Provides Integrated Treatment to Bring Athletes Back to the Field

M Badal Khandaker (District Representative) Brahmanbaria

Integrated initiative of Sports Medicine, Surgery and Rehab at MyCare for athletes from national team players to various federations. For an athlete, it is important not only to recover from an injury but also to return to the field with previous ability and confidence. With this goal in mind, Orthopedic and Sports Surgeon Dr. Sheikh Md. Abdullah Al Rafi is providing sports medicine and sports surgery services to various players of the national cricket and football men's and women's teams, as well as athletes from various federations. At MyCare Health & Research in Shyamoli, Dhaka, founded on his initiative, sports surgery, sports medicine, and physiotherapy & rehabilitation have been integrated under the same management. With the aim of building an international

♦ see page 2



Maha Saptami of Durga Puja Today: Pandal Venues Crowded with Devotees

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Today, Saturday (October 17), marks Maha Saptami of the Sharadiya Durga Puja. Following the rituals of Bodhan, Amantran, and Adhibas on Sasthi, worship is underway across pandals nationwide in a solemn and festive environment. Venues have come alive with the beats of dhak drums, clanging brass gongs, blowing of conch shells, and traditional ululations. Devotees have been gathering since morning to seek darshan of the Goddess and participate in the worship. Maha Saptami is one of the most vital days of the Durga Puja festival. On this day, devotees pray to Goddess Durga for peace, prosperity, strength, and

♦ see page 2

Bappi Killed in Shooting by Miscreants in Sitakunda; Shawon in ICU!

Crime Reporter, Chattogram

Tarek Hossain Bappi (26) was killed after being targeted by gunfire from miscreants in Sitakunda, Chattogram. Another young man, Tafsir Alam Shawon (22), was critically injured in the same incident and is currently undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH). The incident occurred around 10:30 PM on Friday (October 16) in front of Saddam's office in Olinagar, located within the Barabkunda Union of the upazila. The deceased, Tarek Hossain Bappi,



Land Minister Promises New Hostel and Auditorium at Rajshahi Polytechnic

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Representative

Land Minister Md. Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP, has stated that Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute is one of the premier technical educational institutions in the country. He noted that students from this institute are playing a vital role in workplaces not only in Bangladesh but also across the globe, and the institution contributes significantly to building a skilled workforce. He made these remarks as the chief guest on Saturday (October 17) at around 11:30 AM during the orientation ceremony for first-semester

♦ see page 2

When can journos report without fear

We are dismayed by the killing of Lutfozzaman Fakir Alif, the Netrokona correspondent of private IPTV channel Ruposhi Bangla. On the night of October 15, at around 8:00pm, the journalist was shot at least five times by two attackers on a motorcycle while he was at a tea stall in Uttarail Bazar on the

Alarminglly, this is not the first time

Lutfozzaman was attacked. On November 10 last year, unidentified assailants attacked him with a knife near Teribazar Ghat in Durgapur and threatened his colleague, who tried to intervene. Was the earlier incident thoroughly investigated by police, or do the attackers remain unidentified? Could the failure to deliver justice in the previous case have emboldened the assailants.

Shyamganj-Birishiri Road. Lutfozzaman was also known for running a Facebook page where he regularly posted about incidents of corruption in Netrokona. It is believed that the motivation behind his killing may have stemmed from one of his reports. The incident is yet another blow to our hopes for a government that would ensure journalists’ safety and press freedom after years of waiting. Sadly, the wait continues.

Alarminglly, this is not the first time Lutfozzaman was attacked. On November 10 last year, unidentified assailants attacked him with a knife near Teribazar Ghat in Durgapur and threatened his colleague, who tried to intervene. Was the earlier incident thoroughly investigated by police, or do the attack-

ers remain unidentified? Could the failure to deliver justice in the previous case have emboldened the assailants in Thursday’s incident to shoot the journalist dead in public In May, Reporters Without Borders published its World Press Freedom Index 2026, wherein Bangladesh slipped three places down to 152nd. The country falls under the “very serious” category, which signals low press freedom and a high tally of abuses against media and journalists in connection with their work. Be it by the enactment of curtailing laws or brute force, press freedom remains under constant threat in the country. Journalists on the margins, especially grassroots and university correspondents, bear the brunt as they are more accessible. What frustrates us is that no government over the years has been able to safeguard journalists, let alone fulfil its promises of ensuring.

Efforts to build clean

Prime Minister said an unhygienic environment increased the risk of diseases, while keeping homes and their surroundings clean helped people stay healthy. He said preventing diseases should be a priority, as providing treatment to a large number of sick people would be difficult given the limited availability of doctors and medicines. “Keeping the environment clean is essential to keeping people healthy,” he said.Highlighting the importance of cleanliness in preventing dengue, Tarique Rahman said many people were infected with the disease every year and many lost their lives. Destroying mosquito breeding grounds and keeping homes and surrounding areas clean were among the most effective ways to prevent dengue, he added.He said the government was placing special emphasis on cleanliness drives every Saturday until November as part of its dengue prevention efforts.The Prime Minister urged people to keep the areas around their homes, educational institutions, workplaces and other establishments clean, particularly by ensuring that water did not accumulate anywhere.He also called for an end to the indiscriminate disposal of waste on roads, in canals, rivers and other water bodies, saying such practices polluted the environment and created favourable conditions for mosquito breeding and the spread of diseases.

Addressing BNCC and Scouts members, he urged them to raise public awareness and encourage people to dispose of waste in designated places. “If you see someone throwing rubbish on the road, try to explain the matter to them and, if necessary, help them dispose of it properly. Remember, you are working not just for yourselves but for the benefit of everyone,” he said.Expressing concern over air pollution in Dhaka, the Prime Minister said the capital frequently ranked among the world’s most polluted cities, a situation he described as embarrassing. He stressed the need to protect the environment and plant more trees to improve air quality.

Universities should

corporate organisations and specialised institutions, as well as different private organisations, despite having a large number of unemployed university graduates.“He urged universities to focus on modern and high-quality education in technical, engineering and technology-related fields.He also advised industrial and corporate organisations to develop suitable and competent workers through proper training.The President called on private universities to waive tuition fees for poor and meritorious students.During the meeting, the Board of Trustees chairman briefed the President on the university’s overall academic activities.

Death toll rises to

Hossain, Deputy Assistant Director of Cox’s Bazar Fire Service, said, “The fire has been brought under control, and rescue operations are currently underway. Five people have died from severe burns, and four injured individuals have been sent to the hospital. As the condition of the questions have been raised regarding potential irregularities and the lack of proper fire safety measures at the establishment. Police and fire service authorities have launched a joint investigation into the incident.

Human Chain Demanding

assistants were instructed to make announcements using microphones at mosques to implement the programmes. The speakers also alleged that they were not paid transportation expenses and ACR bills. They also alleged that he behaved indecently with female colleagues and made provocative and distasteful statements about the President, Prime Minister, Home Minister, and other ministers on the social media platform Facebook. The speakers demanded the immediate removal of Dr. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal. Otherwise, they warned that they would announce tougher programmes. At the time, other members of the organization, including Meherunnesa, Afroza Binte Aziz Glory, Shahidul Islam, Habibur Rahman, Fazlur Rahman, Sabina Yasmin, Abdullah Al Mukit Sourav, Bidhan Chandra Roy, and Nirab Chandra Roy, were present.

10 shops gutted in two

On information, three firefighting units rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control in about one hour. The affected shop owners estimated their losses at Tk 20 lakh. Fire Service officials initially suspected that electrical short circuits might have caused the fires. However, the actual causes will be confirmed after an investigation.

Bangladesh must answer for workers trafficked to war

Md. Neyamul Hossain

afford to adopt an existential spirit and a philosophical tone, claiming that everything is fair in love and war. But for us, the question is legal and ethical. We need to own up to these deaths instead of simply saying some foreign forces used our humans as decoys for their hunt. We need to ask: who approved the jobs? Who issued the employer demand letters, embassy verification, BMET clearances, and the contracts shown to the aspiring workers? Who received the money for their payments, intermediary commissions, and any payments linked to military enlistment? When did the officials get to know? Did they learn it from the complaints of the families first? What diplomatic measures is the government taking to address the allegation of dangerous deployment of our men for tactical military purposes? Will the government come forward with medical care for the wounded, debt relief and compensation for the victims’ families, protect the whistleblowers, and chase criminal proceedings if needed? We need to sort out our mess before we blame others. But it seems we are more interested in creating a larger mess. On June 1, Prothom Alo reported that the government had revoked the licences of three recruitment agencies linked to the scam and launched diplomatic efforts to bring back the 30 migrants, some of whom shared footage of the front lines. This contrasts another report published on June 9, which quoted a foreign ministry statement to report that Bangladesh had proposed to increase its workforce in Russia from approximately 10,000 to 100,000 within a year. How can we consider fattening the supply chain with allegations of coerced recruitment in the air? Should we think we are no longer “choosers” because our economy relies heavily on the remittance dollars sent by migrant workers? The decline in our RMG exports has not helped the situation either. True, we need to expand lawful overseas employment, but shouldn’t we be careful in choosing a country as our work destination where military recruitment poses a documented risk? In a chilling Channel 4 video, one Bangladeshi admits that he was recruited as a maintenance operator after paying lakhs of taka to an agent. An AP report quoted another Bangladeshi migrant as saying that after his arrival in Russia, he was

forced into going to the battlefield as the employer simply said, “We bought you.” These admissions don’t support any idea that Bangladesh knowingly sold its workers. But a thorough audit of institutional processes is needed. Equally important is the need for assessing how the recruitment system itself produces desperation among fortune seekers. The true incentive for these individuals is the promise of a ticket to a better livelihood. But once they cross the border, they lose control over their labour and movement and are eventually exposed to death. As a nation, what safeguards are there to protect these labour-export ambitions?There is a real cost to this ambition. Bangladesh’s 2022 Labour Force Survey puts recruitment costs at approximately 14.6 months of migrant earnings, rising to 15.1 months for men. The figures show the burden these migrants end up carrying before earning anything abroad. Recovering the costs also takes longer when earnings must cover living expenses and interest. An aspiring migrant worker borrows to obtain employment. Often the promised employment fails. If lucky, they return home alive. Irrespective of the fact, returning home often leaves the debt intact. For many, the only way to recover the first investment is attempting a second desperate venture. Debt can thereby encourage trafficking, giving leverage to recruiters. This problem extends beyond Russia. UN experts have examined allegations of fraudulent recruitment of Bangladeshis to Malaysia involving non-existent jobs and debt bondage. The complacency and vested interests of some agencies here have allowed these malpractices to thrive.

We need to build a counternarrative that provides our migrant workers with full disclosure, legal support, and linguistic aid before they agree to migrate, pay a broker, or sign a contract. Our migrants need to challenge the notion that signing a contract makes a claims deception or coercion void. This is where our foreign missions must be proactive. They need to stand by our nationals who probably unwittingly gave consent to some prohibited means of trafficking. Fraudulent civilian employment offers cannot be converted to purely military work. The allegation of trafficking into military service is dangerous. We hope our government will support our nationals and encourage its counterpart to investigate the issue. The desperation of our citizens does not give a foreign entity the right to make a game of us.

Home Minister stresses

mandap’s decoration showcasing indigenous culture and design.

Maha Saptami of Durga

global well-being. Alongside religious rituals, the Sanatan Hindu community observes the day with hopes for the destruction of evil forces and the establishment of truth and justice. One of the main rituals of Maha Saptami is the consecration of the Nabapatrika, commonly known as Kala Bou. A banana plant is bound together with eight other plants—colocasia, turmeric, jayanti, wood apple, pomegranate, ashoka, elephant ear arum, and paddy. After being ritually bathed, it is draped in a new saree and placed inside the pandal. These plants are worshipped as symbols of the Goddess’s various manifestations of power.

The worship of Nabapatrika also highlights the deep connection between nature and humanity. Plants play a crucial role in human survival, including food, medicine, and agriculture. Therefore, along with religious rites, the conservation of trees, protection of water bodies, and maintenance of ecological balance are meaningfully embedded in this celebration. Another major ritual of Maha Saptami is the Maha Snan (grand bath) of the Goddess. According to traditional customs, this ceremony is performed by reflecting the image of the idol in a mirror using various sacred offerings. To devotees, it symbolizes purity and sanctity. In Hindu mythology, Goddess Durga’s battle with Mahishasura symbolizes the victory of good over evil. The weapons in her ten hands represent resistance against injustice and the power to establish righteousness. Goddesses Lakshmi and Saraswati, alongside Gods Kartikeya and Ganesha worshipped with her, represent prosperity, knowledge, valor, and wisdom respectively.

Durga Puja is not only a religious festival but also an integral part of Bengali social and cultural heritage. The artistry behind idol-making, pandal decoration, festive lighting, and drumming brings a surge of economic vitality to artisans, potters, drummers (dhakis), and small entrepreneurs. The festival also strengthens social ties and harmony among people of diverse backgrounds and professions. Through the celebration of Maha Saptami in Bangladesh, the importance of religious freedom, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence comes to the fore once again. A core expectation of this festival is ensuring the safety and dignity of every person regardless of religion or caste, allowing all to celebrate their respective religious festivals without fear. Through the joy and prayers of Maha Saptami, devotees aspire for the end of evil, the awakening of good conscience, and the establishment of peace, harmony, and human values in society.

NBR asks customs houses

tion, it asked the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), foreign and metropolitan chambers of commerce, the Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to notify their member organisations accordingly. The directive was issued in reference to a memorandum of the Ministry of Public Administration dated October 7, 2026.

Govt plans policy support

make the industry profitable and sustainable.Talking to BSS, Bangladesh Tea Board Chairman Major General Md. Mesbah Uddin Ahmed said the committee discussed all major areas of the tea sector at its first meeting.He said domestic production currently meets around 97 percent of Bangladesh’s tea demand, while the remaining three percent of production goes to exports.“The Tea Board is prioritising higher production and better quality to meet domestic demand first and then expand exports,” he said.The government is also strengthening communication with foreign embassies, consulates and export communities to explore overseas markets, he added.Mesbah Uddin Ahmed said local producers were diversifying their products through green, orthodox, white and CTC black tea, while companies were developing different brands through blending.The Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI) is conducting research to improve the sector, and stakeholders are receiving regular training on production methods, blending and export development, he said.Sector’s production and structural challengesAccording to the committee’s meeting report, Bangladesh has 172 tea gardens covering 283,896 acres of land. Of the total area, 178,691 acres are classified as cultivable, while 159,059 acres remain under cultivation, includ-

ing nurseries. Another 124,837 acres serve other purposes, and 16,928 acres remain available for future planting.The report’s land-use figures indicate that tea cultivation and other land uses overlap with broader plantation management requirements and need careful assessment before alternative investments. Bangladesh produced 94.93 million kgs of tea in 2025, including 20.23 million kgs in the northern region. The national average yield stood at 1,552 kg per hectare. However, many tea gardens have ageing plants, some of which are 50 to 60 years old or older. Low replantation rates, rising labour and input costs, and comparatively lower yields than those in India, Sri Lanka and Kenya have weakened producers’ competitiveness.Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir in that meeting said the government would take all necessary measures, including a long-term plan, to restore the sector’s economic viability.He stressed that the industry must move beyond dependence on loans and become a sustainable contributor to the national economy through revenue, taxes and VAT.Loan restructuring and affordable financing The committee identified financial distress as a major obstacle to investment and production.Bangladesh Bank data cited in the report showed that tea-sector loans disbursed totalled Tk 4,173.99 crore, while recoveries stood at Tk 3,133.06 crore. Outstanding loans amounted to Tk 1,826.09 crore.The report recorded Tk 1,516.91 crore in classified loans, Tk 214.41 crore in bad loans and Tk 517.93 crore in rescheduled loans.The committee discussed rescheduling classified loans to ease repayment pressure on viable tea-garden owners and allowing eligible businesses to access fresh credit.The meeting also discussed a revolving fund carrying a proposed interest rate of six percent to support tea production and investment.Separately, Bangladesh Bank has been processing a proposal to allocate Tk 2,050 crore from its existing Tk 18,000-crore revolving refinancing scheme for cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises.The proposed allocation would carry an annual interest rate of up to seven percent at the borrower level, subject to approval by the central bank’s board.The two financing proposals represent separate initiatives and have not been presented as approved facilities.

The committee also discussed reducing interest rates on tea-production loans from 13.75 percent to four percent, matching the concessional rate available for selected crops, including pulses, oilseeds, spices and maize.Recognising tea as an agricultural productThe committee also discussed recognising tea as an agricultural product to help producer access concessional agricultural credit.The Tea Board supported the proposal, while the Agriculture Ministry noted that about 60 percent of tea-sector activities—including planting, pruning, maintenance and plucking—fall under agriculture. The remaining 40 percent involves industrial processing. The Industry Ministry, however, opposed the proposal in its current form, citing the National Industrial Policy 2022, which classifies tea processing as an industrial activity. Solar power and alternative incomeThe committee proposed allowing tea companies to partner with private investors to develop commercial solar power plants on unused land unsuitable for tea cultivation, subject to approval from the Land Ministry. Solar panels could also be installed on the roofs of existing tea-garden infrastructure.

Dr. Rafi Provides

standard specialized sports medicine center, emphasis is being placed here on integrated services from diagnosis to treatment, necessary surgery, and preparation for return to play. The center’s services include evaluation and treatment of various sports-related problems including knee and shoulder ligaments, meniscus, tendons. Along with arthroscopic surgery as needed, non-surgical treatment and individualized rehabilitation plans are also provided. The treatment plan takes into consideration the player’s type of sport, level of competition, and need to return to the field. In Dr. Rafi’s treatment philosophy, the treatment of an athlete cannot be limited to just surgery or pain relief. Muscle strength, joint stability, balance, sports-specific ability and mental preparation - everything must be given importance to plan the return to the field. For this, he is emphasizing the integrated role of surgeon, sports medicine physician and physiotherapist. Apart from medical services, Dr. Rafi and his team are also conducting activities to reach out to players through sports health camps. In these initiatives, importance is given to primary evaluation of sports-related problems, timely treatment, injury prevention and awareness about proper rehabilitation. The aim of this initiative of MyCare is to create opportunities

for specialized treatment for emerging and amateur athletes as well as national level players. At the same time, Dr. Rafi is working to build an organized service system of sports medicine in Bangladesh through the combination of treatment, training and research.

At the center of his activities is a conviction - the success of an athlete’s treatment lies not only in his recovery but also in his safe and confident return to the game.

Highest-ever grant given

said.He said the government has always stood beside the members of the Hindu community and will continue to do so in the future.He said a non-communal Bangladesh will be built by ensuring peaceful coexistence of the people irrespective of religion and caste, mutual respect and communal harmony.

Belabo upazila BNP Convener Ahsan Habib Biplob chaired the event while Monohardi upazila BNP Member Secretary Aminur Rahman Sarker Dolon moderated it. Belabo upazila BNP Member Secretary MA Qader Jalil, Monohardi municipal BNP Member Secretary Advocate Abdul Hannan Mia, upazila BNP member Golam Mostofa and Monohardi Puja Celebration Front President Rajib Roy and General Secretary Sukomal Modhok, among others, were present at the meeting.

After the meeting, the health minister handed over financial assistance from his personal fund to the presidents and general secretaries of 80 Puja mandaps in Monohardi and Belabo upazilas.

Bappi Killed in Shooting

was the son of the late Ali Ahmad from the Kurban Ali household in the Madhyam Mahdabad area of Sitakunda. The injured, Tafsir Alam Shawon, is the son of Yusuf, from the Yusuf household in the Olinagar area. Shot While Out on a Motorcycle

According to Rahim Khan Babu, the brother of the deceased, Bappi was out on a motorcycle around 10:30 PM on Friday when miscreants suddenly opened fire on him. Shawon, who was with him, was also struck by a bullet in the chest. Panic immediately gripped the scene.

Both victims were subsequently rescued and transported to Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Upon arrival, doctors in the emergency department directed them to Ward No. 2. Tarek Hossain Bappi was declared dead while under medical care, while the critically injured Shawon was admitted to the hospital.

Bappi’s brother further stated that as of 1:30 AM, surgery for Shawon had not yet been possible, and his condition remained critical.

Shawon in ICU; Police Launch Operation for Arrests Sub-Inspector (SI) Nurul Alam Ashek, in-charge of the police outpost at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, confirmed the incident.

Mohinul Islam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sitakunda Model Police Station, stated that Tarek Hossain Bappi was killed in the shooting, and the injured, Shawon, is currently receiving treatment in the ICU at Chattogram Medical College Hospital. The police are conducting operations to identify and arrest those involved in this incident.

However, the motive behind the attack and the identities of those involved could not be immediately confirmed. Local residents are awaiting the outcome of the investigation by law enforcement agencies to uncover the true cause of the incident.

Land Minister Promises

students of the Diploma-in-Engineering curriculum for the 2026–27 academic session at Rajshahi Government Polytechnic Institute.

Addressing the freshers, the Land Minister said that since its inception, Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute has produced numerous skilled diploma engineers. He advised the new students to study attentively and build themselves up through hard work, emphasizing that studies must not be neglected under any circumstances.

Addressing student organization leaders and activists, he stated that everyone must prioritize their primary identity and responsibilities as students before engaging in any activities. He urged them to coexist peacefully on campus and ensure that no chaos or disorder is created. In response to various demands raised by the institute, the Minister assured the introduction of a new bus service, the construction of a new hostel, and the establishment of an auditorium. He assured that necessary steps would be taken to ensure housing and other amenities for students, thereby reducing the concerns of students, parents, and teachers. The event was attended by Special Guests including Advocate Shafiqul Haque Milon, Member of Parliament for Rajshahi-3 constituency; Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Riton, Administrator of Rajshahi City Corporation; Mamun Or Rashid, President of Rajshahi Metropolitan.



President stresses market-oriented higher education to curb unemployment

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Saturday urged public and private universities to produce skilled and competent human resources in line with the demands of domestic and international job markets. He made the call when a delegation led by Southeast University Board of Trustees Chairman Rezaul Karim paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban. The university's Vice-

Chancellor, Prof Dr Yusuf Mahbubul Islam, was also present. The President said the primary objective of public and private universities should be to develop a skilled workforce equipped for employment in the country. To achieve this goal, he stressed the need to adopt a holistic approach to higher education so that universities can produce graduates capable of meeting the needs of both domestic and international labour markets, ensuring that no one remains

unemployed. He also urged private universities to waive tuition fees for meritorious students from underprivileged backgrounds. The President observed that various industries, factories, corporate bodies, specialised institutions and even private organisations in Bangladesh had to recruit employees from abroad despite the presence of a large number of unemployed university graduates in the country. Against this backdrop, he

◆ see page 7

A Series of Lawsuits Using Security Cheques: Allegations of Harassment and Extortion Against the MD of Al Mostafa Group



Syed Boshir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

Md. Mostafa Kamal, Managing Director of the Al Mostafa Group—based in the Meghna Ghat area of Sonargaon Upazila, Narayanganj—faces allegations of harassing

business owners and leveraging law enforcement agencies. He is accused of filing a series of lawsuits against various business entities by misusing bank cheques that had been provided as security for business transactions. It is alleged that, instead of settling long-standing financial accounts, Mr. Kamal has been using these security cheques to initiate legal action against various business firms. Affected business owners further claim that he has exerted pressure on them—with the assistance of a retired police officer—and has even used the Detective Branch (DB) of the police to harass them. According

◆ see page 7

Misripara Buddhist temple closed to tourists in protest against the beating of the Rakhine president of Seema Buddhist Vihara's management committee in Kuakata

Kalapara (Patuakhali) representative

The Bihar authorities have banned the entry of tourists to the Seema Buddhist Vihar for an indefinite period in protest against the beating of the President of the Bihar Management Committee over the boundary dispute of the Seema Buddhist Vihar at Misripara in Kuakata, Patuakhali. The Rakhine com-



munity decided to hold a protest meeting at the Bihar premises on Wednesday afternoon to demand exemplary punishment and bring the attackers under the law. A written complaint has been lodged at the Mohipur police station in this incident. On Thursday, Seema Buddh Vihar authorities complained that on October 13 (Tuesday) morning, when Seema Buddh Vihar went to lift a shop within the boundary of Seema Buddh Vihar, there was a dispute with locals Samsul Alam and Nasir Hawladar, who claimed land within the Bihar. Bihar authorities alleged that Nasir Hawladar

◆ see page 7



The new building of the Mirsarai Upazila Officers' Club in Chattogram has been inaugurated. It was inaugurated today, Thursday (October 15), at noon by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Somaiya Akter. -Photo Oliullah Nizami

PM visits cleared footpaths in Mirpur, talks to pedestrians

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today visited footpaths cleared of encroachment in the capital's Mirpur area and spoke with pedestrians to assess how the eviction of street hawkers had improved their movements. During the visit this morning, the Prime Minister saw himself the condition of the cleared footpaths and emphasised ensuring unobstructed movement for pedestrians, said PM's Assistant Press Secretary

◆ see page 7

BGB committed to preserving tradition of peaceful coexistence: Special security ensured for Durga Puja in Teknaf

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Along with maintaining overall border security, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB Battalion 2) has deployed special security measures in Teknaf during the Sharadiya Durga Puja to preserve communal harmony and local public safety. Teknaf Battalion remains fully prepared to ensure that members of the Hindu community can complete all religious rituals of Durga Puja in a secure, joyful, and festive atmosphere.

According to BGB sources, BGB 2 is working in close, continuous coordination with the local administration, other law enforcement agencies, and local Puja Celebration Committees to uphold the long-standing tradition of harmony. Special supervision and surveillance measures have been put in place to ensure the overall

◆ see page 7



Allegation of appointment of dealers by showing godowns to residences in Bakerganj, Inquiry and demand cancellation of appointment

Bakerganj (Barisal) Representative

There have been allegations of irregularities in the appointment of BCIC fertilizer dealers, management of multiple types of government dealerships in the name of the same person and depriving rival applicants in Kalskathi Union of Barisal's Bakerganj Upazila. Shahinur Begum, the owner of M/s Yamin Enterprises, demanded a fair investigation of these complaints, cancellation of controversial appointments and appointment of genuine qualified applicants as dealers.

In this regard, he has submitted a written complaint to the District Commissioner of Barisal and the President of the District Fertilizer and Seed Monitoring Committee. In the complaint, he requested to re-investigate the recruitment process of Fertilizer Dealers in Kalskathi Union and take necessary measures through more scrutiny. According to the written complaint, Shahinur



Begum is a resident of Bebad area of Kalskathi Union. He submitted an application along with a valid rental agreement for a paved warehouse with a capacity of 75 metric tons, fulfilling the prescribed conditions for the appointment of a fertilizer dealer. The warehouse in the application bears SA Khatian No. 525, SA Dag No. 624 and has an area of 34 feet in length and 14 feet in width. On September 15, 2026, the investigation committee headed by the upazila livestock officer and

◆ see page 7

CIC uncovers revenue evasion thru misdeclared imports

Staff correspondent

The National Board of Revenue's (NBR) Central Intelligence Cell (CIC), in collaboration with Chattogram Customs House,

◆ see page 7

Passports, iPhones, Dollars, and 8 Luggages Missing for Cricketers

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Eight luggages belonging to the Rajshahi Division cricket team went missing while returning to Rajshahi from Dhaka after playing the second round match of the National Cricket League (NCL). The missing luggages contained the players' passports, a valuable iPhone, US dollars, cash, and sports equipment. A written complaint has been filed with the police to recover the missing goods. Rajshahi and Natore district police have jointly launched an operation to recover the lost items.

On Wednesday, cricketer S.M. Meherob Hossain filed a written complaint with Rajpara Police Station under Rajshahi Metropolitan Police regarding this incident.

It is learned that members of the Rajshahi Division cricket team returned to Rajshahi by air on Wednesday morning after playing against Khulna Division in the second round of the National Cricket League at Mirpur. Earlier on Tuesday night, a BCB covered van set

◆ see page 7



'Nuclear emergency response system needs upgrade ahead of Rooppur plant launch'

Staff Correspondent

Md Anwar Hossain, secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, has called for bringing Bangladesh's nuclear emergency response mechanism up to international standards ahead of power generation at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expert team will conduct an Emergency Preparedness Review

(EPREV) mission in Bangladesh from November 8 to 18, to assess the country's readiness for potential nuclear emergencies.

Anwar made the call at a workshop titled "Stakeholders' Preparatory Workshop for the IAEA Emergency Preparedness and Review Mission to Bangladesh" at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) Auditorium in Agargaon,

◆ see page 7



Human Chain in Brahmanbaria Protesting Journalist Killing in Netrokona

M Badal Khandakar (District Correspondent) Brahmanbaria

A human chain program was held in Brahmanbaria protesting the killing of journalist Lutfuzzaman Alif Fakir (40) who was shot dead in public in Netrokona allegedly for writing against drug smuggling.

The human chain was held today, Saturday (17 October 2026) at 11 am in front of the Mukta Mancha, Mather Gora area of the town, organized by the Bangladesh Mofassal Sangbadik Union, Brahmanbaria district branch.

Journalists working in print, electronic and online media in the district took part in the human chain. At that time, the speakers strongly condemned and protested the killing of the journalist in Netrokona.

The speakers said that on Thursday, 15 October, at around 8:15 pm, while sitting in a shop at Utrail Bazar on the Shamganj-Birishiri

◆ see page 7

Around 31 million more at risk of poverty in Bangladesh: PPRC study

Staff correspondent

Poverty has risen to 27.93 per cent in Bangladesh, while about 31 million people in the "fragile middle" remain one shock away from falling below the line, according to a new study by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). The findings were presented Saturday at the launch of the book "State of the Real Economy: Dynamics of Reversals and Resilience in Bangladesh" at the CIRDAP Auditorium in the city. The launch coincided with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman and Senior Research Associate Namira Shameem, who edited the

◆ see page 7



Chandina Pharmacy Fined Tk 100,000 Over Alleged Sale of Expired Antibiotics

Family Files Police Complaint After Child Falls Ill; Health Worker Links Symptoms to Expired Medicine

Comilla Correspondent

CHANDINA, Cumilla, Bangladesh: A pharmacy in Chandina Bazar has been fined Tk 100,000 following allegations that it sold expired antibiotics. The action was taken during a joint operation led by Chandina Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Injarul Islam, with cooperation from the local health department. The incident came to light after a fami-

ly alleged that their child developed health complications after taking an antibiotic purchased from Dutta Pharmacy in Chandina Bazar. The family subsequently filed a written complaint with Chandina Police Station. Child Develops Rash, Fever and Vomiting According to the family, they purchased an antibiotic named UMACITIN from Dutta Pharmacy for their child. After the child took the medicine, a rash

◆ see page 7

Schoolgirl Dies of Measles in chattagram Chandanaish

Jahangir Alam Staff Reporter

A 12-year-old schoolgirl died from measles while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in chattagram city on Wednesday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Raisa Tania Radhika, a seventh-grade student at Dohazari Jamijuri Girls' High School. She was the daughter of Mohammad Ali, a resident of the Ghorapara area in Jamijuri under Dohazari Municipality in Chandanaish Upazila.

According to school and local sources, Radhika first fell ill about 20 days ago. After temporarily recovering, she went to visit her sister's house, where she contracted measles and became critically ill. As her condition deteriorated rapidly, she was admitted to Chittagong National Hospital, where she breathed her last on Wednesday afternoon.

A heartbreaking scene unfolded at Dohazari Jamijuri Girls' High School around 3:00 PM on Wednesday when an ambulance carrying Radhika's body arrived on the school premises. Classmates, teachers, and students broke down in tears upon seeing the lifeless body of their peer, casting a deep gloom over the entire school campus.

Expressing deep grief over the tragic loss, Bishnu Jasha Chakraborty, headmaster of Dohazari Jamijuri Girls' High School, said, "We are profoundly shocked and saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Radhika. The loss of such a young life has deeply pained the teachers, students, and the entire local community."



Stones Seized Along with Truck in Task Force Drive Against Illegal Stone Extraction from the Teesta River

Mohinul Islam Sujon,Rangpur

A task force led by the Upazila Administration seized approximately 25,000 cubic feet (CFT) of stones during a drive against illegal stone extraction from the Teesta River in Dimla, Nilphamari.

The drive was conducted on Wednesday (October 14) from 3:30 pm in Tepakharibari Union of Dimla Upazila, Nilphamari. During the operation, five stone-crushing machines were seized, and a truck used for transporting stones was detained along with 400 CFT of stones.

It was learned that approximately 25,000 CFT of stones were seized after raids were conducted at seven locations where stones illegally extracted from the Teesta River had been stockpiled. In addition, five machines used for stone crushing were seized. A truck carrying approximately 400 CFT of illegally extracted stones was detained while transporting the stones. Police from Dimla Police Station and members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) assisted in the operation. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Imranuzzaman said that the Dimla Upazila Administration's zero-tolerance policy and strict drives against illegal stone extraction would continue to protect the biodiversity and environment of the Teesta River.



Preparations Underway for PM's Visit: RCC Administrator Inspects Madrasa Field

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Administrator Mahfuzur Rahman Riton has inspected the Haji Muhammad Muhsin Government High School ground (popularly known as Madrasa Field) to oversee preparations for the upcoming public rally on the occasion of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to Rajshahi.

On Friday (October 16) afternoon, he reviewed the cleaning drive, wall painting, repair of adjacent roads, and preparations for stage construction. During the visit, he issued necessary directives to the officials concerned.

According to the visit schedule, the Prime Minister will visit the puja mandap at the Rajshahi Dharmasabha Temple at 1:30 PM on October 20. Later, at 3:00 PM, he will address a public rally at the Madrasa Field and distribute incentives among sugarcane farmers.

Speaking to journalists after inspecting the ground, the RCC Administrator said, "The Prime Minister's visit to Rajshahi is a matter of great joy and emotion for the city dwellers. The people of Rajshahi are eagerly waiting to catch a glimpse of him."

He added that preparations are being carried out in coordination with Land Minister Mijanur Rahman Minu, the Rajshahi city unit of BNP and its associate organizations, the divisional and district administrations, law enforcement agencies, and leaders of the Hindu community to ensure the visit's success. Mahfuzur Rahman Riton informed that the City Corporation has stepped up cleanliness and beautification efforts across the city ahead of the Prime Minister's arrival. As part of these efforts, painting road dividers/islands, necessary road repairs, and environmental improvement activities are currently underway.

During the field inspection, RCC Chief Executive Officer Rezaul Karim, Secretary Sohel Rana, Superintending Engineer Khairul Baker, Acting Superintending Engineer Ahmad Al Moin, and other officials from various departments were present. Leaders from the city unit of BNP, Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, and affiliate organizations including Rajshahi City BNP Vice President Jainal Abedin Shibli, City Jubo Dal Convener Shariful Islam Joni, and Senior Joint Convener of City Chhatra Dal Khalid Bin Walid Abir were also in attendance.

President stresses market-emphasised the need for universities to provide modern, high-quality education in technical, engineering and technology-related fields.He also advised industrial and corporate organisations to arrange appropriate training programmes to develop a competent and job-ready workforce.The chairman of the Board of Trustees briefed the President on the university's overall academic activities.He said the university is trying to

operate largely as a charitable and non-profit educational institution.The university provides tuition fee waivers and scholarships worth an average of around Tk 32 crore annually to meritorious students, financially disadvantaged students and those covered by special quotas, he added.The chairman also invited the President to attend the university's upcoming convocation ceremony.The President accepted the invitation and assured the delegation of his presence at the event.The President's Military Secretary and Press Secretary, along with the university's Member Secretary of the Board of Trustees, trustees, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and advisers, were present at the meeting.

PM visits cleared

KM Nazmul Haque.Tarique Rahman asked pedestrians how much easier it had become for them to walk along the footpaths following the removal of hawkers and whether they were still facing any difficulties.He also enquired about their experiences regarding footpaths and road management in the city.

'Nuclear emergency

Dhaka, today.BAERA Chairman Mahmudul Hasan presided over the event, with Anwar attending as the chief guest.Addressing the workshop, Anwar said the mission should not be viewed merely as a routine evaluation or a pass-fail exercise, but as an opportunity to identify gaps in the existing emergency framework and adopt international best practices.He said that although Rooppur's Generation III+ VVER-1200 reactors feature automated safety controls and the probability of a severe nuclear incident is extremely low, the potential consequences demand thorough preparedness.

A Series of Lawsuits Using to the affected businesses, Md. Mostafa Kamal was involved in Awami League politics. As an influential local figure, he was allegedly implicated in a wide range of illicit activities, including land grabbing. Following the political shift on August 5, 2024, the business operations of the Al Mostafa Group effectively ceased. Subsequently, rather than settling outstanding debts and dues, the number of lawsuits filed against various business owners began to rise. Representatives from several affected firms have described these actions as a calculated "litigation racket."

BGB joins rescue efforts

according to a BGB press release issued today.The deployment aims to support ongoing emergency operations and ensure the safety of those affected by the incident, the release said.The cause of the fire, the extent of the damage and the number of casualties, if any, have yet to be officially confirmed.Firefighting and rescue operations are continuing as authorities assess the situation and investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident, the release added.

BGB committed to pre

safety of the puja mandaps. In a statement, Teknaf Battalion (2 BGB) reaffirmed that alongside its primary duty of safeguarding national borders, BGB remains deeply committed to maintaining non-communal harmony, public safety, and law and order. BGB patrols and monitoring will continue throughout the festival to prevent any untoward incidents and maintain an atmosphere of peace and unity.

Human Chain in

road in Durgapur municipality of Netrokona, Lutfuzzaman Alif Fakir, Netrokona correspondent of private IPTV channel 'Ruposhi Bangla' and operator of the Facebook page 'Detective Article', was shot several times by two unknown youths who came on a motorcycle and fled. Locals rescued him and he died on the way to the hospital. Police said five bullet marks were found on various parts of the deceased's body including head, neck and chest.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Durgapur Police Station, Khandaker Shaker Ahmed Khan, said that it was a planned murder. Superintendent of Police Md. Tariqul Islam said that multiple teams of police are conducting operations to arrest those involved.

It is known that although the deceased Alif was a resident of Sunai village in Kalmakanda upazila, he used to live in his in-laws' house in Birishiri area of Durgapur. He had been writing on social media for a long time about drug smuggling in the border area. Earlier on 10 November, miscreants had also hacked and injured him in the Teribazar Ghat area of the Someshwari River.

From the human chain, the speakers demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the accused involved in the murder and called upon the government to ensure the safety of journalists across the country.

Allegation of appointment

administrator checked the documents and the warehouse on the spot. He claimed that the residence was shown as the warehouse of one Nimai Kirtanya, the owner of rival firm Nayan Traders, but it was not properly presented to the inquiry committee.

He further alleged that only one application was submitted for the appointment of Fertilizer Dealer in Kalskathi Union but the application of the complainant Shahinor Begum was not mentioned. During the on-site inspection, questions were raised about the warehouse and necessary documents of the applicant company. Apart from this, the existence of OMS dealership as well as fertilizer dealership in the name of the same person (Nimai Kirtanya) has also been concealed. It is not legal to operate two types of government dealerships in the name of the same person.

Shahinur Begum complained to the journalists that she informed the Deputy Commissioner's office in writing about the related irregularities on September 23. After that application, the authorities did not take any action. Upazila Executive Officer Milton Chandra Pal said that the fertilizer dealer has been appointed after investigation. Even then, if there is any complaint, further action will be taken after investigation.

Around 31 million more at

book, presented the key findings.The book draws on the PPRC State of the Real Economy (SORE) survey, a nationally representative survey of 8,067 households across all eight divisions, conducted in May 2025.According to the study, 27.93 per cent of people were below the upper poverty line in 2025, up from 18.7 per cent in the 2022 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES).

The lower poverty line figure rose to 9.35 per cent from 5.6 per cent.The expenditure Gini coefficient rose from 0.334 to 0.436, with urban inequality (0.532) far higher than rural (0.347).The study found that 17.97 per cent of households are "vulnerable non-poor", above the poverty line but below median expenditure.

Misripara Buddhist temple

and Samsul Alam Gangra Seema Buddhist Vihar President Monglachin were ambushed and beaten up. In the incident of this attack, on October 14 (Wednesday) at noon, Rakhines from different neighborhoods gathered and held a protest meeting. According to the decision of the protest meeting, the Bihar authorities announced the closure of the Seema Buddhist Vihara for tourists till the trial of the attackers.

Special Security Measures

will be taken against those involved in attacks, vandalism, theft, robbery, or any other untoward incidents at puja mandaps.

In addition, intelligence surveillance in plain clothes and cyber monitoring to prevent rumours on social media will continue until October 22.

Furthermore, additional security measures will be taken on the day of idol immersion. SRB-13 has also urged everyone to

refrain from spreading rumours and provocative information and to inform law enforcement agencies if they come across any suspicious information.

CIC uncovers revenue eva

has uncovered eight major cases of customs duty evasion involving the misdeclaration of imported goods, with estimated revenue losses totalling around Taka 7.03 crore.

The investigations revealed that importers declared low-duty goods, including agricultural power sprayer machines, toothpicks, heat-transfer paper, rubber bushes and stainless steel circles, while allegedly importing high-duty cosmetics, prohibited creams, automotive parts, PVC flex banners, nuts, bolts and bearings from China, Pakistan and Thailand.The CIC and the Audit, Investigation and Research (AIR) team of Chattogram Customs House detected the irregularities through intelligence-led inspections of containers at Chattogram port, according to an NBR press release issued here today.

The authorities have finalised the process of taking legal action against the importers and their associated clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents under Sections 33 and 171 of the Customs Act, 2023, the release said.

Misdeclaration of power sprayer machineryIn the first case, Fortune Global Trading of Dhaka's New Market declared 11,956 kilograms of agricultural power sprayer machines imported from China under Bill of Entry No. C-1203065.

A physical inspection found stage lights, face creams, sun creams, toothpaste, peeling gels, serums, LED lights, sunglasses and black hair shampoo instead of the declared machinery.The consignment also contained around 1,817 kilograms of goods beyond the declared weight. The estimated revenue evasion in the case stands at Taka 2.5 crore, according to the NBR release.

Prohibited cosmetics hidden in a toothpick consignmentIn another case, Kaf Corporation of Chawkbazar in Old Dhaka declared the import of 22.5 tonnes of toothpicks from China under Bill of Entry No. C-1098766.Customs officials found only 1,620 kilograms of toothpicks. The remaining cargo reportedly included Pakistan-made Gori Beauty Cream, face creams, sun creams, anti-ageing gels, hair-removal sprays, premium sunglasses and a sexual-performance delay spray.The consignment included creams prohibited by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), it said. The estimated revenue evasion in this case amounts to Taka 2.8 crore.High-value automotive parts concealed as rubber bushes

HR Enterprise of Dhaka declared 16,040 kilograms of engine rubber bushes imported from Thailand under Bill of Entry No. C-1216730.

However, the inspection found only 6,625 kilograms of rubber bushes. The remaining goods included engine mountings, suspension bushes, arm bushes, centre bearings, spring shackles and steering components.The NBR said the importer attempted to evade duties by misdeclaring the goods and bringing in additional quantities. The estimated revenue loss stands at Taka 44 lakh.

The authorities also thwarted an alleged attempt by the same importer to change the Harmonised System (HS) code without the commissioner's prior approval in another consignment under Bill of Entry No. C-1234267.PVC flex banners declared as heat-transfer paper

New Trust Traders declared 23,618 kilograms of heat-transfer paper imported from China under Bill of Entry No. C-1054001.

Passports, iPhones, Dollars

off by road for Rajshahi carrying 54 luggages belonging to the players.

Upon arriving at the hotel in Rajshahi on Wednesday morning, it was found that eight luggages were missing while unloading the goods. After confirming the matter, cricketer Meherob Hossain went to Rajpara Police Station and lodged a complaint.

Meanwhile, after receiving the complaint, police initiated an investigation and interrogated Sajib Hossain, the driver of the covered van. The driver stated that on Tuesday night, while en route to Rajshahi, he stopped the vehicle at a restaurant along the Hatikumul-Bonpara bypass to have dinner. Later, at around 5:30 AM on Wednesday, he stopped at a filling station in Puthia, Rajshahi, and noticed that the rear door of the van was open. He then closed the rear door and headed for the hotel in Rajshahi. The theft of the eight luggages was discovered later while unloading the items at the hotel.

According to the complaint filed with the police, cricketer Meherob Hossain's luggage contained his passport, an iPhone 15 Pro Max, 300 US dollars, BDT 300,000 in cash, three bottles of perfume worth around BDT 70,000, and personal clothing. Cricketer Abdul Kader's luggage contained a specialized massage belt worth approximately BDT 60,000, two pairs of shoes, and clothing. Mohor Sheikh Antor's luggage contained a JBL speaker worth around BDT 30,000 and clothing. Cricketer Md. Walid's luggage contained personal apparel. Additionally, four shared team luggages contained various clothing items and equipment used by the players. Cricketer Meherob Hossain declined to comment on the matter. However, the team's players expressed deep concern over the loss of important items and passports.

According to them, their next match against Chittagong Division is scheduled to take place at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium from October 18. Losing personal belongings and cricket gear right before such an important match has left them in severe distress.

Touhid Tarek, manager of the Rajshahi Division cricket team, said, "We are extremely embarrassed and saddened by this incident. Following the complaint, the police have begun taking action. We have been informed that the police forces of both districts are working in coordination to quickly recover the lost luggages."

Abul Kalam Azad, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rajpara Police Station, stated that a complaint regarding the missing luggage has been filed. It is suspected that the incident occurred along the highway section within Natore or Rajshahi district. The police of both districts are working jointly, with technological support being provided by Rajpara Police Station. However, the missing luggages could not be recovered as of Wednesday evening.

Chandina

reportedly appeared on the child's body, accompanied by fever and vomiting.

The family later checked the medicine's expiry date and alleged that it had expired. They lodged a written complaint with the police, seeking action against the pharmacy over the alleged sale of expired medicine.

Health Department Assists in Investigation

A health assistant from Chandina Upazila Health Department reportedly stated that the child's health problems occurred because the antibiotic had expired. However, further medical evidence establishing a direct link between the medicine and the child's symptoms

Bus Driver Arrested by SRB-9 in Sylhet After Mother and Daughter Die in Bus-Tomtom Collision

Naeem Ahmed, Sylhet Correspondent

SRB-9 has arrested bus driver Nasir Mia in connection with a head-on collision between a bus and a tomtom that claimed the lives of a mother and her daughter in Sylhet. He was arrested during an operation in an area of South Surma in Sylhet Metropolitan City on Thursday night (October 15). The arrested driver, Nasir Mia (47), is a resident of Pirergaon in Sylhet Airport Police Station area. His father's name is Shamsul Haque.



According to police sources, the accident occurred on the afternoon of October 10 in the Lalbazar area under Airport Police Station in Sylhet, when a bus collided head-on with a tomtom. Several members of the same family travelling in the tomtom sustained serious injuries. Later, the mother, Sumaiya Siddika Tania, and her daughter, Iniya Jannat, died while undergoing treatment.

Following the incident, the victims' family filed a case with Sylhet Airport Police Station.

Subsequently, acting on a tip-off, an SRB-9 operational team conducted a raid and arrested bus driver Nasir Mia on allegations of involvement in the accident.

The arrested individual has been handed over to Sylhet Airport Police Station for further legal action. SRB-9 stated that its operations to prevent crime and maintain law and order are continuing.



Mobile Court Drive: Fake and Substandard Pesticides Worth Tk 2 Lakh Seized in Mundumala

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

The Aman paddy season is currently in full swing. Half of the production cost for farmers goes into pesticide usage. However, farmers frequently complain that even after applying multiple pesticides, they cannot eliminate pests and crop rot. The market has been flooded with fake and adulterated pesticides. In response to these complaints, the Tanore Upazila Agriculture Office and Upazila Administration in Rajshahi launched a drive against local pesticide shops.

On Thursday morning, a mobile court led by Tanore Upazila Agriculture Officer and Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Shib Shanker Bosak conducted a raid at M/s Hafiz Traders, a pesticide dealership located in Mundumala Pourashava Market under the upazila. During the drive, unauthorized and adulterated pesticides worth approximately Tk 2,08,400 were seized from the shop. Later, as per the directive of the mobile court, the fake pesticides were destroyed and buried underground. The shop owner, Harun-or-Rashid, was fined Tk 10,000. Tanore Upazila Additional Agriculture Officer Subhas Kumar Mondal, who was present during the drive, stated that there were allegations against certain shopkeepers selling substandard and fake pesticides for higher profit margins. Based on these complaints, the raid was conducted at M/s Hafiz Traders. Substandard pesticides from unauthorized companies including Sharif Agro, Bilben, Naz Care, Naz Phos, Ujala, and Robin were found in his possession. These products were seized and destroyed. He added that such drives will continue.

was not available at the time of reporting. Following the allegations, an administrative operation was conducted at Dutta Pharmacy. The operation was carried out under the leadership of Injarul Islam, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Chandina Upazila, with the initiative and cooperation of Dr Arifur Rahman, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer. The pharmacy was fined Tk 100,000, according to information received. Questions Remain Over Regulatory Violations Details regarding the specific violations established during the operation, the legal provision under which the fine was imposed, and whether further action will be taken against the pharmacy were not immediately available. The incident has highlighted concerns over the sale of expired medicines and the importance of monitoring pharmaceutical outlets to protect public health. Expired medicines and improper pharmaceutical practices.



ESTD-2006

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে



এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপথালমোলোজী)
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সিনিয়র কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল ওয়াকফা সেন্টার



সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৯টা



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.



Strikes hit airport complex in Yemen's govt-held Aden, Houthis claim attack



International Desk

Two missiles landed Friday within the perimeter of the airport in the Yemeni city of Aden, the interim capital of the Saudi-backed government, authorities said, with the Houthis claiming the attack.

Airstrike kills three children in Yemen as Israeli settlers attack journalist in west bank

International Desk

An airstrike killed three children and wounded more than a dozen people in Yemen, with Iran-backed Houthi rebels blaming Saudi Arabia for the attack. Meanwhile, a journalist required surgery after being assaulted by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank. The following are the latest developments in the Middle East on Saturday. Airstrike kills three children in Yemen Iran-backed Houthi rebels said Saudi airstrikes killed three children in Yemen's southwestern province of Dhamar. The Houthi-run health ministry said Saturday that the strikes, carried out a day earlier, hit houses in al-Ar village in the Dawran Aness district. One eight-year-old child and two children aged 10 were killed, while more than a dozen people were injured. The Houthis blamed Saudi Arabia for the attack, which occurred amid escalating fighting between the rebels and Saudi Arabia and its Yemeni allies. Saudi authorities did not immediately comment. According to the Houthi-run ministry, the three children were among 124 people killed in areas under the group's control since fighting resumed in September. Journalist undergoes surgery after Israeli settler attack Heidi Levine, a photographer for The Washington Post, was undergoing surgery on Saturday for a finger that was nearly severed during an assault by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, her daughter said. Ashley Milner told The Associated Press that the finger on her mother's left hand had been cut down to the bone, exposing a tendon. Levine also suffered a broken rib, multiple fractured vertebrae and cuts across her body. Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian villages across the occupied West Bank on Friday, setting fire to cars and trees and assaulting residents and Levine. The violence further disrupted the territory's annual olive harvest, which has faced repeated attacks this month. Levine said the attackers were armed with bottles and slingshots. She told the AP that they kicked her for about 10 minutes while she tried to protect her cameras and bag. She added that her helmet and protective vest bearing the word "PRESS" likely prevented more serious injuries. Violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians has increased this year, with attacks intensifying in the weeks before Israel's Oct. 27 election.

The Houthis are fighting both Yemen's internationally-recognised government and their Saudi allies. In a statement attributed to a military source, the Houthis said an attack targeted "the Saudi forces' command headquarters in the Badr camp in Aden province" as well as a weapons depot.

Former student kills four in Oregon Elementary School Shooting

International Desk

A teacher confronted a teenage gunman who killed four people at an elementary school in Oregon, throwing her phone at him before tackling and struggling with the attacker in an attempt to protect others, police said Friday. Her actions may have saved lives before a father who followed the shooter into the building shot and killed him. Bend Police Chief Mike Krantz described the teacher's response as "heroic" during a news conference, confirming that she was not injured. He identified the shooter as 16-year-old Griffin J. John II and said all four victims were shot inside the same classroom. Authorities said John had previously attended Silver Rail Elementary as a student with special needs. He targeted a classroom attended by children with special needs, firing as many as 15 rounds from a 12-gauge shotgun. According to Krantz, the teenager still had approximately 44 rounds remaining when he was killed. "Everyone wants to know why, including us," Krantz said, adding that investigators might never uncover the complete explanation but would continue searching for answers. Police are also investigating how the teenager obtained the pump-action shotgun. A law enforcement official familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press, on condition of anonymity, that the weapon had been purchased by his mother. The teenager's mother, Shauntai Nickerson, spoke to reporters outside her apartment near the school, expressing sorrow over the incident and saying she wished she could have prevented it. "I miss my boy," Nickerson said through tears, according to reports by The New York Times and CNN. She apologised to the victims' families and said she regretted being unable to do anything to stop the tragedy. Nickerson declined to explain how her son acquired the shotgun and did not respond further when journalists later visited her apartment. In a 2020 interview with local television station KTVZ, Nickerson had described her son, then 10, as a participant in a school district programme for students with special needs. The programme, known as NEST — Nurturing Empathy, Safety and Trust — supports children facing significant behavioural and social challenges. She had also spoken about his difficulties with remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gunman Killed Minutes After First Emergency Call According to Krantz, the first emergency call came early Thursday afternoon from the driver of a red pickup truck. The driver reportedly saw the teenager throw his gun over a fence outside the school before climbing over it himself. When the driver shouted at him, the teenager opened fire, striking the truck three times. The driver escaped without injury. Another motorist, 36-year-old Kaylub Giamanco, whose children attend Silver Rail Elementary, witnessed the teenager shooting at the pickup truck and moving towards the school. The gunman reportedly fired through

locked doors to enter the building. Giamanco stopped in the parking lot, took his .40-calibre pistol and followed the attacker inside. He then encountered the gunman wrestling with the teacher and fired several shots at him, killing him. Police identified the four people killed as three children, aged 5, 8 and 11, and 25-year-old teacher Megan Lambert. A seven-year-old child who was wounded received emergency treatment at the scene and remains hospitalised. Another teacher, 54-year-old Becky Drury, was shot in the arm and hand. Her family said she was recovering following surgery. Authorities confirmed that no other children were inside the classroom during the attack. The youngest victim, Rhoam Summer, was remembered by his aunt, Swan Sheridan, as an energetic child who loved climbing, running and reading. She said he had a caring nature and was always eager to rescue and look after his stuffed toys. Father Who Stopped Gunman Is Described as a Hero In a statement delivered to reporters on Friday, Giamanco's mother, Kenda Freeman, confirmed that her son was the person who shot the attacker. She said he is the father of two girls attending the school. Freeman added that Giamanco did not want public recognition and instead expressed appreciation for emergency responders, school staff and community members who had offered support. The family also requested privacy as they dealt with the aftermath of the tragedy. Silver Rail Elementary serves children from kindergarten through fifth grade and enrolled approximately 450 students last year. Schools across Bend cancelled classes and other activities on Friday. The central Oregon city, surrounded by mountains and home to around 100,000 people, is known as a destination for tourism and outdoor recreation. The shooting marked the 28th mass killing in the United States this year, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University. Trump Praises Man Who Stopped the Attack US President Donald Trump praised Giamanco on Friday, describing him as a "great hero" who had taken action to stop the gunman. Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said the incident was horrific but credited the armed bystander's intervention with potentially preventing an even greater loss of life. Makeshift memorials featuring flowers, balloons and stuffed animals appeared around the school, located in a densely populated neighbourhood of newly constructed homes. Brooke Olsen, whose daughter attends kindergarten at Silver Rail Elementary, said she was astonished that someone had pursued the gunman before law enforcement officers arrived. Speaking tearfully on Friday, Olsen said she was grateful that someone had intervened quickly and prevented the violence from escalating further, describing the outcome as miraculous.



North Korea tests new AI-enabled Torpedo system

International Desk

North Korea said Saturday that it had successfully tested a new torpedo system equipped with artificial intelligence capabilities for detecting and guiding weapons towards targets. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that the weapon, tested on Thursday, was a "super-speed, precisely guided" torpedo system named Zam-2.0. However, the report did not explain how artificial intelligence was incorporated into the system. KCNA said the test also verified the torpedo's propulsion systems, which were developed through more than 180 tests conducted over the past five years. South Korea's military, which has frequently accused Pyongyang of exaggerating its weapons capabilities, did not immediately comment on the report. North Korea has stepped up its weapons demonstrations in recent weeks, including its first underwater-launched missile tests in nearly three years. Leader Kim Jong Un has increasingly focused on strengthening the country's naval capabilities following years of developing ballistic missiles. Experts said the missile tests conducted on Wednesday likely involved a submarine that has yet to enter service. Pyongyang has said the vessel is designed to launch nuclear weapons. North Korea also tested hypersonic missile systems with different ranges on Sept 20 and Oct 3 as it seeks to expand its arsenal of weapons intended to overcome missile defence systems in South Korea and Japan. Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of the North Korean leader, claimed that the missiles tested on Oct 3 also incorporated artificial intelligence technology. However, some experts believe that although North Korea may be improving its missile guidance software, its weapons are unlikely to possess highly advanced digital capabilities, such as autonomous target identification. Kim has halted diplomatic engagement and cooperation with South Korea in recent years, describing the country as a permanent enemy, while nuclear negotiations with Washington remain deadlocked.

International Desk

Protesters across France took to the streets on Saturday over rising living costs, joining high school students who have been demonstrating for better education conditions amid more than three weeks of school blockades. The latest mobilisation followed social media calls to revive the Yellow Vest movement, which emerged in 2018 to protest social injustice. Student groups involved in demonstrations since mid-September have urged others to join the protests. The CGT, one of France's major labour unions, also backed the demonstrations, demanding higher wages and pensions, lower prices and the protection of public services that meet people's needs. President Emmanuel Macron called for calm and respect for people and property on Friday as officials warned of possible violence. "There is a constitutional right to protest and to express oneself, and I have always been vigilant and attentive that that right is fully respected," Macron said in Brussels. However, he stressed that the right to protest must be exercised with respect for people and property, and without insults or destruction. He described the potential presence of people intent solely on causing damage and unrest as "unacceptable". Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said hundreds of protest actions and more than 80 marches were expected nationwide, including spontaneous gatherings, street demonstrations and blockades.



Israeli settlers attack US photographer covering West Bank violence

International Desk

Israeli settlers on Friday attacked an American photojournalist working for The Washington Post while she was covering violence against Palestinian olive farmers in the occupied West Bank. Heidi Levine, a veteran photographer, was taken to hospital in Ramallah following the attack, with AFP photos showing her lying on a gurney with injuries to her leg and hand. The office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, days ahead of elections in which he is seeking settlers' support, insisted the circumstances behind the incident were unclear, in contrast with the full-throated condemnation offered by his chief rival. The attack comes 10 days after settlers beat an AFP photographer covering the West Bank olive harvest, Jaafar Ashtiyeh, leaving him also requiring hospital treatment. Speaking to journalists from her hospital bed, Levine said that "more than 50" masked settlers holding sticks suddenly attacked her while she was working near the Palestinian villages of Abu Falah and Turmus Ayya in the central West Bank. "All of a sudden they jumped me and I luckily had my helmet and flak jacket on and I... kept my face to the ground to try to protect my face," she said. "They just kept kicking me and kicking me," she added. After receiving initial care in Ramallah, Levine was transferred to Israel's Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, where doctors found she had suffered four broken vertebrae and would need surgery. The Washington Post said Levine had been wearing a flak jacket clearly marked "Press". "We are outraged by this unwarranted attack on a journalist doing her job and urge a thorough investigation and follow-through from authorities," Matt Murray, the paper's executive editor, said in a statement. - 'No mercy' - Netanyahu's office said Levine had been "allegedly assaulted", adding that the circumstances were "unclear and are under investigation". "Those responsible will be held accountable," it said in an X post, giving a version of events in which "some 200 Arabs and far-left activists confronted approximately 40 Israeli youths", with both sides throwing objects at the other. Gadi Eisenkot, Netanyahu's main rival in the upcoming polls, blamed Friday's "unacceptable" attack on a "handful of rioters" whose actions, he said, "stain an entire nation". A US State Department official said it con-

demned "criminal violence by any party in the West Bank" and called for "legal accountability for those responsible". The official added the department had "reached out to the Washington Post to offer consular assistance". AFP did not witness the moment of the attack, but one of the agency's journalists in the area saw Palestinian medics tending to someone on the ground and Israeli soldiers pushing away journalists trying to approach. The Israeli military said troops and border police forces were deployed to the area "following a report of a violent confrontation". "A female journalist had been injured during the confrontation," it said, adding the circumstances would be examined. "Attacks and violence against innocent civilians are grave and unacceptable acts," the military said. The Israeli police said it had opened an investigation into incidents in Abu Falah and Turmus Ayya. "We were on our land, picking olives, and suddenly the settlers came down on us and started hitting us, throwing stones," said Mukhlis Zuhi, a farmer from Abu Falah. "There was even a foreign journalist whom they beat. These people have no mercy or compassion in their hearts," he told AFP. - 'Brazen violence' - The Foreign Press Association, which represents international media in Israel and the Palestinian territories, said the settlers stole Levine's passport, phone, wallet and equipment. "This is the latest in a long line of violent attacks by Israeli settlers against journalists and other civilians in the occupied West Bank," it said. Reporters Without Borders said it strongly condemned the attack and called on Israeli authorities to "put an end to this impunity and prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous assault". "This brazen violence... is evidence of the impunity with which extremist Jewish settlers operate, often under the protection of Israeli armed forces," added the advocacy group, known by its French initials RSF. Violence has flared in recent months in the West Bank, with near-daily attacks, thefts or vandalism by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. Excluding east Jerusalem, around three million Palestinians live in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967, alongside more than 500,000 Israelis residing in settlements considered illegal under international law.

Protesters rally across France over rising living costs, back students' demands



In Paris, a march was scheduled to begin in the early afternoon at Place de la République, northeast of the city centre. Police banned some other planned gatherings in central Paris. Several Metro stations were also closed at police request, including stations near the Champs-Élysées, the presidential palace, parliament and government offices. France has witnessed thousands of arrests, hundreds of injuries and arson attacks on schools in recent weeks as student protests spread nationwide following the start of the new school year. The demonstrations have also influenced the country's presidential election campaign and attracted international attention. Some teenagers have suffered severe injuries allegedly caused by police crowd-control weapons. Nuñez suspended the use of a particular type of police stun grenade against young demonstrators after a 15-year-old lost a hand. On Tuesday, climate and social justice activist Greta Thunberg joined students at a high school in Saint-Denis, a suburb of Paris.



What to Stream: ‘Moana,’ ‘Modern Warfare 4,’ Dolly Parton Tribute, ‘Lupin’ and John Legend



Entertainment Desk

A new album by John Legend and the streaming debut of the live-action adaptation of “Moana” are among the latest films, television programmes, music releases and video games arriving on digital platforms.

Other notable releases for the week, selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists, include “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4,” a limited series featuring “Vanderpump Rules” star Lisa Vanderpump and the second season of “The Terminal List.”

New Movies to Stream From Oct. 19-25

The live-action version of “Moana” will arrive on Disney+ on Wednesday. Dwayne Johnson returns as the demigod Maui, while Catherine Laga?aia plays Moana. In his review, AP Film Writer Jake Coyle described the film as a largely faithful remake of the original, with only small additions, suggesting that the transition from animation to live action often sacrifices some of the original’s appeal. The animated version is also available on Disney+.

“The Invite,” a sharp-witted comedy-drama starring Seth Rogen, Penelope Cruz, Edward Norton and director Olivia Wilde, begins streaming on HBO Max on Friday, Oct. 23. Coyle praised its performances and clever approach to the traditional drawing-room comedy, despite occasionally noticeable plot mechanics.

New Music to Stream From Oct. 19-25

John Legend returns with “Muse,” his first album since 2024’s “My Favorite Dream,” a children’s record produced by Sufjan Stevens. The new album, produced by Pharrell Williams, focuses more on adult relationships and romance. The previously released song “Daylight” reflects that theme, while “Fireflies” delivers a message of hope and resilience. The album will be released on Friday.

PBS’ “Great Performances” will honour late country music star Tammy Wynette with a special recorded at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium. Performers include Wynonna Judd, Katie Pruitt, War & Treaty, Carter Faith, Tami Neilson, Valerie June, Brittney Spencer and Heart’s Ann Wilson. “Great Performances — Tammy Wynette: Forever Yours” premieres Friday, Oct. 23, and will also be available on pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app.

Country music fans can also watch a two-hour tribute to Dolly Parton on Wednesday. “CMA Presents I Will Always Love You: A Celebration of Dolly Parton” honours the singer, who died of cancer in August at the age of 80. Ashley McBryde, Brad Paisley, Carrie Underwood, Darius Rucker, Ella Langley, Kristen Bell, Kristin Chenoweth and Reba McEntire are among the performers and special guests. The programme will air live from Belmont University’s Fisher Center for the Performing Arts in Nashville on ABC and Disney+, with streaming on Hulu beginning Thursday.

Meanwhile, singer Anderson .Paak and rapper Cordae reunite for their collaborative album “Heavy Is the Crown,” which arrives Friday. Their previous joint tracks include “RNP,” “Two Tens” and “Summer Drop.”

New Series to Stream From Oct. 19-25

Sam Nivola and Connie Britton star in “Phony,” a half-hour mystery series. After a car accident leaves a high school student in hospital, he becomes convinced that the woman claiming to be his mother, who also runs his school, is an impostor. Two episodes debut Tuesday on Hulu, with subsequent episodes released weekly.

Chris Pratt returns as Navy SEAL James Reece in the second season of “The Terminal List.” Based on Jack Carr’s novel “True Believer,” the new instalment takes Reece to Mozambique and features an international.

‘Since when did disrespecting others become a source of income

Entertainment Desk

Actor Mehazabien Chowdhury has criticised the creation and circulation of fabricated content using artificial intelligence (AI), questioning why humiliating another person has become a means of earning money online. The popular actress has also challenged social media users who share such material, arguing that their actions turn an individual offence into a wider social problem. Tap here to add The Daily Star as a trusted source google-preferred-source-badger Creating false and fabricated content in someone’s name using AI and spreading it with the intention of humiliating them is not entertainment. It is a crime,” Mehazabien wrote in a Facebook post on Thursday morning.



Jaya spreads charm in autumn mood

Entertainment Desk

With a garland of bell flowers hanging from her hair, wearing a traditional saree and a sweet smile on her face. Sometimes she looks at the camera and smiles, sometimes she fixes her hair flowers and poses in different poses.

Old Bengali songs are playing; this is how popular Bengali actress Jaya Ahsan caught the eye in a new video in traditional Bengali attire.

The biggest festival of traditional Hindu Bengalis, the autumn Durga Puja, has come again after a year.

On Friday, i.e. on the day of Shashthi, the actress released the video. She adorned herself in this atmosphere of the autumn festival, showcasing the aesthetics of her beauty among her fans.

The actress wished everyone a happy Sharadiya by sharing the video. She wrote, “May the festival be in the eyes, in the smiles and in the stories; Happy Sharadiya to everyone.”



It shows Jaya wearing an off-white saree with a pink design all over the edges. Her blouse also matches the saree.

Along with heavy earrings and hand ornaments, the garlands of bell flowers in her hair add extra charm.

Jaya’s expression is also different in each scene of the video. Sometimes she is standing in front of the camera holding the hem of her saree, some-

times she is looking at the lens with a slight smile.

Sometimes she is holding a bunch of flowers or fixing her hair. It is believed that this scene was shot in Kolkata, India. In the video, Jaya has included the old Bengali song titled ‘Tomari Achhi’. Her smooth presence combined with the melody of the song creates a great atmosphere; which is receiving a lot of praise from fans.

Sabila’s love affair with DOP, revealed by his lover

Entertainment Desk

Amidst the rumours of marital tension surrounding actress Sabila Nur in Dhaka showbiz, cinematographer (Director of Photography or DOP) Abdul Mamun has come into the spotlight again.

Mamun is in a love relationship with Sabila and that is why their seven-year love and marriage with him broke up, Mamun’s alleged lover Tisha has claimed.

Tisha alleged that although all the preparations for the wedding were completed with the consent of both families, Mamun backed out of the decision just a few days before the wedding. However, no official statement has been received from Sabila Nur, her husband Nehal Sunand Taher or Abdul Mamun on this matter. According to Tisha, Mamun was supposed to marry her immediately after the shooting of Sabila’s movie ‘Rockstar’ was over.

The wedding date was also set on May 15. But a few days before the wedding, Mamun told her that he did not want to get married anymore. Tisha did not get a clear answer when she asked why. Later, she claimed that she came to know about Mamun’s close relationship with Sabila Nur.



Tisha told the media, “Everything you heard is true. My seven-year love and marriage broke up because of Sabila Nur.

We were supposed to get married five days after the shooting of movie ‘Rockstar’ ended. All the arrangements for the wedding were made by both families. But Mamun suddenly said that he did not want to get married. Later, I learned that Mamun was deeply involved in a relationship with Sabila Nur.” Tisha alleged that despite several attempts to talk to Mamun about backing out of the marriage decision, he could not be persuaded to change his mind. Her family members also tried to convince Mamun, but nothing worked, she said. Tisha also claimed that many in the showbiz industry know about Mamun’s love affair with Sabila Nur.

She has stopped communicating with Mamun since learning about this incident. Such an outcome after a long-term relationship has left her mentally devastated. Expressing regret, Tisha said, “They both didn’t do a good job with me. Sabila Nur knew everything about us. But even though she was a girl, she never thought about another girl. She did me a great harm. Abdul Mamun forgot about me after getting a star.”



Sports

Man Utd have 'moved on' from Martinez outburst, says Carrick

Sports Desk

Michael Carrick said Friday that Manchester United had “moved on” from Lisandro Martinez’s outburst aimed at the club’s hierarchy, stressing it was “really not a drama for us as a group”.

Argentina defender Martinez took aim at the United hierarchy following their 2-0 Champions League loss to Atletico Madrid on Tuesday, saying Carrick had been left with an under-strength squad.

The centre-back criticised technical director Jason Wilcox, saying he had “100 percent” expected more investment during the summer



transfer window after United finished third in the Premier League last season.

It is understood Martinez, who issued an apology on Thursday, has been fined for his outburst.

United manager Carrick confirmed during a pre-match press conference on Friday that Martinez would be in his squad for their Premier League match at bitter rivals Leeds on Sunday.

Carrick, under intense pressure after a terrible start to the season, was asked by reporters about Martinez’s comments and subsequent developments.

“We’ve moved on from that, it was one of those things,” he said. “I think Licha (Martinez) has come out and acknowledged the situation and as a group we’ve moved on. “It’s really not a drama for us as a group. I think the boys have trained really well. This

morning there was a really good feeling around the squad.”

Martinez, 28, said in a statement he had held positive talks with the club’s leadership and Carrick.

“Everyone knows that I am a passionate person and that I live football with great intensity,” he said in a post on Instagram.

“The frustration of the defeat led me to express how I felt at a time and place that perhaps were not the right ones, and for that I want to apologise.”

- ‘Emotion’ -

Former United captain Roy Keane has branded the situation at his former club “a bit of a circus”.

Carrick was pressed by reporters on the nature of the apology from Martinez, which did not mention Wilcox by name.

“I think he (Martinez) has released his statement and he’s realised he’s made a mistake,” said the United boss. “I think that’s enough for all of us to move on with.”

He added: “I understand the emotion at times. We ask for passion, we ask for emotion, we ask for fire and we ask for players to

care.

“There’s a way of doing that and that’s already been acknowledged. We need to carry that. We need to carry that intensity and that willingness and that togetherness and that spirit and everything.”

United have made their worst start to a league season in 40 years.

They are 13th in the Premier League, with just one win from six matches, but Carrick, a former United and England midfielder, deflected a question about the pressure on him personally.

“I don’t need results, we all need results,” he said. “It’s not about me. Manchester United is a lot bigger than any individual, bigger than me. “Bigger than any player, anyone else who works at this football club. It always has been, and it’s not about me.”



Mohammedan earn third successive win in BFL

Sports Desk

Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their third consecutive victory in the Bangladesh Football League when they blanked PWD Sports Club by 2-0 goals held at Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium in Manikganj yesterday (Friday).

In the proceeding, Malian forward Souleymane Diabate and midfielder Minhazul Abedin Rakib scored one goal each for Mohammedan. The match was locked goalless at the breather. After the barren first half, Souleymane Diabate finally broke the deadlock scoring the first goal for Mohammedan in the 46th minute before Rakib sealed the victory scoring the second goal for Mohammedan in the 78th minute of the match. PWD however tried their best to stage a fight back in the match but they could not score any in the remaining proceeding. The day’s win saw the traditional black and white Motijheel outfit Mohammedan secure nine points from three matches while PWD bagged three points from four outings.

In the remaining fourth round matches tomorrow (Saturday), old Dhaka outfit Rahmatganj Muslim and Friends Society

Real Madrid demands La Liga chief's resignation over Nazi propaganda comparison

Sports Desk

Real Madrid has again called for La Liga president Javier Tebas to resign after he compared the club’s efforts to discredit referees with propaganda tactics used by Nazi Germany.

Tebas criticised Madrid in a lengthy social media post on Friday over its club television channel’s repeated claims that referees have harmed its chances of winning matches. The channel regularly publishes video clips highlighting what it considers serious errors by match officials assigned to upcoming games involving the 15-time European champions. Tebas likened the club’s approach to the methods used.



Humayun Rashed wins Turkish Airlines golf tournament Dhaka

Sports Desk

Colonel Md. Humayun Rashed emerged champion of the 11th Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup tournament held at Kurmitola Golf Club in the capital yesterday, earning a place in the competition’s Grand Finals in Türkiye later this year.

Rashed secured the title with 44 points, while Air Vice Marshal Md. Nazrul Islam finished as runner-up and S M Abdullah Farabi claimed third place, according to a Turkish Airlines press release.

Rashed also won the Gross award with a score of 75.

Brigadier General Yasir Jahan won the men’s Closest to the Pin competition, while Neela Aziz secured the women’s title in the same category.

The Dhaka tournament, attended by prominent personalities and members of the business community, was the 92nd event in this year’s global Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup series, comprising 139 tournaments.

As the Dhaka champion, Rashed will represent the city at the Grand Finals in Türkiye, where winners from participating destinations will compete at Gloria Golf Club on the Turkish Golf Coast.

The finalists will be accommodated at Gloria Serenity Resort and travel to Türkiye in Turkish Airlines Business Class.

Turkish Airlines General Manager in Dhaka Islam Güre congratulated the champion and thanked participants for making the tournament successful.

“We thank all of our guests who made the Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup here in Dhaka a huge success,” he said.

“Once again, it was a thrilling tournament in the TAWGC series. Congratulations to our winner, Col. Md. Humayun Rashed. We wish him the best of luck in Türkiye,” Güre added.

Bangladesh holds medal-winning potential in Wushu, other martial arts

Sports Desk

Bangladesh has the potential to win more medals in international competitions through martial arts disciplines like Wushu, but sustained training, timely funding and dedicated facilities are essential to achieving that goal.

Bangladesh secured only a bronze medal in Wushu event at the recent Asian Games, demonstrating the Wushu’s potential despite limited preparation.

Zinnat Akter in the women’s 52kg category advanced beyond the quarterfinals following her opponent’s disqualification on weight grounds before losing to the reigning Chinese champion in the semi-finals. Bangladesh Wushu Federation (BWF) founder and general secretary Dildar Hasan Dilu talking to BSS said the achievement was particularly significant given that they had only 24 days for preparation ahead of the Games, while leading Asian competitors undergo year-round training.

He identified short training camps, delays in fund allocation and the absence of a permanent training facility as major obstacles to improving Wushu’s international performance.

“Athletes typically attend training camps for one or two months before major competitions, leaving little time for sustained technical development, physical conditioning and tactical preparation. Delays in releasing training funds further undermine preparations,” said Dilu. The national team also lacks a dedicated training base, forcing athletes to train at different temporary venues. Despite these challenges, Dilu welcomed recent government initiatives to improve athlete support under State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque. For the first time in more than five decades since independence, the government has introduced a monthly allowance programme for athletes, with financial support linked to performance, Dilu said. In another development, the state minister announced the allocation of a 5,000-square-foot space at ‘Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur’ for Wushu’s training. The federation plans to develop and modernise the facility using its own fund. The BWF general secretary said martial arts disciplines, including Wushu, Karate and Taekwondo, have historically offered Bangladesh significant medal opportunities at regional multi-sport competitions, including the South Asian Games. He expressed optimism that consistent funding, access to foreign coaching expertise and uninterrupted access to modern training facilities could help Wushu become more competitive at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and other major international events. He stressed that long-term planning, rather than short-term preparation before individual tournaments, would be crucial to turning the country’s medal-winning potential into consistent international success.





65-Year-Old Man Arrested on Charge of Attempted Rape of Child



Md. Ohid Saiful,Jhalakathi
Police have arrested a man named Md. Anich Hawlader (65) on charge of attempting to rape an 11-year-old child in Rajapur of Jhalakathi. In this incident, the child's father filed a case at Rajapur Police Station on Thursday night as plaintiff. The arrested person was sent to court on Friday afternoon. Arrested Anich Hawlader is the son of late Moktar Ali Hawlader of Purba Angaria area of Sadar Union of the upazila. According to the case statement, as the child's mother lives abroad, she lives at her maternal

grandparents' house. It has been mentioned in the statement that as the accused person is known to the child's family, he used to get the opportunity to go to her by virtue of good relations with the family. According to the complaint of the statement, on September 16 at around 11:30 am, an incident of attempted rape of the child took place beside a banana garden in Purba Angaria area. Later, on October 11 at around 3 pm, a similar attempt was allegedly made with the child taken to the accused person's shop. It was further stated in the statement that at the time of the second incident, when people around heard the child's scream and came forward, the accused person moved away from there. Later the family members of the child came to know about the matter. In this incident, the child's father filed a case at the police station. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rajapur Police Station Sujon Biswas said, accused Anich Hawlader has been arrested. He was sent to Jhalakathi court on Friday afternoon.

233 more dengue patients hospitalized in Khulna in 24 hours

Khulna Correspondent

A total of 233 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals in Khulna division in the past 24 hours (Friday 8 am to Saturday 8 am), bringing the total cases this year to 17,689. Of the newly hospitalised patients, 197 were admitted to government hospitals and 36 to private hospitals. One more death from dengue was reported in the division during the period, raising the total number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease to 66 this year. Since January 1, a total of 17,689 people have been infected with dengue in Khulna division. Of them, 16,215 have recovered and returned home, while 998 patients are currently receiving treatment at different hospitals. Khulna district has recorded the highest number of dengue cases in the division, with 6,803 patients identified so far. Khulna Medical College Hospital alone has reported 3,316 dengue cases.



Essay Writing and Debate Competition Held in Domar and Dimla of Nilphamari

Mohinul Islam Sujon

An essay writing and debate competition was held in Domar, Nilphamari. With financial assistance from NETZ Bangladesh and BMZ and organized by the Pollishree Agragatra Project, the essay writing and debate competition was held on Thursday (October 15) afternoon at Panga Mahesh Chandra Lala High School in Panga Matukpur Union of Domar Upazila. The guests present at the event included Kazi Masudur Rahman, Project Manager of the Pollishree Agragatra Project; Unit Manager Mokim Chowdhury; Abu Zafar Shamsuddin, Head Teacher of Panga Mahesh Chandra Lala High School; and Assistant Teachers Shafiul Islam, Prashiddha Roy, Haridas Roy, Bimala Rani Basak, Abdus Salam, Bhushen Roy, and Toibul Islam. The judges were Assistant Teachers Jasir Rahman, Subas Chandra Roy, and Tahmina Akter. The programme was conducted by Ashrafal Alam, president of the same school. The debate competition was held on the

topic, “Not laws, but only social movements and the spread of moral education are the sole effective means of preventing violence against women.” Anjuma Akter Arju, Salma Akter, and Sharmin Akter of Class Nine participated in favour of the motion. Sinha Akter, Tabassum, and Rubaiya Akter participated against the motion. The team supporting the motion won the debate. The essay topics were: “Digital Bangladesh” for Class Six; “Tree Plantation Campaign and Its Necessity” for Class Seven; “Plastic Pollution and Its Remedies” for Class Eight; “Cybersecurity and Our Responsibilities” for Class Nine; and “The Human Future in Artificial Intelligence” for Class Ten. At the end of the event, the prize distribution ceremony was attended by all the teachers and students of the school, along with Ayesha Siddika Asha, Advocacy Facilitator of the Pollishree Agragatra Project. Earlier, the same essay writing and debate competition was held on Wednesday at Dalia Shishu Niketan High School in Dimla.

KCC launches community-led fire fighting system in Khulna

Khulna Correspondent

Administrator of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Nazrul Islam Manju yesterday inaugurated the installation of a community-led fire fighting system, including fire hydrants, at Joragate CDC in the city. The system is being installed under the Livelihoods Support for Urban Poor Communities in Bangladesh project, implemented under the supervision of KCC with technical assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and financial support from the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). With a water storage capacity of 30,000 litres, the community-led fire fighting system will have four distribution points. Of the total capacity, 5,000 litres of water will be available for daily use by community members, while the remaining 25,000 litres will be reserved for immediate use in firefighting emergencies. As part of the initiative, 20 community volunteers will also receive training to operate the installed equipment and ensure its prompt use during emergencies. During the inauguration, Manju thanked UNDP and the China International Development Cooperation Agency for their support. He also highlighted the benefits of the initiative and urged local beneficiaries to learn about the system and participate in volunteer training to help tackle fire-related emergencies.



RAB Arrests Drug Dealer with 106 Grams of Heroin in Mohanpur, Rajshahi

Md. Sohel Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

The Special Response Battalion (SRB) was established with the objective of maintaining overall law and order in the country and bringing all types of criminals to justice. SRB regularly conducts operations against terrorists, organized criminals, drug traffickers, arms dealers, muggers, and those who disrupt public order. In continuation of these efforts, on October 16, 2026, at 19:50 hrs, based on secret information, it was learned that a painter named Md. Minhaj Hossain Milon was present at his paint shop in Gocha Bazar Haji Market under Mohanpur Police Station in Rajshahi district with the intention of selling illegal heroin. Acting on this tip-off, an operational team of SRB conducted a raid at the shop and arrested the accused, Md. Minhaj Hossain Milon (35), son of Md. Mizanur Rahman, residing in Gocha, Mohanpur Police Station, Rajshahi District. During the operation, 106 grams of illegal heroin and 2 mobile phones found in his possession were seized in accordance with legal procedures in the presence of neutral witnesses. Subsequently, the arrested accused and the seized evidence were handed over to the relevant police station along with a case filed for further legal action.

99,640 Yaba tablets worth Tk 3 crore seized in Bandarban's Naikhongchhari

Staff Reporter

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has seized 99,640 Yaba tablets, estimated to be worth around Tk 2.98 crore, in an operation in Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban. The contraband drugs were cleverly hidden inside sacks filled with lemons. However, no one was arrested in connection with the drive. According to BGB sources, the operation was conducted near the Steel Bridge area adjacent to the Adarshagram Checkpost in Naikhongchhari around 8:30 PM on Wednesday (October 14). Lieutenant Colonel Md. Foyzul Kabir, Captain of 11 BGB, stated that acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of the BGB took position in the area. During the search of two abandoned sacks filled with lemons left behind under suspicious circumstances, security personnel discovered the Yaba tablets packed inside 10 specially concealed packets. The market value of the seized drugs is estimated at approximately Tk 2,98,92,000. Sensing the presence of law enforcement officers, the drug traffickers managed to flee the scene, which is why no arrests could be made, the BGB added. Legal procedures regarding the incident are currently underway. The authorities further stated that BGB's intelligence surveillance and strict operations to curb drug trafficking and smuggling in border areas will continue in the future.



Raipura Upazila Health Complex takes steps to improve services, cleanliness

Narsingdi Correspondent

The Raipura Upazila Health Complex in Narsingdi has undertaken various initiatives to improve the quality of medical services, ensure faster treatment, maintain a clean environment and strengthen healthcare services at the grassroots, overcoming the some limitations. The health complex is one of the main public healthcare facilities for residents of the upazila. It currently provides regular outpatient services and round-the-clock emergency treatment. As a result, need for patients to travel to the district headquarters or Dhaka for primary and general medical care has decreased significantly, according to officials concerned. Hospital sources said a modern cell counter machine was recently installed with funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to make disease diagnosis easier and faster. The machine enables medical staff to conduct various blood tests quickly and accurately. This has reduced patients' waiting time and inconvenience, as well as the cost of diagnostic tests. A separate 10-bed dengue ward has also been established at the health complex. Hospital authorities said around 200 dengue patients had already received treatment and recovered before returning home, with the cell counter machine helping speed up diagnosis. The attendance of doctors, officers and employees has also improved. Besides, X-ray services and various essential diagnostic tests are being conducted at the pathology department at government-fixed rates. Hospital authorities said government-supplied medicines were also being distributed among patients through a proper and transparent process. Regular cleaning activities and supervision have brought changes to both the indoor and outdoor environments of the hospital. Concerned staffs have been carrying out routine activities to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for patients. The health complex has also intensified efforts to extend



healthcare services to remote areas of the upazila rather than limiting its activities to hospital-based treatment. These initiatives include the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), measles-rubella campaigns, digital health data preservation through Open SRP, verbal autopsy and enhanced monitoring of community clinic activities. The upazila health department said these activities placed particular emphasis on ensuring healthcare services for people living in remote areas, especially mothers and children. Majeda Begum, a resident of Nilakhya area in Raipura who came to the hospital for outpatient treatment, said patients previously had to wait for a long time and the environment was not very satisfactory. "Now doctors listen to patients attentively, and the environment is much cleaner than before," she said. Ahmed Islam, a relative of a patient who came to the emergency department, said patients could now receive services from doctors and nurses more quickly than before during emergencies. The doctors' sincerity had also reduced the suffering of patients and their relatives, he added. Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Jannatun Naim said that since taking responsibility, she had been working to ensure quality healthcare for people at the grassroots level alongside institutional medical services. She said close monitoring was being carried out to ensure the regular attendance of doctors, round-the-clock emergency services, cleanliness and transparent distribution of government medicines. Activities such as EPI, measles-rubella campaigns, community clinic services, Open SRP and verbal autopsy were also being closely supervised. "With the addition of modern equipment such as the cell counter machine, the capacity and speed of disease diagnosis have improved. These changes are being brought about through the coordinated efforts of doctors, nurses, field workers, officers and employees," Dr Jannatun Naim said. She added that better healthcare services could be provided to the people of Raipura if the health complex received the necessary manpower and more modern medical equipment.

Chief Reporter,Syed Bashir Ahmed

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) has arrested two individuals in connection with the murder of 16-year-old auto-rickshaw driver Monir Hossain—a crime committed to steal his vehicle—and the subsequent concealment of his body in Raipura, Narsingdi. Based on information provided by the suspects, four batteries from the stolen auto-rickshaw have also been recovered. The arrested individuals are Asad Mia (alias Ershad, 38) and Zahidul Mia (30), both from Raipura, Narsingdi. Dr. S. M. Farhad Hossain, Superintendent of Police for the PBI in Narsingdi district, confirmed these details on Thursday (October 15). He stated that Asad was arrested last Wednesday afternoon from Burujertek in the Ghorashal Bagpara area of Palash Upazila. Acting on information provided by him, Zahidul was subsequently arrested at 12:15 AM on Thursday near the IT Park area, adjacent to Lalmai Bazar in Comilla. According to the PBI, Monir Hossain left home with his auto-rickshaw on the morning of September 25 and never returned. His mobile phone was also found to be switched off. After failing to locate him despite extensive searches, his father, Shah Alam Mia, filed a General Diary (GD) at the Raipura Police



Station on September 27. On the morning of October 5, a body was discovered floating among water hyacinths in a wetland (beel) near Dargabari in the Adiyabad Shikdarpara area of Raipura. Upon receiving the information, police and family members arrived at the scene and identified the body as that of Monir. The PBI investigation revealed that Monir was strangled to death using his own trouser belt, with the perpetrators intending to steal his auto-rickshaw—a vehicle valued at approximately 150,000 Taka. The agency further stated that the body was hidden beneath water hyacinths in the wetland in an attempt to conceal the crime. Following this incident, a case was filed at the Raipura Police Station on October 6 against unknown individuals, charging them with murder and the concealment of evidence. Subsequently, the Narsingdi district unit of the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) took over the investigation. A team led by Police Inspector Shahidul Islam began the inquiry, and later, Sub-Inspector (SI) Md. Ashraf Ali was appointed as the investigating officer for the case. The PBI stated that the arrested suspects have been produced before the court. The investigation is ongoing, and efforts are underway to recover the remaining parts of the auto-rickshaw.

Three killed in separate Sylhet road accidents

Sylhet Correspondent

Three people including an infant were killed and ten others injured in two separate road accidents on the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway in Jaintipur upazila yesterday. At around 12:15 pm, a Jafflong-bound tourist bus collided with a Sylhet-bound stone-laden truck in the Ferighat area under Jaintipur upazila, injuring several bus passengers. Tamabil Highway Police and Jaintipur Station Police rescued the injured and sent them to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, where two of them succumbed to their injuries. One of the deceased was identified as Hasan Pramanik, 40, a resident of Kalukhali area in Rajbari district while the identity of the deceased woman could not be known immediately. However, five others injured in the incident are currently admitted to the hospital. It was learned that a group of tourists from Rajbari had arrived in Sylhet for a six-day trip. On Saturday, they boarded a bus heading towards Jafflong when the stone-laden truck rammed into their bus, causing it to veer off into the roadside mud and resulting in the casualties. At around 12:30pm, a head-on collision between two private cars occurred near the Biraimara Bridge on the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway, leaving four to five passengers from both vehicles injured.



Durga Puja Celebrations in Sylhet, Festive Atmosphere Across Puja Mandaps

Naeem Ahmed, Sylhet Correspondent

A festive atmosphere prevails across various Durga Puja mandaps in Sylhet as the Hindu community celebrates the Sharadiya Durga Puja. The mandaps are bustling with the sounds of traditional dhak drums, religious rituals, and the presence of devotees. People of all ages are gathering to seek the blessings of Goddess Durga and participate in the worship. The Sharadiya Durga Puja is being celebrated with religious devotion, enthusiasm, and excitement in different parts of Sylhet district, including Jaintapur and Gowainghat upazilas. The beautifully decorated idols and colourful illuminations at the mandaps have created a vibrant festive atmosphere.

To ensure peaceful and uninterrupted celebrations, the administration has taken necessary security measures. Police personnel, along with mobile teams, are deployed to maintain security at the Puja mandaps. Law enforcement agencies remain on alert to prevent any untoward incidents. Meanwhile, leaders and activists of various local social and political organisations are extending their cooperation to spread the joy of the festival among people. Volunteers have also been deployed at the mandaps to maintain order and ensure smooth celebrations. The organisers hope that the Sharadiya Durga Puja will be celebrated peacefully and joyfully, further strengthening the bonds of harmony, goodwill, and brotherhood among people of different religions and communities.



Joint Initiative by District Administration and Pirojpur Municipality: Canal Cleaning Drive Across Municipal Wards



Pirojpur Correspondent

A canal cleaning drive has been conducted across various wards of Pirojpur Municipality as a joint initiative by the District Administration and the Pirojpur Municipality, aimed at preventing dengue. Starting Friday afternoon, the mosquito-control operation focused on clearing stagnant water from ditches, canals, and drains, removing weeds, and applying larvicides and adulticides to

curb the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes. Present at the event were Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Md. Golam Rabbani, and the Administrator of Pirojpur Municipality, Mahmudur Rahman Mamun. Also in attendance was Touhidul Islam, Organizing Secretary of the municipal unit of the BNP. Officials from the Pirojpur Municipality and the District Administration, municipal staff, representatives of civil society, and members of the media were also present. Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Md. Golam Rabbani stated that mosquito-control and cleaning drives are currently underway across various upazilas and municipalities in Pirojpur district to prevent dengue. Such public-welfare initiatives will continue in Pirojpur to combat the threat of dengue.



Distribution of rice D.O. on the occasion of Sharadiya Durga Puja in Fakirhat

S A Kalam Fakirhat Bagerhat

On the occasion of Sharadiya Durga Puja, rice D.O. has been distributed to the leaders of the temple committees in Fakirhat Upazila of Bagerhat. On Thursday (October 15) at 10 AM, the Upazila Executive Officer Mo: Rokonu Zaman handed over 600 kg of rice



D.O. to the Durga Puja Mandap Committee at the UNO office. Under the guidance of Upazila Project Implementation Officer Imrul Kayes, Upazila Agriculture Officer Sheikh Shakhawat Hossain, Social Service Officer Subrata Biswas, and others were present at the time. According to relevant sources, the allocation letters (D.O.) of rice from the government relief fund were handed over to the presidents and general secretaries of 70 Puja Mandap Committees in the Upazila. A total of 600 kg of rice has been allocated for each Puja temple.

Orientation and experience exchange meeting of newly appointed assistant teachers was held in Bakerganj

Upazila Representative, Bakerganj (Barisal)

An experience exchange meeting was held after reviewing the orientation and class activities of the newly appointed assistant teachers in Barisal's Bakerganj. The meeting was held at Bakerganj JSU Model High School Hallroom on Thursday (October 15) at 1 pm. Member of Parliament Abul Hossain Khan was present as the chief guest. Upazila Executive Officer (UNO) Milton Chandra Pal presided over the meeting. The meeting discussed about enhancing the professional skills of the newly appointed assistant teachers, improving the teaching methods and making the classroom education program more effective. Besides, emphasis is placed on the role of teachers in improving the quality of education, increasing students' interest in subjects and the overall progress of primary education. Officials of the concerned education department, teachers and invited guests were present in the meeting. It is hoped that such arrangements will play a positive role in the development of primary education by informing newly appointed teachers about their responsibilities and duties and providing guidance in improving the quality of class activities.

Human Chain Demanding Nationalization of Khan Jahan Ali Degree College in Bagerhat



Masum Hawlader, Bagerhat

Teachers, students, officials, employees and conscious citizens have formed a human chain demanding nationalization of the traditional Khan Jahan Ali Degree College in Bagerhat. The human chain was held in front of the main gate of the college at 9:30 am on Thursday (October 15). In the human chain organized with the slogan 'Build the country with education', the speakers said, Khan Jahan Ali Degree College is a traditional educational institution of Bagerhat. For a long time, the institution has been playing an important role in spreading education in this region. Many students have established themselves in various fields after receiving education from here. However, nationalization of the college is necessary to improve the quality of education, develop infrastructure and increase facilities for students according to the needs of time. The speakers further said, if an educational institution is nationalized, students from general and underprivileged families can get relatively more facilities. Besides, it paves the way for increasing facilities for teachers and employees, improving the educational environment and expanding modern educational activities. For this reason, considering the long tradition of Khan Jahan Ali Degree College and its contribution in the field of education, they demanded to consider the issue of nationalization with importance. Speaking at the human chain, the speakers said, Khan Jahan

Ali Degree College is not just an educational institution, it is associated with the long-standing education and tradition of the people of this region. If the college is nationalized, there will be a positive change in the education system of the area. Students will get the opportunity to study in a more improved environment. Therefore, for the sake of the future of the students and the development of education in the area, it is necessary to take effective initiatives by the concerned authorities for nationalization of the college. The speakers also said, the government is taking various initiatives to ensure expansion of education and quality education. In continuation of that, the issue of bringing traditional educational institutions like Khan Jahan Ali Degree College under nationalization should be considered. They drew the attention of the concerned ministry and authorities for this. At the same time, they called for taking necessary steps to implement the demand for nationalization of the college. Present at the human chain were former secretary of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and President of the Officers' Forum Dr. Faridul Islam Bablu, Principal of the college Khondkar Asif Uddin Rakhi, Assistant Professor Abul Hasan Md. Oliur Rahman, Assistant Professor Sheikh Sain Hossain and other teachers, students, officials-employees and local dignitaries of the college. It is to be noted that the founder of Khan Jahan Ali Degree College is former Secretary General of the nationalist party BNP and former Home Minister, Commerce Minister and Foreign Minister Lieutenant Colonel A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman. The participants in the human chain demanded to take initiative for rapid nationalization considering the long tradition of the college, its contribution in the field of education and future development.



Two days after 10-month-old baby Raihan went missing while sleeping in Kalapara, body recovered from canal, child's Khalu arrested

Kalapara (Patuakhali) representative

Two days after the disappearance in Ghutabacha village of Nilganj Union in Kalapara of Patuakhali. Police recovered the body of 10-month-old baby Raihan from the canal near the house. On Saturday 17th October around 9:30 pm, the dead body was found in a cloth bag from the market. Police arrested the child's cousin Al-Amin in this incident. According to local sources, on Saturday morning from a place in the canal near the child's house. The stench was spreading. Later, the locals went to clean up the garbage and put a cloth down. The body of the child was found in the bag. On receiving the information, the police went to the spot and recovered the body. In this incident, the child's cousin Khalu Al-Amin was arrested on Thursday night. The child's parents and locals have expressed suspicion that the close relatives may be involved in the child's disappearance, abduction and murder. They are angry about this incident. Identifies the people involved quickly. They demanded to be brought under justice. Earlier, on Thursday night, the child's mother Rumana filed a case against three to four unidentified others, making Al-Amin the main accused. It is to be noted that last October 15, Thursday morning while sleeping with his father in the residence Child Raihan is missing. The incident took place in Ghutabacha village of Nilganj union of the upazila. Raihan is the son of Russell Khan of that village. According to the family, Russell Khan was sleeping in the house with his baby around 6:30 am on Thursday morning. At that time, his wife Rumana Begum was busy sweeping, mocha and plastering outside the house. After some time, she did not find her son back home and called her husband Russell to wake him up. After much searching, the pond was irrigated and the area miked without finding the child. However, no trace of the child was found. Later the police was informed. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kalapara Police Station Nazrul Islam said, the incident is very sad. The body was recovered by the quick action of the police. We are working to identify the real culprit. One person has been arrested and brought under the law in this incident.

RTI Fair 2026: Informed Citizens and an Accountable Administration Are Essential for Establishing the Right to Information



Crime Reporter, Chattogram

The 'RTI Fair 2026' was held at the Chattogram Shishu Academy with the objective of raising public awareness about the Right to Information Act, 2009, and ensuring transparency and accountability within government institutions. The fair was organized on October 15 under the 'Sushil' (Civil) project—an initiative of the Bright Bangladesh Forum and BITNEC, funded by the European Union and supported by ActionAid Bangladesh. The event was presided over by Nasrin Sultana Khanum, Director of the Bright Bangladesh Forum. Bappi Chakraborty, Deputy Principal Information Officer (Acting) at the Regional Information Office, Chattogram, attended as the chief guest. Dr. Anwara Alam—an academic, researcher, and media personality—was present as the guest



BGB Seizes 6 Indian Cows in chattagram Border Raid

Staff Reporter

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized six Indian cows valued at approximately Tk 4 lakh during separate drives in the border areas of Fatikchhari and Mirsarai upazilas of Chittagong early Thursday. Acting on secret information, two patrol teams from the Ramgarh Battalion (43 BGB) conducted the operations in the early hours of Thursday (October 15). According to BGB sources, the first raid took place around 7:00 AM at the Rahmatpur Koylamukh area in Fatikchhari upazila, where a patrol team intercepted and recovered four Indian cows. Shortly after, at around 7:40 AM, another BGB team seized two more Indian cows from the Hatimara Tila border area under Mirsarai upazila. Ramgarh Battalion (43 BGB) reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing the government's "zero tolerance" policy against smuggling. BGB authorities stated that strict border security, regular patrolling, and intelligence surveillance will continue to prevent illegal entry, border crimes, drug smuggling, and human trafficking.

In an operation by Jorarganj Police Station. Under the direction of the respected S P Chattogram District, Md. Masud Alam, BPM

Oliullah Nizami Chattogram district correspondent

Jorarganj Police Station, Chattogram. In an operation by Jorarganj Police Station, a total of 120 (one hundred twenty) pieces of yaba tablets were seized in 02 drug cases and 04 accused were arrested. In addition, 02 persons under Section 151 of CrPC and 05 drug users were sentenced, making a total of 11 persons arrested and forwarded to the learned court. Under the direction of the respected Superintendent of Police of Chattogram District, Mr. Md. Masud Alam, BPM, and under the supervision of Officer-in-Charge of Jorarganj Police Station, Mr. Mohammad Abdul Halim. SI (unarmed) Md. Aminul Islam, along with accompanying officer force, conducting an operation based on secret information, arrested at around 21:10 hours on 16/10/2026 from in front of Rafiq Mia's tea stall on the paved road in Madhyam Jamalpur under Ward No. 5 of Hinguli UP No. 2 under Jorarganj Police Station: Mainul Islam Sojib (26), Father- Md. Muktar, Mother: Firoza Begum - Permanent: (Madhyam Jamalpur, Ward No. 5, Hinguli UP No. 2), PS- Jorarganj, District-Chattogram, Mainul Hasan Rifat (25), Father- Md. Nurul Afsar, Mother: Shirina Akter - Permanent: (Madhyam Jamalpur, Ward No. 7, Bariharat Municipality) PS- Jorarganj, District-Chattogram with 70 pieces of yaba tablets. SI (unarmed) Md. Akramul Haque, along with accompanying officer force, conducting an operation based on secret information, arrested at around 23:45 hours on 16/10/2026 from an open space adjacent to S. Alam counter at Bus Stand Traffic Mor under Bariharat Municipality under Jorarganj Police Station: Arif Hossain (26), Father- Late Yunus Mia, Mother- Saleha Begum, Vill- Khilmurari, Yunus Mia's house, Ward No. 5, Jorarganj UP No. 3, PS- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram, Md. Parvez Hossain (23), Father- Late Suman Mia, Mother- Late Bibi Rahima, Vill- Khilmurari, Hashem Doctor's house, Ward

No. 5, Jorarganj UP No. 3, PS- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram with 50 pieces of yaba tablets.



SI (unarmed) Md. Aminul Islam along with accompanying officer force, for prevention of crime, arrested Saiful Islam (35), Father- Abu Taher, Mother- Anwara Begum, Vill- Madhyam Jamalpur, Ward No. 5, Hinguli UP No. 2, PS- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram under Section 151 of CrPC at 01:30 am on 17/10/2026 from in front of Rafiq Mia's tea stall on the paved road in Madhyam Jamalpur of Ward No. 5 of Hinguli No. 2 under Jorarganj Police Station. SI (unarmed) Md. Jishan Ahmed PPM along with accompanying officer force, for prevention of crime, arrested Md. Rubel (40), Father- Sheikh Mojibur, Mother- Romena Akter, Vill- Chhatrua, Ward No. 4, Karerhat UP No. 1, PS- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram under Section 151 of CrPC at 01:45 am on 17/10/2026 from Karerhat Bazar under Karerhat UP No. 1 under Jorarganj Police Station. As part of the anti-drug operation under the leadership of Officer-in-Charge of Jorarganj Police Station, Mr. Abdul Halim, under the direction of the Hon'ble Range DIG, Chattogram, a regular operation was conducted from 00:30 hours on 17/10/2026. Mr. Tanvirul Kader, Assistant Commissioner (Land), Mirsarai Upazila, participated in the said operation. During the operation, 5 drug addicts were sentenced to 07 days of simple imprisonment each. Appropriate legal action has been taken against the accused and they have been forwarded to the learned court.



Tree Plantation Programme Organized by Gowainghat Expatriates Social Welfare Council

Naem Ahmed, Sylhet Correspondent

The Gowainghat Expatriates Social Welfare Council organized a tree plantation programme in Gowainghat, Sylhet, on Thursday (October 15) to promote greenery and protect the environment. The programme was held at Toakul College premises and along both sides of the Paikaraj-Laskarkandi Road in Toakul Union No. 8. Lokman Hossain Sikder, Principal of Toakul College, presided over the programme, while Mohammad Lokman, Chairman of Toakul Union Parishad, attended as the chief guest. Special guests included former chairman Khaled Ahmed, Niaz Morshed, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Shamsuddin Al Azad, Jain Uddin Bacchu, and Md. Bashir Uddin. Local leaders, teachers, students, journalists, and human rights activists also attended. Speakers emphasized that tree plantation is essential for maintaining ecological balance, combating climate change, and preserving natural beauty. They urged everyone to plant trees and take proper care of them. The organizers expressed their commitment to continuing such initiatives to build a greener and more beautiful Gowainghat.

'Pipe Nasir' Caught Red-Handed While Selling Yaba

Md. Ohid Saiful, Jhalakathi

In Rajapur of Jhalakathi, police have caught a drug dealer named Md. Nasir Hawlader alias 'Pipe Nasir' (48) red-handed with 20 pieces of yaba tablets and cash from drug sales while trading yaba. He was arrested during a raid on the Rajapur-Badurtola road on the south side of the Model Mosque in the upazila headquarters on Wednesday night. Arrested Nasir Hawlader is the son of late Minaj Hawlader, a resident of Gorosthan Road in Ward No. 1 of Rajapur Upazila Sadar. According to police, he was detained based on secret information. Later, 20 pieces of yaba tablets and money from drug sales were recovered after searching his body. In this incident, police filed a case against Nasir Hawlader under the Narcotics Control Act at night as the plaintiff. According to police, Nasir is an identified drug dealer in the area. There are several cases related to drugs against him. Earlier also he was arrested by police several times with drugs. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rajapur Police Station Sujon Biswas said, arrested Nasir Hawlader was sent to Jhalakathi court on Thursday morning.

