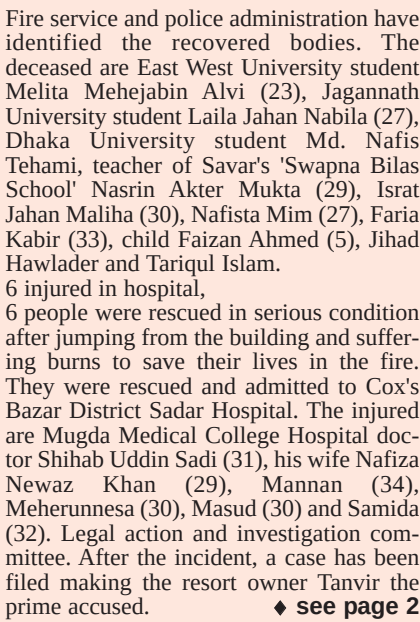
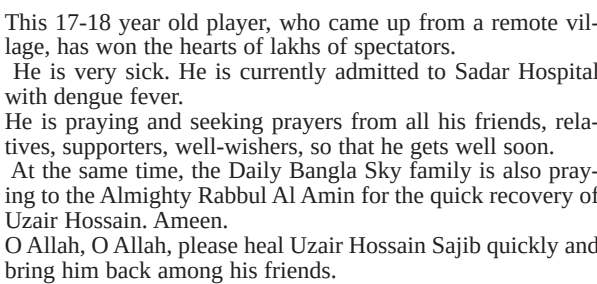
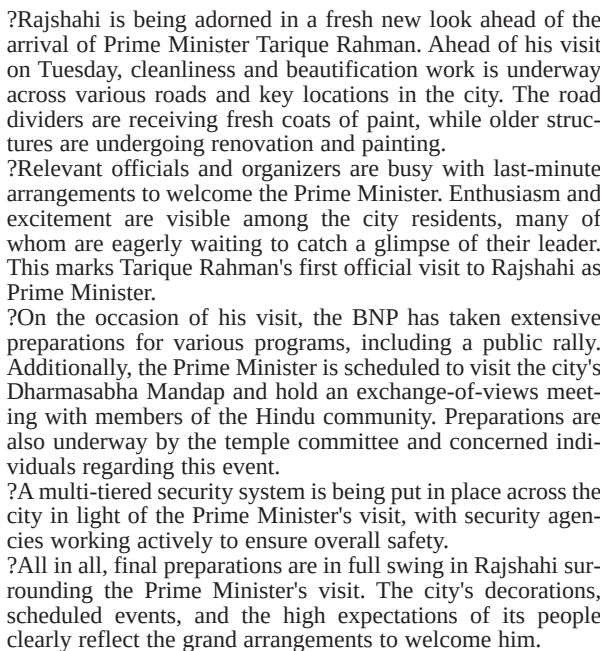




but a symbol of a unit's history, heritage, discipline, sacrifice, professionalism and commitment to the country.

"The glorious hoisting of the national flag constantly reminds us of our independence, sovereignty and the sacrifices of countless people," he said, adding that receiving the standard represents a renewed pledge to discharge assigned responsibilities with greater dedication. "Safeguarding

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Riyadh owes Dhaka a clear explanation

Four days after Saudi Arabia announced that it had executed two people it identified as Bangladeshi nationals, Bangladesh's consulate in Jeddah still cannot confirm who they were. A note verbale asking for formal confirmation has yet to be answered. Dhaka learnt of the deaths the same way everyone else did: from a statement by the Ministry of Interior of Saudi Arabia carried by the state news agency. Bangladeshi officials say they had no prior knowledge of the case.

The Saudi account was brief. Nazerul Islam Abdul Basir and Siti Akhtar were arrested, investigated and charged. A court found the charges proven and sentenced them to death under ta'zir, the discretionary category of Islamic punishment. The offence was described only as an "immoral act" inside a mosque in Makkah. The sentences were upheld, and a royal order authorised the executions. The Saudi statement does not say when the two were arrested, how long they were held, whether they had lawyers or interpreters, whether they understood the proceedings against them, or even whether their families knew they were on trial, let alone facing death—a basic human right denied.

Both Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia are parties to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Article 36 of the convention requires authorities to tell a detained foreigner, without delay, of the right to have their consulate informed, and to notify the consulate if the detainee asks. It also gives consular officers the right to visit, communicate with, and arrange legal representation for their nationals in custody. Article 37 requires the receiving state to inform the relevant consulate without delay when a foreign national dies.

Bangladesh's bond with the kingdom is, first and foremost, one of faith. Besides, Saudi Arabia is also the largest destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers, whose remittances sustain millions of households and prop up the country's foreign reserves. Many of these workers hold low-paid, precarious jobs, speak little Arabic and know little of the kingdom's legal system. That is precisely why the Bangladesh government must at least seek information from the kingdom.

Rights groups have long criticised the use of the death penalty under ta'zir, where the absence of a fixed penalty leaves wide room for judicial discretion. The Arab Charter on Human Rights, 2004, which Saudi Arabia has ratified, obliges states that retain the death penalty to reserve it for the "most serious crimes" and to use it only in exceptional circumstances. Saudi authorities executed at least 356 people in 2025, setting a new record in the country for the highest number of executions in one year since Human Rights Watch began monitoring. Executions of foreign nationals for nonlethal drug crimes drove the surge in executions in 2025.

Safeguarding national interests

the honour of the flag is a sacred duty of every soldier," he said.Turning to the requirements of a modern military, Tarique Rahman said its strength could not be measured merely by weapons, equipment or manpower."The true strength of a modern armed force lies in discipline, competence, leadership, integrity, training and public trust - and, above all, in the chain of command," he said.

He said the government is continuing its efforts to build the armed forces into a more technology-driven, competent, disciplined, professional and modern force.The prime minister also said the public expects officers and soldiers at all levels to remain steadfast in upholding the Constitution, laws, military regulations and humanitarian values while discharging their duties.Highlighting the changing global security environment, he said the nature and strategies of warfare are evolving rapidly. Alongside land, sea and air capabilities, cyberspace, outer space, drones, artificial intelligence, electronic warfare and information-based capabilities have become important components of national security."In this reality, work is underway to advance our defence preparedness in keeping with the changing times," he said.The prime minister said the government attached importance to establishing a domestic defence industry to manufacture essential weapons, ammunition and defence equipment locally alongside modernising the army in all areas.However, technology could never replace people, he said, adding, "We need to develop an integrated defence capability that would enable the army, navy and air force to operate in coordination when necessary, alongside enhanced technological capabilities."

Referring to the country's Liberation War, the prime minister said the history of the Bangladesh Army was inseparably linked with the birth of Bangladesh through the War of Liberation.He recalled that on the night of March 25, 1971, when Pakistani forces launched a brutal crackdown on the freedom-loving people of Bangladesh, Major Ziaur Rahman, then deputy commander of the Eighth East Bengal Regiment in Chattogram, declared, "We revolt."Tarique Rahman said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman subsequently assembled Bengali-speaking officers and soldiers of the regiment and instructed them to join the armed struggle for independence.Quoting Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's article "The Birth of a Nation", the prime minister said Ziaur Rahman had written that he called the battalion's officers, junior commissioned officers (JCOs) and soldiers together and instructed them to take part in the armed struggle at 2:15 am on March 26, 1971.The prime minister said Bengali-speaking members of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 8th East Bengal regiments had mounted armed resistance against the Pakistani occupation forces following the crackdown on March 25.He also recalled Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's subsequent declaration of independence from Kalurghat Radio Centre on March 27, saying his role in the War of Liberation remained an inspiring chapter for the armed forces. Such a historic and courageous role by an army officer in the country's independence and Liberation War remained a source of pride and inspiration for the armed forces, he said."That is why patriotic people who cherish independence consider any success of the army a success for Bangladesh," he added.The armed forces not only defend the country but also play important roles during natural disasters, fires and other national emergencies, he said. They were also serving with distinction in international peacekeeping missions.The prime minister said the government is giving due importance to the welfare, housing, health-care, education, training, career development and post-retirement social security of armed forces personnel.He said salaries and allowances of armed forces members have already been increased by between 100 and 138 percent under the national pay scale.The implementation of the "One Rank, One Pension" system is also being processed to further improve the living standards of army personnel, he added. Cabinet members and advisers, the army chief, representatives of the diplomatic corps, former and serving armed forces officers, and military personnel of different ranks attended the ceremony organised by the 9th Infantry Division.

Bangladesh, Uzbekistan

Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.They also exchanged views on advancing cooperation in several other areas, including air connectivity, tourism and business-to-business contacts.Both sides underscored the importance of strengthening direct engagement between entrepreneurs and business communities

Give SSC students who failed a second chance, but fix the learning gaps too

Md. Neyamul Hossain

dates, were unsuccessful in SSC and equivalent examinations. However, after answer-script re-scrutiny, 4,585 of the 6.9 lakh candidates were declared successful. The proposed retakes would cover only those who failed up to two subjects, not all unsuccessful candidates. But the high failure rate demands an examination of what these students learnt during their years at school, whether they received adequate teaching, and what support was available to those struggling academically. Poverty, illness, irregular attendance, and curriculum changes can affect examination performance. Schools and education authorities nevertheless have questions to answer. Did students have qualified subject teachers? Were lessons completed? Were those struggling academically identified and helped before the public examinations? Failure should not be treated solely as a measure of inadequate individual effort when the conditions of learning vary so widely in the country. An investigation by The Daily Star, based on Education Management Information System records published on October 9, found that 3,861 secondary schools and higher secondary colleges had no ICT teachers, 2,744 had no mathematics teachers, and 2,625 had no English teachers. Many teachers taught subjects outside their areas of expertise, practical classes were disrupted, and some students turned to coaching centres or YouTube to compensate for gaps in classroom instruction. Another concerning picture came from the National Assessment of Secondary Students 2023, which recorded an average science score of just 32 percent among 26,601 pupils in Class 8. The assessment did not examine teacher shortages as a cause, but it showed that weaknesses in learning were visible well before the SSC. These findings do not prove that teacher vacancies caused particular students to fail, nor do they fully explain the results across all education streams. They do, however, provide grounds for investigation. Do schools without mathematics or English teachers have higher failure rates in those subjects than adequately staffed institutions? A school-level result comparison, staffing records, and attendance could help distinguish the effects of teaching shortages from other disadvantages. It would also show where support is most urgently needed. Teachers, too, must answer for the instruction they provide.

to explore new opportunities for trade and investment.he meeting also discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation in multilateral forums, including reciprocal support on issues of mutual interest.

The discussions reflected the two countries' interest in broadening their bilateral relationship through stronger economic partnerships and cooperation in connectivity and tourism. tate Minister Humaiun Kobir is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the 52nd OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, being held in Baghdad from October 17 to 18.

He delivered Bangladesh's country statement at the plenary session of the ministerial meeting on Saturday.

Identity of 10 killed in fire

Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Directorate, Brigadier General Sultanaul Afreen Junaid, said, "The resort had no fire safety license. They were warned even last June. The fire may have originated from the gas cylinder in the kitchen below."

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Md. Abdul Mannan, after visiting the accident site, said that a high-level investigation committee headed by the Additional District Magistrate has been formed to determine the exact cause of the fire and responsibility. At present, the resort's manager Suman is in police custody.

Dulu pushes for better

General Hospital is currently operating with manpower, medicine, and food supplies allocated for only 100 beds.Initiatives would be taken to address the situation and improve the quality of services at the hospital, he added.Civil Surgeon and Hospital Superintendent Dr Muhammad Mashiur Rahman and Resident Medical Officer Dr Mahbubur Rahman, among others, were present during the inspection.

Ishraque's display of arms

“Hey, stop, stop.”

Another man in plainclothes was also seen chasing people with a weapon in his hand. In another Facebook post on Saturday evening, Ishraque pledged to continue the drives until Dhaka-6 constituency is made free of drugs.The state minister and Dhaka-6 MP in a statement on Sunday said he briefly raised his licensed firearm in “self-defence” during an anti-drug drive in the capital's Gendaria area on Saturday after receiving warnings of possible “security threats”. Ishraque said he, along with his security personnel, got out of their vehicles and raised the weapon briefly when a group of 30 to 35 people allegedly approached their convoy aggressively near a suspected drug den.He claimed that law enforcement agencies and his own intelligence sources had warned him of possible security risks, including the possibility of drug traders firing at them from rooftops. “The weapon was raised for a very short time in self-defence to protect lives and property amid fears of an imminent attack,” the state minister said, adding that it was put away as soon as the potential threat had passed.

Bangladesh Coast Guard

Chandpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Barishal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Sharan Khol and Bogi in Bagerhat, the Chattogram outer anchorage, and Raipur and Kamalnagar in Lakshmipur.So far, the Coast Guard has seized 83,30,900 metres of fishing nets, 155 kilograms of hilsa and 14 boats during enforcement operations. Twenty-four people have been brought under the law in connection with the violations.The seized nets were destroyed in the presence of fisheries representatives, while the confiscated hilsa was distributed among local orphanages. The seized boats were handed over to the relevant fisheries officials.The Coast Guard has also kept patrol vessels on alert to prevent fishing trawlers from neighbouring countries from entering Bangladesh's territorial waters illegally.Operating in remote rivers and coastal areas, particularly at night, and preventing the use of prohibited fishing nets remain major challenges. To address these difficulties, the force has strengthened regular patrols, special drives, intelligence gathering and the use of modern technology while coordinating with other relevant agencies.Alongside enforcement, the Coast Guard is conducting awareness campaigns through public announcements, leaflet distribution and meetings to encourage fishers to comply with the ban.Authorities said protecting hilsa during its breeding season will help increase future production and benefit fishing communities in the long run.Under a government humanitarian assistance programme, rice is being allocated to 6,46,290

fishing families in 168 upazilas across 38 districts, with each family entitled to 25 kilogrammes during the fishing ban.Burhan Uddin, a fisherman from Char Fasson in Bhola, told BSS that the 22-day restriction would help hilsa reproduce and boost its population, ultimately benefiting fishers. He also praised the government's food assistance for helping families cope with the temporary loss of income.Professor Mohammad Mamun Chowdhury, chairman of the Department of Fisheries at Dhaka University, described the ban as an effective initiative but suggested extending it from 22 days to one month. He said egg-bearing hilsa are still caught in fishing nets after the restriction ends. He also praised the Coast Guard's role, saying regular patrols and enforcement operations were crucial to preventing illegal fishing and protecting brood hilsa. Coast Guard media officer Lieutenant Commander Sabbir Alam Sujon said operations and surveillance had been strengthened to ensure safe spawning. He stressed that continued public cooperation was essential to protecting hilsa reproduction and sustaining the country's blue economy.The Coast Guard has urged commoners to report violations and related irregularities by calling its emergency service number, 16111.The officials said the success of the conservation drive will depend not only on law enforcement but also on the cooperation of fishers, fish traders and other stakeholders.

Ziaur Rahman Foundation

initiatives, including extending support to the families of those killed or injured during movements and struggles. It had also helped people who lost their legs by providing artificial limbs, enabling them to regain mobility and move around normally.Rizvi expressed hope that the activities of the Ziaur Rahman Foundation would expand further in the future and that people across the country would receive more effective services from the organisation.Referring to the government's efforts to address ongoing challenges, the veteran BNP leader said the government and the prime minister issued directives to ensure that there were no shortcomings in vaccination activities to prevent measles. Similarly, the prime minister himself had taken part in a cleanliness drive in Dhaka to prevent dengue.It was the responsibility of the concerned authorities to ensure the proper implementation of these initiatives and to ensure that no shortcomings remained in the process, he added. Meanwhile, Convener of the Founding Anniversary Celebration Committee Prof Morshed Hasan Khan said the Ziaur Rahman Foundation is a completely non-political organisation whose primary objective is to serve people irrespective of their political affiliations or opinions.He said no political activities were permitted while working for the foundation, adding that the organisation's president the current prime minister issued strict instructions in this regard. xecutive Director of the Ziaur Rahman Foundation Prof Farhad Halim Donar sought the media's cooperation in bringing the foundation's future activities to the attention of the public. He said one of the key objectives of the foundation's initiatives was to inspire people and help them become financially self-reliant.

Man Detained at Shah

?Recovered Gold Hidden Inside Cookware and Appliances ?Upon conducting a thorough search, intelligence officers recovered the concealed gold consignment ingeniously hidden inside non-stick kitchen pans, a blender machine, and a special utensil storage rack. The seizure includes: ?4 Gold Bars: Weighing 466 grams. ?Gold Bangle: Weighing 100 grams. The total weight of the seized gold is 566 grams, with an estimated market value of approximately BDT 1.20 crore (12 million taka).

New chief info commis

Hossain were appointed as Information Commissioners.

'Bangladesh First' resets past subservient foreign policy

Staff correspondent

The BNP-led government's 'Bangladesh First' foreign policy marks a shift from the deposed Awami League government's subservient foreign policy towards people-centric diplomacy that prioritises national interests, sovereign decision-making and balanced international partnerships.

"The major difference is that we are looking at the interests of our own people before looking at the interests of another country's people or government," State Minister for Foreign Affairs

However, they do not have the power to resolve recruitment delays; that is the administration's responsibility. Similarly, families should not have to pay for private coaching to compensate for inadequate classroom lessons. The ministry must identify schools with persistent learning difficulties and ensure that students receive help before their next public examination, rather than simply allowing them to retake exams early. Moreover, the findings should be published and deadlines should be set for resolving persistent shortages, so that progress can be assessed.

Lastly, the proposed 15-day interval for retests calls for scrutiny. A candidate who narrowly misses the pass mark may be ready to try again quickly, but someone who has struggled throughout the year may need more time. Remedial classes, feedback and accessible materials should accompany retakes. Otherwise, students could be examined again without a meaningful chance to improve.

The education minister also said students who fail the retest could be directed towards technical and vocational education. At the CAMPE conference, Prime Minister's Adviser Mahdi Amin said that the PM had directed the ministry to develop career options for unsuccessful candidates, including technical training, language courses, and possible entrepreneurship support. Such opportunities are welcome. But vocational education should be a choice, not a destination assigned to students after two failed examinations. Students should receive guidance based on their interests and be allowed to pursue general education, if they choose to do so.

Besides, in April, the education minister told parliament that 8,770 of the 15,844 sanctioned teaching posts at technical institutions were vacant. Directing more students into that stream without adequate teachers and facilities risks reproducing the shortages affecting general education. How, then, would the vocational institutions accommodate additional students if unsuccessful SSC candidates were enrolled in this stream?

What the education ministry should do now is decide on eligibility for retaking exams, fees, preparation time, and admission deadlines, and explain whether this year's unsuccessful SSC candidates will benefit. The government's response should extend beyond arranging another test. The objective of this reform should be to identify why so many students failed, improve the teaching available to them, and prevent the same problems from recurring.

Shama Obaid Islam told BSS in a recent exclusive interview. "That is the fundamental difference. We are putting our people first and our national interest first," she added. Shama said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's diplomatic approach draws on the principles pursued by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, whose foreign policy, she said, placed Bangladesh and its people at the centre of international engagement.She said the government was seeking to strengthen Bangladesh's independent diplomatic position while maintaining constructive relations with countries across competing geopolitical blocs."Bangladesh First does not mean Bangladesh alone," she said, stressing that the doctrine promotes friendship and cooperation without compromising national interests.The state minister said Bangladesh wanted productive relations with India, China, the United States, the United Kingdom, European countries, Muslim-majority nations, OIC members and ASEAN countries."We want to keep good relations with all stakeholders, our development partners and our trade partners," she said.Describing the policy as "pragmatic and practical", Shama said Bangladesh's strategic location around the Bay of Bengal created opportunities for expanding economic partnerships."We need Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), we need manufacturing hubs, we need a technology boom," she said.Shama said the government is prioritising investment, industrialisation, technology and employment generation through economic diplomacy.Asked how Bangladesh would navigate competing geopolitical initiatives, Shama said every partnership would be assessed according to its benefits for the country.

"We will join any multilateral forum when it brings something beneficial to Bangladesh. It is very simple," she said.Referring to the Indo-Pacific and multilateral groupings such as BRICS, SAARC and BIMSTEC, she said engagement with different platforms need not be contradictory. "I do not see any conflict," she said.Friends, not mastersFormer Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury described the policy as a welcome departure from what he called the previous Awami League government's subservient approach to foreign relations.Chowdhury, who served as Bangladesh's ambassador to Bahrain from 2003 to 2006, said the earlier government had placed excessive emphasis on maintaining favourable relations with India, sometimes at the expense of Bangladesh's national interests."Although the principle was friendship to all and malice towards none, in practice the previous government pursued a subservient foreign policy," he told BSS.He alleged that the Awami League government had made extensive concessions to India, including transit arrangements, without adequately safeguarding Bangladesh's interests.In contrast, Chowdhury said, the BNP government's Bangladesh First doctrine offered a more balanced approach based on sovereignty, equality and reciprocal benefits.

"Bangladesh First means that Bangladesh's national interests must come before everything else," he said.He said Bangladesh should maintain friendly relations with India, China, the United States and other countries without accepting a subordinate position."Our principle should be friends, not masters," he said, adding that "No matter how large or powerful another country may be, it can be our friend, but it cannot be our master." Chowdhury said the government appeared to be moving in the right direction by emphasising partnerships on an equal footing.He cited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's diplomatic engagements with China and Malaysia as examples of the government's approach towards mutually beneficial relations."I believe Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and our Ministry of Foreign Affairs are moving in that direction. We welcome this approach," he said.The former ambassador, however, advised Bangladesh against joining military alliances amid growing geopolitical polarisation."I believe Bangladesh should avoid entering into military alliances. However, when it comes to economic agreements and partnerships, we can certainly participate in them," he said.He stressed expanding economic diplomacy, diversifying exports and exploring new international markets.Recalling his diplomatic experience, Chowdhury said Bangladeshi vegetables and fish were in considerable demand overseas, highlighting opportunities beyond traditional export sectors. "We need to expand our economic diplomacy," he said. Domestic strength key to diplomatic success Former Foreign Secretary Ambassador M Humayun Kabir said the effectiveness of Bangladesh First would ultimately depend on the country's internal strength, institutional capabilities and diplomatic negotiating power.Kabir, President of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), said implementing an independent foreign policy required political and social cohesion, effective governance and stronger economic foundations."We have very limited control.



Preserve Bangladesh's tradition of communal harmony: President

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Sunday called on all to preserve Bangladesh's long-standing tradition of communal harmony, saying the central message of Durga Puja is to stand against and defeat injustice, oppression, dishonesty and persecution. "We can say with great conviction that I do not know of anywhere else in the world where communal harmony exists as it does in

Bangladesh," he said while visiting Ramna Kali Mandir in Dhaka on the occasion of Durga Puja. The President said at a time when conflicts, violence and hatred prevail across the world, the peaceful celebration of Durga Puja by members of the Hindu community in Bangladesh stands as a shining example of communal harmony and peaceful coexistence. Extending his greetings to the community, he said Durga Puja is one of their major religious festivals and

conveys the values of justice, peace, harmony and human welfare. "Demons have emerged repeatedly in this country, and the people of Bangladesh have defeated them," Mirza Fakhrul said. Recalling the history of Ramna Kali Mandir, he said attempts were made to destroy it in 1971 and that the temple was subsequently demolished in 1973. "The destruction was carried out by those who spoke of secularism," he said. The President

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Daylight Murder in Sitakunda, Mystery Solved in 24 Hours, 6 Arrested Including Prime Accused Arif, LG, Revolver and Pistol Recovered



M Oliullah Nizami, District Reporter, Chattogram

The mystery behind the sensational broad daylight murder of Tarek Hossain Bappi and serious injury of Tapsir Alam Shaun in Sitakunda, Chattogram, has been solved by Chattogram District Police in just 24 hours. Six people, including prime accused Md. Arif Hossain, have been arrested and one LG, one revolver and one pistol used in the murder have been recovered.

According to police and local sources, the

incident took place on October 16, 2026, at around 10:45 PM on the paved road adjacent to Alinagar Tin Rastar Mor in Barbakunda Union under Sitakunda Model Police Station. The deceased Tarek Hossain Bappi was heading towards the spot on a motorcycle with his friend Emon after having dinner. At that time, the accused, who were lying in wait with firearms and local weapons, intercepted them and dragged them off the motorcycle and started beating them.

At one stage, the main accused Md. Arif Hossain pointed a firearm at Bappi and other accused attacked him with sharp weapons. Emon, who was with Bappi, tactfully fled and saved himself. Later, Bappi was shot in the chest. When Tapsir Alam Shaun rushed to rescue Bappi hearing the gunshots, he was also shot and attacked with sharp weapons. Both fell bleeding on the road, and the attackers inflicted more injuries and fled firing indiscriminately to create panic. Initial police investigation revealed that there had been a long-standing dispute between the deceased Bappi and the prime accused Arif and his associates over establishing dominance in the area. Bappi and local dignitaries had warned them socially and verbally several times to refrain from various activities. Considering Bappi

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Citizen Land Service Centre opens in Paltan to offer free assistance

Staff correspondent

The Citizen Land Service Centre-2 has opened in Purana Paltan in the capital to help citizens access various land-related services free of charge.

Land Minister Md Mizanur Rahman Minu inaugurated the centre at house No. 71 in Purana Paltan around 12:30pm on Sunday. State Minister for Land Mir Mohammed Helal Uddin also attended the programme. The centre will assist citizens with applications for land mutation, certified copies of khatians (land records), land development tax payments and mouza maps, among other services. It will also help people submit mutation applications, pay court fees and duplicate carbon receipt (DCR) fees, apply online for certified khatian copies, pay land development tax and apply for mouza maps. The assistance will be free, though applicable government fees for individual services may still apply. The centre will also help citizens use the "Bhumi" mobile app and other authorised online and automated land services.

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RMP Holds Preparatory Meeting Ahead of Prime Minister Tariq Rahman's Rajshahi Visit and Sharadiya Durga Puja

Md. Sohail Rana, Rajshahi Correspondent

A preparatory meeting was held on Thursday, 15 October 2026, at 7:00 PM, organized by the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) on the occasion of the upcoming visit of Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Tariq Rahman to Rajshahi and the celebration of Sharadiya Durga Puja.

?Md. Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP, Honorable Minister for Land, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, attended the meeting as the Chief Guest.

?The meeting featured detailed discussions on overall preparations to ensure a successful, orderly, and smooth visit of the Honorable Prime Minister, alongside maintaining law and order, and ensuring that Sharadiya Durga Puja is celebrated in a peaceful, safe, and festive atmosphere.

?Emphasis was placed on strengthening coordination among all relevant government departments and institutions regarding the Prime Minister's visit, ensuring public safety, and taking necessary measures to maintain a peaceful environment at Puja pavilions (puja mandaps).

?The meeting was also attended by Advocate Shafiqul Haque Milon, Member of Parliament for Rajshahi-3; Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Riton, Administrator of Rajshahi City Corporation; Md. Yusuf Ali, Divisional Commissioner; Mohammad Fayzul Kabir, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner; Freedom Fighter Advocate Ershad Ali Esha, Administrator of the District Council; Abul Kalam Azad Sweet, Chairman of the Rajshahi Development

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Ishraque says he raised licensed firearm in 'self-defence' during anti-drug drive

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs and Dhaka-6 MP Ishraque Hossain has said he briefly raised his licensed firearm in "self-defence" during an anti-drug drive in the capital's Gendaria area on Saturday after receiving warnings of possible "security threats". In a statement issued on Sunday, Ishraque said he, along with his security personnel, got out of their vehicles and raised the weapon briefly when a group of 30 to 35 people allegedly

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BGB seizes large haul of drugs in Chhagalnaiya border operations

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a large quantity of illicit drugs during two separate operations along the Chhagalnaiya border in Feni. In the drives, personnel from Feni Battalion (4 BGB) recovered 36 kg of cannabis, 47 bottles of Phensedyl, and 5 bottles of Indian liquor. The estimated market value of the seized narcotics is around Tk 1,52,300. The matter was confirmed in a press release issued by the 4 BGB Battalion on Sunday (October 18).

According to BGB sources, Three people, including a three-month-old infant, were killed in two separate road accidents in Jaintiapur, Sylhet. At least 12 others were injured in the incidents. Police have seized the bus and truck involved in the accidents.

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Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

Two separate cases have been filed following clashes between garment workers who were protesting for unpaid wages and allowances in the capital's Uttara area and the police. The cases involve between 1,200 and 1,500 unidentified garment workers as accused.

The cases were filed separately by the Uttara East Police Station and the Industrial Police. According to police sources, garment workers had been protesting in the Uttara area for some time, demanding the payment of outstanding wages and allowances. As the situation escalated, the workers occupied the roads and began throwing bricks and stones. To bring the situation under control, the police deployed tear gas and water cannons to dis-

perse the crowd.

During the unrest, some unruly workers caused damage to the property of ordinary citizens, assaulted government officials and employees, and actively obstructed government operations. Several police officers sustained injuries from the bricks and stones thrown by the workers. It is also reported that some workers were injured during the clashes. First Case, Filed

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School Building at Risk of Collapsing into Pond in Nandail, 300 Students in Panic

Nandail (Mymensingh) Correspondent

The only building of No. 130 Paschim Rasulpur Government Primary School in Nandail Upazila of Mymensingh has long been in a dilapidated and highly risky condition. On top of that, as the bank of the pond adjacent to the school has collapsed and reached the wall of the building, there is a risk of the building collapsing into the pond at any time. As a result, the safety and academic activities of about 300 students of the school are at serious risk. It was seen on the spot that the school was established in 1978 on 40 decimals of land

in Paschim Rasulpur village. Later in 1994, a one-story concrete building was constructed. Although 32 years have passed, no significant renovation or development of the building has been done. Currently, cracks have appeared in various parts of the building. Plaster and concrete have fallen off the roof and beams of the classrooms, exposing the iron rods. There is no boundary wall, and the condition of the classrooms is also fragile. According to the school authorities, recently, while pre-primary classes were in progress, plaster and concrete suddenly fell from the roof

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Three Killed, Including Infant, in Separate Road Accidents in Jaintiapur; 12 Injured

Naeem Ahmed, Sylhet Correspondent

Three people, including a three-month-old infant, were killed in two separate road accidents in Jaintiapur, Sylhet. At least 12 others were injured in the incidents. Police have seized the bus and truck involved in the accidents.

The accidents occurred on Saturday (October 17) near the Jaintiapur Ferry Ghat area and the Biraimara Bridge area on the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway.

According to police sources, a head-on collision took place between a tourist bus heading to Jafalong from Rajbari and a stone-laden truck travelling towards Sylhet. One person was killed on the spot. The deceased was identified as Hasan Pramanik, 40, a resident of Rajbari district. Five other people, including

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Garment Workers Protest in Uttara Uttara Turns into a Battlefield Amid Clashes Between Workers and Police; Two Cases Filed Against 1,500 Individuals

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

Two separate cases have been filed following clashes between garment workers who were protesting for unpaid wages and allowances in the capital's Uttara area and the police. The cases involve between 1,200 and 1,500 unidentified garment workers as accused. The cases were filed separately by the Uttara East Police Station and the Industrial Police. According to police sources, garment workers had been protesting in the Uttara area for some time, demanding the payment of outstanding wages and allowances. As the situation escalated, the workers occupied the roads and began throwing bricks and stones. To bring the situation under control, the police deployed tear gas and water cannons to dis-



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RDH to install solar panels on rooftops of 400 buildings

Staff correspondent

To increase the use of renewable energy in government facilities, an initiative has been launched to install solar power panels on the rooftops of more than 400 buildings belonging to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD). The solar panels with capacity of 5,144 kilowatts (kW) will be installed in these establishments and other unused spaces under the department in phases from the current fiscal to 2029-30 fiscal year. Through this initiative, the department aims to reduce electricity

costs for government offices, decrease dependence on the national grid, lower carbon emissions, and contribute to achieving the nation's renewable energy targets, RHD Chief Engineer Md. Moniruzzaman told BSS. RHD officials said solar power systems with a combined capacity of 410 kW have already been installed at different RHD facilities, generating about 25,000 units of electricity per month. The RHD chief engineer mentioned that for the current fiscal 2026-27, steps have been taken to invite tenders for the installation of solar power

◆ see page 7

Preserve Bangladesh’s

said the temple was restored in 2001 at the initiative of BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy following instructions from then Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. He also paid tribute to Khaleda Zia.Calling on people to remain united in protecting communal harmony, Mirza Fakhrul said Bangladesh's record of communal harmony is often misrepresented and subjected to misinformation.He assured members of the Hindu community that the government will work sincerely to address the problems they currently face.The President wished everyone peaceful and successful Durga Puja celebrations and thanked those who performed in a cultural programme there.Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and Ethnic Affairs Bijon Kanti Sarkar, Ramna Temple President Arpana Roy Das and General Secretary Milton Baidya were present on the stage. Subhash Chandra Das, a member of Ramna Temple, honoured the President by draping a traditional uttariya around him.

Ishraque says he raised

approached their convoy aggressively near a suspected drug den.He claimed that law enforcement agencies and his own intelligence sources had warned him of possible security risks, including the possibility of drug traders firing at them from rooftops.“The weapon was raised for a very short time in self-defence to protect lives and property amid fears of an imminent attack,” the state minister said, adding that it was put away as soon as the potential threat had passed.He said the firearm was licensed by the competent authority and that it was displayed for self-defence within the legal framework.In a video, Ishraque was seen carrying a firearm while chasing several people during an anti-drug operation in Gendaria on Saturday.

According to the statement, the drive was part of a coordinated social resistance initiative involving local residents, law enforcement agencies and political and social leaders to curb drug trading in Gendaria and surrounding areas.Ishraque said he had received complaints from residents about drug trading and the spread of drugs among students in areas, including Ghanthigar, Munshitek and Koratitola, since taking office as the elected representative of Dhaka-6.He said the area had become a major transit point for drug syndicates after the 2024 mass uprising.Following a drug-related violent incident in June in which three people were reportedly shot, the state minister said he visited the area and held several coordination meetings with senior law enforcement officials.He said he had also sent a demi-official letter to the relevant police station seeking to address manpower shortages and establish a permanent police outpost near the suspected drug dens. “The proposal has yet to be implemented.”About the operation, Ishraque said Gendaria police were informed shortly after the team reached the area and that joint drives were subsequently conducted with police assistance.

He claimed that four to five illegal makeshift drug dens were dismantled during the operation. Heroin, foreign liquor, drug-use paraphernalia, locally made sharp weapons, cash allegedly linked to drug sales and mobile phones suspected to have been snatched were seized, he said.Six alleged drug traders were detained and handed over to police along with the seized items, according to the statement.The state minister also criticised reports by several media outlets, accusing them of presenting the firearm incident without its broader context.He alleged that the reports focused on images of him holding a weapon while overlooking the operation and the reported seizures and arrests.Ishraque urged media outlets to verify information and publish reports with the full context. Reiterating the government’s “zero-tolerance” policy on drugs, he said eliminating drug dens and making Dhaka-6 free of drugs are among his major commitments to the public.The state minister said anti-drug operations will continue in the public interest.

School Building at Risk of

and beams of the classroom. This caused panic among students and teachers. Due to the dilapidated condition of the building, young students have to come to school every day fearing an accident.

Meanwhile, the bank of a privately owned pond belonging to Russell Mia and Haque Mia on the west side of the school building has broken and reached the wall of the building. As the rear part of the building is in the water, locals fear that the building may collapse into the pond at any time due to soil erosion. Parents have expressed concern that a major accident may occur if effective measures are not taken quickly. The head teacher of the school, Asadullah, said that the risky condition of the building and the need to construct a new concrete building have been informed to the concerned authorities several times. But no effective solution has been found yet. To ensure the safety of the students, he has sought urgent intervention of Yaser Khan Chowdhury, Member of Parliament for Nandail constituency and State Minister for Information and Broadcasting. Nandail Upazila Education Officer (Acting) Monowarul Islam said that an application has been received in this regard. The matter has been informed to the higher authorities. The demand of the locals and parents is that necessary measures must be taken quickly regarding the risky building for the safety of the students. At the same time, it is urgent to take initiatives to prevent the erosion of the pond and construct a new concrete building at the school.

Daylight Murder in

as an obstacle to their dominance due to previous enmity, the accused planned revenge. Accordingly, on the day of the incident, they took position in advance with firearms and local weapons, intercepted Bappi's motorcycle and carried out a sudden attack, then shot him dead. Shaun, who came forward to rescue Bappi, also became a victim of their armed attack. Immediately after this sensational murder, under the direction of the Superintendent of Police of Chattogram District and under the supervision of the Additional Superintendent of Police and Sitakunda Circle, Sitakunda Model Police Station visited the spot, analyzed evidence and launched a series of operations. In continuation of this, the accused were arrested and weapons recovered within 24 hours.

The arrested are Md. Arif Hossain (29), Father - Ismail Hossain alias Bikashu, Vill Madhyam Mahmudabad, Barbakunda, Sitakunda. Fakhrul Islam (32), Father - Late Nur Alam, Vill - Alinagar, Barbakunda. Abdul Mannan (28), Father - Abul Kashem, Vill - Nodalia, Barbakunda. Md. Iftekhar (35), Father - Md. Mozammel Haque, Vill - Alinagar, Barbakunda. Ariful Islam Javed (25), Father - Md. Nazrul Islam, Vill - Hasnabad, Muradpur, Sitakunda. Nur Ahmed Rony (Rony), Father - Late Zahir Islam, Vill - Madhyam Mahmudabad, Barbakunda. In this regard, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sitakunda Model Police Station said that legal action against the arrested is under process.

Experts call for increased

year, making stronger investment in prevention, treatment and access to essential medicines crucial.The call was made at a workshop titled “Sustainable Financing for Hypertension Control in Bangladesh: Progress, Barriers and the Way Forward” at BMA Bhaban in the capital.Research and advocacy organisation PROGGA (Knowledge for Progress) organised the workshop with support from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI).A total of 28 journalists from print, television and online media attended the event.According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' (BBS) Health and Morbidity Status Survey 2025, hypertension ranks first among the country's top 10 diseases.In 2024, around 283,800 people died from cardiovascular diseases in Bangladesh, with hypertension accounting for 52 percent of

those deaths, the workshop was told.The rising prevalence of hypertension among young people is also a concern.According to the Bangladesh NCD STEPS Survey 2018, around 12 percent of people aged 18-39 were found to have hypertension. Md Riad Arafin, deputy general manager (sales and marketing) of Essential Drugs Company Limited, said the increase in the health budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year was an important government initiative.Prioritising hypertension control in the increased allocation would help ensure an uninterrupted supply of free medicines for disadvantaged communities, he said.Doulot Akter Mala, president of the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF), said NCDs account for 71 percent of all deaths in the country, while only 4.2 percent of the health budget is allocated to the sector.The media could play an important role in highlighting the need for increased allocations to address the burden of NCDs, she said.Muhammad Ruhul Quddus, Bangladesh country lead of GHAI, said hypertension affected more people in the country than any other disease, making sustainable financing essential to controlling it. The workshop was chaired by ABM Zubair, executive director of PROGGA, while Samiha Bintay Kamal, programme officer of the organisation, delivered the thematic presentation.

BGB seizes large haul of

patrol teams from the Madhugram and Champagnagar Border Outposts (BOPs) under the 4 BGB conducted the operations in the border areas of Chhagalnaiya as part of their routine anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics drives. The seized drugs were subsequently handed over to Chhagalnaiya Police Station for further legal proceedings. ?Commenting on the operation, Lieutenant Colonel Md. Hasibul Islam, PSC, Commanding Officer of Feni Battalion (4 BGB), stated that BGB remains on high alert to curb border crimes, prevent illegal entry, and stop the spread of drugs. He reaffirmed that such regular and special drives will continue in line with BGB's 'zero tolerance' policy against drugs.

Three Killed, Including

the bus driver, sustained serious injuries. Local residents rescued the injured and sent them to hospital. In a separate incident, two people, including an infant, were killed in a head-on collision between two private cars near Biraimara Bridge on the Tamabil Road at around noon. The infant was identified as Ayat, son of Hasanuzzaman, from Paschim Makherpara village in Gowainghat upazila. The other victim was identified as Alifa Akter, 15, daughter of Md. Kawsar Ahmed, from Barishal district. Sub-Inspector Nazmul Haque of Tamabil Highway Police Station confirmed the incidents and said the vehicles involved had been taken into police custody. Traffic on the highway returned to normal following the accidents.

DU, Stockholm University

(SDG Affairs) at the Prime Minister's Office Prof Dr S M Abdul Awal, and Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh Nicolas Weeks will attend the function as special guests. DU Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) Prof Dr Abdus Salam will deliver the welcome address and provide an overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue.The event will bring together leading scientists, policymakers, government representatives, international organizations, civil society members, business leaders, and key stakeholders to discuss science-guided actions on SLCPs to advance climate objectives, improve air quality, and protect public health across South Asia.The dialogue builds on a long-standing history of Bangladesh-Sweden collaboration in atmospheric science, climate, and air-pollution policy. It will also celebrate major milestones in this partnership, including the Bangladesh Climate Observatory Bhola (BCOB)-jointly operated by DU and Stockholm University since 2013-and the 2011 Bangladesh-Sweden policy dialogue in Dhaka, which contributed to international cooperation on SLCPs through the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).Highlighting the urgency, the release noted that South Asia faces severe challenges from air pollution and accelerating climate change, with profound consequences for human health, food and water security, sea-level rise, extreme weather, livelihoods, and economic development. The dialogue will focus on utilizing regionally generated, policy-relevant science to identify key priorities for SCLP mitigation, atmospheric measurements and verification, risk assessment, and integrated climate and air-quality action.

Bangladesh needs \$1.4b to

domestic public financing, \$360 million from health-related contributions by other sectors, \$520 million from development partners and \$140 million through international climate-finance channels.The proposed amounts are financing targets, not confirmed commitments, the study noted.The plan aims to address climate-related health challenges, including extreme heat, climate-sensitive diseases, unsafe water and disruptions to essential healthcare services.Bangladesh will need around Tk 17,000 crore, equivalent to \$1.4 billion, to implement the plan and tackle the adverse health effects of climate change, said Prof Dr Iqbal Kabir, director of the Centre for Climate Change and Public Health.Dr Ainun Nishat, emeritus professor at BRAC University and adviser to C3ER, said the growing health burden of climate change must be reflected in the country's development planning and financing.He said the HNAF should guide investments across the health, water and infrastructure sectors, with clear responsibilities for ministries and specific budget allocations. International adaptation finance should complement national efforts, particularly through grants to protect vulnerable communities.According to the study, domestic public financing and contributions from other sectors could jointly cover around 53 percent of the plan's investment needs.Potential domestic sources include health-sector budgets, the Annual Development Programme and the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund. Investments in drainage, sanitation, safe water and flood-resilient infrastructure could also help reduce disease risks and maintain access to healthcare.Development partners could provide around 37 percent of the required financing, with potential support aligned with programmes of the World Bank, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund.The study also identifies possible funding opportunities through the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund.Ahead of COP31, the financing roadmap could help Bangladesh present specific climate-health investment proposals to development partners and international climate-finance institutions, it said.Four components account for \$966 million, or 69 percent, of the plan's investment framework: \$350 million for resilient and low-carbon infrastructure, technologies and supply chains; \$266 million for integrated risk monitoring, early warning and emissions tracking; \$210 million for a climate-smart health workforce; and \$140 million for leadership and governance. The study recommends incorporating climate-risk assessments into new health-sector development projects, establishing a dedicated taskforce under the Health Ministry to develop costed interventions, and introducing specific codes in the government's iBAS++ accounting system to track climate-health expenditure.It also calls for stronger coordination among government agencies, development partners, the private sector and NGOs to mobilise funding effectively.Speakers at the event stressed the need for blended finance to address challenges in the health sector, alongside training for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare workers on climate-related health risks. They also recommended incorporating climate-related health risks into educational curricula.

Uttara Turns into a Battlefield

by the Uttara East Police Station, this case concerns the damage caused to the lives and property of ordinary citizens, the

blocking of roads, and the vandalism and destruction of government assets. It names 1,200 to 1,500 unidentified workers as accused.

Second Case: Filed by a driver on behalf of the Industrial Police, this case pertains to an assault on an Industrial Police officer and the vandalism of a government vehicle. It names 60 to 70 unidentified garment workers as accused. Confirming the incident, the officer-in-charge of the Uttara East Police Station stated that efforts are underway to maintain law and order. Authorities are also reviewing CCTV footage and video recordings to identify the specific individuals directly involved in the violence. Those involved will be promptly brought to justice based on video footage. Meanwhile, additional police have been deployed in the Uttara zone to prevent any untoward incidents and to maintain law and order in the area. Security measures have been strengthened at various points, and the entire area has been placed under the surveillance of intelligence agencies.

Initiative taken to expedite

appeals and death references, the High Court upheld death sentences and other punishments against the accused. Seven-murder caseOn April 27, 2014, seven people, including Narayanganj City Corporation councillor Nazrul Islam and lawyer Chandan Sarker, were abducted from Narayanganj court area. They were later murdered and their bodies dumped in the Shitalakkhya River.The incident sparked widespread outrage across the country.Following the trial court's verdict, On August 22, 2017, the High Court upheld the death sentences of 15 of the 26 convicts sentenced to death.ajor Sinha murder case Retired Major Sinha Md Rashed Khan was shot dead by police at Shamlapur checkpoint in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, on the night of July 31, 2020. Following the trial court's verdict, the High Court delivered its judgment on June 2, 2025, upholding the death sentences of Pradeep Kumar Das, the then officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, and Liaqat Ali, the then inspector of Baharchhara Police Investigation Centre. The case is now awaiting a hearing in the Appellate Division.Abrar Fahad murder caseOn the night of October 6, 2019, a group of leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League's beat Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of electrical and electronics engineering (EEE) department, to death at Sher-e-Bangla Hall of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet). Following hearings on appeals and death references against the trial court's verdict, the High Court delivered its judgment on March 16, 2025, upholding the death sentences of 20 convicts and life imprisonment for five others.

RMP Holds Preparatory

Authority; and Md. Mamun Or Rashid, Superintendent of Police, among other senior officials and dignitaries Citizen Land Service Centre It will receive land-related complaints and advise citizens on resolving various problems.The Ministry of Land has taken the initiative to simplify land services, reduce harassment and ensure more transparent and faster service delivery.The ministry hopes the centre will reduce the difficulties citizens face when accessing land services online and make the process easier. Acting Land Secretary Md Emdadul Hoq Chowdhury and relevant officials were present at the inauguration.

RDH to install solar panels

systems with a capacity of 284 kW. Additionally, he said, preparations are underway to install further systems with a capacity of 960 kW, while this initiative will be expanded in phases to increase the use of solar power across public facilities.According to the RHD's roadmap, the targets for solar power capacity installation are as follows: 1,244 kW in the 2026-27 fiscal year, 1,200 kW in 2027-28, 1,200 kW in 2028-29, and 1,500 kW in the 2029-30 fiscal year. The cumulative target for the four fiscal years is 5,144 kilowatts.The initiative involves utilising not only the rooftops of different departmental buildings but also unused open spaces for solar power generation. Plans are currently underway to develop projects for establishing megawatt-scale solar power plants in these locations.Moniruzzaman said installing solar panels on the rooftops of government buildings allows for electricity generation without the need for additional land. He said if the electricity generated during the day is consumed within the respective offices, the dependence on the national grid will decrease, which will lead to cost savings on electricity and enhance efficiency in energy management.He further emphasised that the use of solar power is crucial for reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions.Consequently, the RHD has devised a plan to identify and utilise all its facilities that offer potential for solar power generation. The officials said the department views the installation of solar power systems on government building rooftops not merely as a means to generate electricity, but as a comprehensive initiative aimed at reducing energy costs, maximising the utility of existing infrastructure, and promoting green energy.Experts consider this RHD initiative to be well-aligned with the nation's broader goals for expanding renewable energy.Muzaffar Ahmed, Chairman of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), said Bangladesh is actively transitioning away from fossil fuels toward clean energy sources, such as solar and wind power. In particular, increasing the use of solar energy will contribute to achieving the country's 'net-zero' climate goal by 2050, he said. The role of the RHD in this endeavor is truly commendable, he added. According to policy information released by SREDA, the Renewable Energy Policy 2025 sets targets for renewable energy to account for 20 percent of total electricity generation by 2030 and 30 percent by 2040. Achieving these goals requires a focus on expanding rooftop solar power, large-scale solar power plants, and other renewable energy sources. In this context, it is significant to utilise the buildings and unused land belonging to large government entities like RHD for solar power generation.By installing solar panels in phases on the rooftops of the department's various offices, engineering facilities and other buildings, a portion of its required electricity could be generated. This would help meet some of the daytime electricity demand at these offices and reduce the load on the national grid.However, the success of this initiative will depend on the effective operation and maintenance of the installed solar power systems, the efficient use of the electricity generated, and proper grid integration. Furthermore, regularly evaluating data - such as the amount of electricity generated at each facility, the portion consumed on-site, and the resulting cost savings will

make it easier to assess the project's overall effectiveness.

Information Commission will serve people, not government or individuals: CIC

Staff correspondent

Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Prof. Dr. Nahreen Islam Khan on Sunday said the Information Commission will work for the people, not for any government or particular individual, with ensuring citizens’ right to information among its top priority. She said the commission's initial tasks will be to ensure people's access to information, raise public awareness about its activities and make it easier for citizens to seek information.Nahreen made the remarks while speaking to journalists after a meeting with Information and Broadcasting Minister Andaleeev Rahman at the Secretariat.The government on Saturday appointed Nahreen as the CIC and journalists SAM Mahfuzur Rahman and Khan Mohammad Abul Hossain as Information Commissioners.Responding to questions about the appointment of a woman as the CIC for the first time and the commission’s future activities, Nahreen said gender should not determine how a person performs their responsibilities. “What matters is the responsibility itself, not gender. The most important thing is to ensure equal priority for everyone in society,” she said.She noted that though the Information Commission had existed for the past 17 years, it had not been able to carry out any particularly significant work.The CIC expressed hope that the commission, appointed under a democratic government, will function as an independent body and ensure people's right to information. “The Information Commission is for the people. We will work for the people, not for any government or any particular individual. We will work for everyone, and our doors will remain open to all people in Bangladesh,” she said.Information Commissioner Mahfuzur Rahman, who previously served as the speechwriter to Prime Minister, said he has taken on a new responsibility at an independent statutory institution.It is important to make clear how such an institution should function and serve the public, he said, adding that the right to information belongs to all citizens, not just the media.Emphasising transparency and accuracy in the flow of information, Mahfuzur Rahman said the commission will seek to promote social welfare, public welfare and the interests of the state through the transparent and responsible dissemination of accurate information. He said the commission will play an active role in meeting people's expectations regarding access to information and will stand beside citizens in exercising that right.

25 Manikganj villages rely on fragile bamboo bridge for daily travel

Staff correspondent

A bamboo bridge over the Ichamati River is the only dependable crossing for around 25 villages in Shibalay upazila, forcing thousands of people to risk their lives every day to reach schools, markets, hospitals and government offices, as locals demand a permanent bridge. The makeshift bridge, near Amdala Bazar, becomes particularly dangerous during the rainy season, leaving students, farmers, patients and other residents vulnerable to accidents while crossing the river. Several people have reportedly been injured after slipping and falling from the bridge. The river separates Ulayel union from Arua union, with educational institutions, markets, the Paturia ferry terminal, a fire station and other important facilities located on both sides.Thousands of people from the two unions use the crossing every day to reach markets, the upazila headquarters, health centres, police station, land office and other government and private offices.Schoolchildren also have to cross the bridge at considerable risk, while some are delayed in reaching school on time, particularly during examinations.Many primary school students do not know how to swim, leaving their parents worried about their safety.The suffering becomes even greater when someone dies, as boats are the only option for carrying bodies across the river to burial grounds, locals said.Sushanta Kumar Saha, a resident of Rupsa village, said students, children and elderly people often face accidents while travelling by boat.“There is a risk of children and elderly people losing their lives in boat capsizes,” he said. Local farmers said those living on the opposite bank have to take vegetables and other agricultural produce to Amdala Bazar for sale. They also depend on the bamboo bridge.Many residents of Ulayel union also have farmland on the opposite bank and have to cross the river every day, often at considerable risk, for agricultural work.Locals have long been demanding the construction of a bridge over the Ichamati River, staging protests, forming human chains and holding other programmes.They said a bridge will directly benefit around 25 villages – 10 in Shibalay union, including Kashadah, Paipara, Arpara and Nabagram, and around 15 in Ulayel union, including Amdala, Bhaowalkandi and Charipara.



ESTD-2006

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে



এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

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



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.



French police arrest 1,800 after violent clashes, looting during protests



International Desk

French police arrested at least 1,800 people across the country after violent groups clashed with officers and looted shops during nationwide demonstrations that drew hundreds of thousands of people protesting rising living costs and poor conditions in schools. Authorities said masked groups set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls, in several cities on Saturday. In Limoges, a city in central France, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall, causing its roof to collapse. Haute-Vienne prefect Maurice Barate told LCI television that the fire was deliberately set and nearly destroyed the building. The fire was brought under control on Sunday. French President Emmanuel Macron will hold an emergency meeting with

senior government officials on Sunday afternoon before addressing the nation at 8pm, his office said. “The right to protest is a fundamental right. Deliberately and collectively sowing disorder through violence is not,” Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez wrote on X, referring to the looting of hundreds of businesses in Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux, Rennes, Strasbourg, Grenoble, Nice, Limoges and other cities. Nuñez and Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu blamed some of the violence on “radical far-left groups,” saying others later joined in to loot businesses. Paris police said on Sunday that 855 people had been arrested in the French capital region alone. Authorities estimated that around 550,000 people took part in protests across France, while organisers put the figure at about

800,000. More than 500 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters were injured, Nuñez said. One person died of a heart attack, Paris police said in a statement, without providing further details. The Paris prosecutor’s office said it was investigating the death. Around Place de la République in Paris, dislodged cobblestones, shattered shopfronts and broken glass were visible on Sunday morning, reflecting the scale of the previous day’s unrest. Looting and damage were reported around the square and in other tourist and shopping areas in the city centre. Police said groups ranging from several hundred to more than 1,000 people staged unauthorised marches across central Paris on Saturday. “By late afternoon, a new phase began with the arrival of large numbers of people whose sole aim was to steal and loot, taking advantage of the unrest,” police said. The mayors of Paris, Marseille and Lyon, the country’s three largest cities, requested a meeting with the prime minister in the coming days, citing “the extent of the damage and the seriousness of the situation.” In the southern port city of Marseille, some protesters briefly forced their way into the City Hall lobby, while a group of hooded and masked people damaged a police station. In Lyon, a fire broke out inside a tourist office.

US senator accuses Turkey of ‘thuggish behavior’ toward Greece and Cyprus

International Desk

Republican U.S. Sen. Rick Scott on Saturday accused Turkey of “thuggish behavior” toward Greece and Cyprus, delivering unusually blunt criticism of a NATO ally during visits to both countries. The Florida senator told The Associated Press that Turkey was “not acting like a NATO ally,” citing its airspace and maritime disputes with Greece and its continued military presence in northern Cyprus. The island has been divided since 1974. Scott’s comments come amid renewed tensions over a planned undersea electricity link between Greece and Cyprus, with a possible extension to Israel. Turkey says it should be consulted before seabed surveys proceed. Scott, a member of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, held talks with Greek officials on defense and energy following a visit to Athens last week by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. “You’re not acting like a NATO ally when you take F-16s and fly over somebody else’s country. You’re not much of an ally when you occupy a portion of another country’s land. And that’s what they’re doing,” Scott said of Turkey. “So, I’m hopeful that it will change, but if you look at it, it’s thuggish behavior,” he added. Greece and Turkey, both NATO members, have been embroiled for decades in disputes over maritime boundaries in the Aegean Sea and eastern Mediterranean, as well as the divided island of Cyprus. The electricity project has become the latest source of friction between Ankara and Athens.



Major fire at Canadian military base leaves people dead, injured

International Desk

A major fire at a Canadian military base in Alberta left people dead and injured on Saturday, with hospitals reportedly struggling to cope with a large influx of casualties. Firefighters battled the blaze late into the night as strong winds pushed flames beyond Canadian Forces Base Wainwright into nearby rural areas. The number of people killed or injured was not immediately known. Dr Warren Thirsk, an emergency department physician at Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, told CBC News that hospitals across the city were receiving patients as healthcare facilities near the base became overwhelmed. “It’s a disaster. It’s a one in every 15- to 25-year disaster,” Thirsk said, describing the scale of the emergency. Canadian Defence Minister David McGuinty confirmed the casualties but said authorities were still trying to establish what had happened. Speaking to reporters in Ottawa, he described the situation as “very, very active and delicate.” The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said officers were called shortly after 4pm on Saturday following reports of a fire in a training area at the base. Police were involved in the investigation, while members of the Canadian Armed Forces were also at the scene. McGuinty said he could not recall a similar incident in recent memory and that authorities would provide further details in the coming hours and days. Firefighters faced difficult conditions as a windstorm swept across large parts of Alberta, with gusts reaching 100 kilometres

per hour. The winds toppled trees, blew signs over and sent garbage cans rolling through streets. By 11pm, the Municipal District of Wainwright said the fire was being contained and that property and critical infrastructure had been protected. No evacuation order had been issued for residents. The town of Wainwright, near the base, has a population of about 7,000. Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said his province was sending assistance to Alberta but did not specify what resources would be provided. “Our thoughts are with all the brave women and men affected,” Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a social media post. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith described the fire as “significant and tragic,” saying it had affected many military personnel. Conservative opposition leader Pierre Poilievre said he had spoken with Carney and the defence minister to offer support to those affected. He also urged people in the area to follow emergency instructions and keep roads clear for first responders. Canadian Forces Base Wainwright is one of the country’s busiest military training facilities. It houses the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre, which conducts realistic battlefield exercises, and the 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre, which provides military training. The fire also disrupted advance voting ahead of Monday’s referendum on whether Alberta should begin a process that could lead to independence from Canada. Elections Alberta said two polling stations, in Lloydminster and Vermilion, closed early on Saturday, with the ballots transported securely.



Israeli police probe attack on diplomats in West Bank, 3 children killed in Yemen strike

International Desk

Israeli police on Saturday launched an investigation into an alleged attack on diplomats visiting the occupied West Bank village of Taybeh, after footage circulated online appeared to show several diplomats being assaulted. Public broadcaster Kan reported that representatives from France, Belgium and Poland were among them. Israel’s military said the visit had not been coordinated with it and no soldiers were present. Meanwhile, Iranian-backed Houthi rebels accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes in Yemen’s southwestern Dhamar province that killed three children and wounded more than a dozen people. The strikes reportedly hit homes in al-Ar village in Dawran Aness district. Saudi Arabia did not immediately comment. Separately, Washington Post photographer Heidi Levine was undergoing surgery after being beaten by Israeli settlers in the West Bank. Her daughter said Levine suffered a nearly severed finger, a broken rib, multiple fractured vertebrae and lacerations. Levine said her press-marked helmet and protective vest likely prevented more serious injuries.

Kolkata Durga Puja stampede kills 19; 7 arrested

International Desk

Police have arrested seven people, including organisers, after a stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal killed 19 people and injured dozens in Kolkata on Saturday evening. The stampede broke out around 7:40pm on Saptami, the seventh day of the 10-day festival. Those arrested include puja committee Secretary Raj Kumar Sewda, Vice President Santanu Dubey, bamboo structure constructor Biplab Mukherjee, crowd controllers Koushik Saha and Pintu Dey, and private security incharges Suman Chakraborty and Rajesh Pal. West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said initial reports indicate a loud-speaker announcement by organisers and whistle-blowing by private security guards triggered a sudden rush among revellers. Visiting the injured at Kolkata Medical College and Hospital, Adhikari emphasized mandatory lighting and entry-exit gates at theme-based pandals, stating, “Lives of people are more valuable than themes.” The forensic department, police STF, and Fire Brigade are investigating the site. Official events, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s visits, have been postponed. Administration temporarily closed major pandals, including Tala Pratayay, Alipore Sarbojanin, Chetla Agrani, and Ballygunge Sarbojanin, among the city’s 3,500 pujas.

Around 550,000 join protests across France, nearly 400 arrested

International Desk

About 550,000 people took part in nationwide protests across France on Saturday, resulting in nearly 400 arrests and injuries to 60 internal security officers, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said. Speaking on media, Nunez condemned the violence, citing attacks on public buildings, police stations, and businesses. He said city hall intrusions or attempts in Marseille, Lille, Calais, and Angers, alongside actions at prefectures like Bordeaux, while opportunistic offenders looted shops in several cities. According to media reports, the rallies brought together farmers, climate activists, trade unions, and students demanding action on fuel prices, living costs, education, and public services. Protests severely disrupted public transport, leading Paris operator RATP to suspend service on over 10 metro lines and close several stations. The Louvre Museum limited visitor numbers, while the Orangerie Museum required reservations. Stating violence has no place, President Emmanuel Macron warned on X that perpetrators of destruction, attacks on government offices, and looting will be prosecuted and punished. Expressing support for law enforcement, Macron declared, “We will stand united against those who sow chaos.”



Ukrainian drone strikes ignite fires at Russian oil facilities in St Petersburg

International Desk

Ukrainian drone attacks sparked fires at oil facilities in St Petersburg on Sunday, as Kyiv launched more than 1,000 drones across Russia in one of its largest aerial offensives of the war. The strikes came amid growing tensions between Ukraine and Washington, with US President Donald Trump criticizing Kyiv for targeting Russian oil infrastructure. One person was killed and five others injured in the attacks, which caused fires at the Petersburg Oil Terminal and the Ruchi oil depot, according to local Governor Alexander Beglov. Russian retailer Ozon said its logistics centre was also targeted, while technology company VK confirmed an attack on its data centre. Russia’s Defence Ministry said its forces had intercepted or destroyed 1,015 Ukrainian drones over 15 Russian regions, the annexed Crimean Peninsula and the Black Sea. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russian state news agency TASS that Ukraine was resisting Moscow’s invasion but could not alter the current course of events. Meanwhile, Russian attacks on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia killed a woman and injured at least two others, including a six-year-old girl, local officials said. The strikes damaged two apartment buildings, 18 cars and an educational institution, according to Mykhailo Semikin, head of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration. Ukraine Accuses Russia of Continuing Energy Strikes On October 11, US President Donald Trump announced that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an “energy ceasefire” in the war, which has continued for more than four years. However, he provided few details about the arrangement, and Kyiv reported further

Russian attacks on energy facilities after the announcement. Ukraine confirmed on Thursday that it had resumed strikes on Russian oil infrastructure following a three-day pause. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy criticised Russia for continuing to target his country’s energy infrastructure, apparently disregarding Trump’s call for both sides to halt such attacks. Kyiv had initially said it was observing the proposed ceasefire. In a post on X on Sunday, Zelenskyy said Russia had carried out 76 attacks on Ukraine’s energy, oil and gas sectors in the week since Trump’s announcement. He added that energy facilities in four Ukrainian regions had been attacked overnight, leaving tens of thousands of families without electricity. He accused Moscow of deliberately attempting to cause widespread power outages. “America should see that Russia is not taking any reciprocal steps in response to sanctions relief or agreements,” Zelenskyy wrote, arguing that Moscow viewed opportunities to earn money as evidence that continuing the war was worthwhile. He also stressed that the conflict was continuing because of Russia’s invasion, not Ukraine’s efforts to defend itself. “It is Russia that must face pressure for peace to have a chance,” he said, thanking those supporting efforts to achieve peace. Trump Yet to Decide on Further Sanctions Trump said on Saturday that he had not yet decided whether to impose further sanctions on Russia, despite signing an executive order on Friday night waiving planned restrictions on national-interest grounds. “We’ll figure it out, and you’ll figure it out,” Trump told reporters at a fundraising dinner at his Florida estate. He described the decision as beneficial for the United States and potentially for the wider world, without providing further details.

Rubio heads to Central Asia amid criticism over avoiding major global crises



International Desk

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has travelled to Uzbekistan and is scheduled to visit India to strengthen economic and security ties with Central and South Asia, amid criticism that he has kept his distance from major international crises. The trip is Rubio’s 31st overseas journey as secretary of state. Critics say his recent travel schedule has focused on politically less risky destinations while key diplomatic challenges, including conflicts in the Middle East and the Russia-Ukraine war, remain unresolved. Rubio, who also serves as President Donald Trump’s national security adviser, defended the trip before leaving Washington on Saturday, saying the United States needed to build strategic relationships beyond countries facing immediate crises. “It’s an important relationship,” Rubio told reporters, explaining that the visit was arranged when Central Asian leaders could meet. The State Department rejected suggestions that Rubio was avoiding difficult issues, saying he remained directly involved in discussions on Iran, Gaza, Lebanon, Russia-Ukraine and China, even when other Trump administration officials took the public lead. The department said Rubio’s role was to help the president develop and implement policies

that advance US interests, adding that diplomacy also required building partnerships and addressing emerging challenges before they escalated. Special envoys, including Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner and Tom Barrack, have taken prominent roles in several major diplomatic initiatives, while Rubio has focused on behind-the-scenes discussions, according to the department. Rubio has also prioritised Latin America, particularly Venezuela and Cuba, and worked to strengthen ties with conservative leaders aligned with Trump. He has also sought to reassure NATO allies concerned about the administration’s intentions towards Europe and the Arctic. However, some former US diplomats have questioned his travel priorities. Ivo Daalder, a former US ambassador to NATO under President Barack Obama, said Rubio had largely avoided the capitals, crises and negotiations central to the secretary of state’s role. Daalder argued that Rubio’s dual responsibilities as secretary of state and national security adviser could leave him overextended. He also suggested that avoiding difficult negotiations could have political advantages for Rubio, who has declined to discuss speculation about his future political ambitions. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau rejected the criticism, arguing that it reflected an outdated foreign policy establishment that undervalued Latin America and other regions. The State Department maintained that Rubio’s schedule was guided by Trump’s foreign policy and national security priorities, rather than an attempt to favour certain regions over others. It said diplomatic travel could serve different purposes, from responding to immediate crises to strengthening economic and security partnerships.



Selma Blair charged after alleged assaults on flight attendants



Entertainment Desk

Actor Selma Blair was arrested after she was accused of injuring two flight attendants on a trip from Los Angeles to New York. She was also accused of kicking a police officer taking her to the hospital and kicking a nurse once she got there. Blair, 54, was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport around 11:00pm Sunday after a Delta Air Lines flight arrived, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said. According to court documents, she allegedly kicked a police officer repeatedly in the face, neck and chest while being secured to a stretcher, causing pain and swelling. She later allegedly kicked a nurse in the chest at Jamaica Hospital

Medical Center. Blair was arraigned Monday night in Queens on two counts of second-degree assault. Her lawyer, Shawn Barnes, said her actions were unintentional, citing her multiple sclerosis, missed doses of medication, a heavy workload and a head injury during the flight. He said these factors and the altitude caused severe confusion and disorientation. The judge set bail at \$20,000 cash or \$60,000 bond, with the next hearing scheduled for January. The FBI also issued Blair a notice charging her with assault over the incident aboard the aircraft. The federal case will be handled in Brooklyn, though no court date has been set. Delta said it had zero tolerance for unruly or unlawful behaviour. The airline, police and FBI did not immediately disclose full details of the onboard incident. Blair previously apologised for an incident on a 2016 flight after mixing alcohol with medication. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2018, she has since advocated for disability rights and attended a White House event in 2023 marking the Americans with Disabilities Act anniversary. She is known for films including "Cruel Intentions," "Legally Blonde" and "Hellboy."

assault over the incident aboard the aircraft. The federal case will be handled in Brooklyn, though no court date has been set. Delta said it had zero tolerance for unruly or unlawful behaviour. The airline, police and FBI did not immediately disclose full details of the onboard incident. Blair previously apologised for an incident on a 2016 flight after mixing alcohol with medication. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2018, she has since advocated for disability rights and attended a White House event in 2023 marking the Americans with Disabilities Act anniversary. She is known for films including "Cruel Intentions," "Legally Blonde" and "Hellboy."



Nicolas Cage turns his back on Amazon over AI

Entertainment Desk

Hollywood actor Nicolas Cage has announced that he may no longer work with Amazon because of his opposition to the use of artificial intelligence (AI). According to a recent Yahoo Entertainment post, Cage discussed his experience working on the series Spider-Noir at New York Comic Con, where he expressed his concerns about Amazon's AI policy. "Amazon is very enthusiastic about using AI, but I'm not in favor of it," Cage said. He added, "I'm not part of their team. Since I haven't signed the consent form for AI use, I may not work with that studio again in the future."

Kareena, Saif celebrate 14 years of marriage

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan have celebrated 14 years of marriage. To mark the occasion, Kareena shared photos on Instagram on Thursday (October 16), capturing their romantic moments, family vacations, and memories with their sons, Taimur and Jeh. "Another year around the sun... Forever to go," she wrote. Saif also shared photos with a playful anniversary message: "Almost perfect, but something seems to be missing... There, now it's absolutely perfect! Happy anniversary, my love."



Khairul Basar on romance rumour



Entertainment Desk

Popular actor Khairul Basar has been romantically linked to several actresses, including Sadia Ayman, Tanjin Tisha and Sadnima Binte Noman. On a recent podcast, he addressed the rumour, clarified his relationships with his co-stars and explained why marriage is not on his mind just yet. When the host asked why he had broken up with Tanjin Tisha, Basar challenged the question. "When was I ever in a relationship with her? You can only break up if you were together in the first place!" he said.

He added that he and Tisha used to talk and still keep in touch. Although she can be a little eccentric and quick-tempered, he said, she is a genuinely good person. Asked why he is so often linked to his female co-stars, Basar replied, "I work with actresses all day. So, if rumors are going to start, who else would they be about? It's not like people see me with anyone else." He dismissed the rumour linking him to several actresses but admitted that he finds them amusing. "None of those rumors are true. But I enjoy them," he said. Basar also denied being romantically involved with Sadnima Binte Noman, describing her as a wonderful co-star who always speaks her mind. The actor also made it clear that marriage is not on his agenda for now. He said he still has plenty of work to do and family responsibilities to take care of before considering settling down. "I feel like I still have a lot of work to do. I have some family responsibilities to take care of, too. I want to get those things out of the way first. Maybe then I'll start thinking about marriage," he said.

Jailer 2 crosses Rs209cr in 2 days

Entertainment Desk

Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 has stormed the global box office, grossing more than Rs 209 crore within just two days of its release. According to box office tracker Sacnilk, the film earned Rs 59.70 crore net in India on its opening day, October 15, followed by Rs 35.60 crore on the second day. This brings its total net collection in India to Rs 95.30 crore, while its domestic gross earnings have reached Rs 112.10 crore. The film has also made a strong impression overseas, earning an estimated Rs 97 crore in gross revenue from international markets over its first two days. With its domestic and overseas earnings combined, Jailer 2 has grossed Rs 209.10 crore worldwide in just two days.

Legendary Singer Tapan Chowdhury Prepares for 50th Anniversary Concert in Canada

Entertainment Desk

My musical journey has brought me so much- countless achievements, cherished memories, the love and affection of respected artists, the overwhelming love of millions of fans and listeners, and everyone's prayers and blessings. When I celebrated 40 years in music in Dhaka, many people joined me for the occasion. I was especially touched that the legendary Runa Laila Apa stayed at the event for a long time. On December 12, I will celebrate 50 years in music with a special event in Toronto, Canada. I seek everyone's love, prayers, and blessings as I mark this special milestone.



You made my life miserable: Pori Moni

Entertainment Desk

Pori Moni has expressed outrage after an objectionable AI-generated video featuring her was posted on Maasranga Television's Instagram account. Although the television channel has apologised, Pori Moni said the apology had done little to help her. She blamed the organisation for making her life miserable. On Saturday, Pori Moni took to Facebook to express her anger at Maasranga Television. In her post, she wrote, "Dear Maasranga Television, a simple apology through a photo card does absolutely nothing to help. You have once again made my life miserable, and you are entirely responsible for it. I can no longer post anything on social media, whether it is related to my work or my personal life." Pori Moni also complained that her children's photos were being flooded with hateful comments on social media. "Even my children's photos are not being spared from thousands of hateful comments. Tell me, what am I supposed to do now You have taken away my peace of mind and harmed my work. What



else is left " she wrote. Earlier, Maasranga Television said its Instagram account had been hacked and that the video was posted during the breach. The channel also said it would take legal action against those responsible. Referring to the channel's statement, Pori Moni questioned when those responsible would actually be brought to justice. "You said you would bring

the culprits to justice. So, when exactly will that happen As far as I'm concerned, you are the ones responsible now," she wrote. Late on Friday night, Pori Moni had also voiced her anger over the incident during a Facebook Live session. She said the video was not new and that people had been sending it to her via WhatsApp for around a year to a year and a half.



Richie returns to long-running TV drama

Entertainment Desk

Richie Solaiman was once a regular presence on television, starring in dramas year after year. But after moving to the United States with her family, she gradually stepped back from acting. She has been living in Bangladesh again for the past few years, and her appearances on television have become more frequent. Now, she is gearing up for a return to long-running TV dramas with AI Junior, directed by Nazrul Islam Raju. Earlier this year, Richie appeared in the seven-episode miniseries Apurnota. With AI Junior, she is returning to the long-running drama format after years away. Filming is already underway, but she is keeping details under wraps due to restrictions imposed by the channel. "Yes, I'm acting in AI Junior. That much I can confirm. I can't share anything else right now. I'll talk about the project in more detail after it is officially announced at a press conference," she said. According to sources, AI Junior will premiere on Deepto TV soon. More details about the series are expected to be revealed at a press conference on October 25. Richie is also looking forward to the release of her first full-length feature film, Robi in Dhaka, which is expected to hit cinemas this year.

Richi Solaiman returns to TV serial after long hiatus

Entertainment Desk

Richi Solaiman, once a familiar face on Bangladeshi television, is returning to a long-running TV serial after a long hiatus. She will be seen in the upcoming serial AI Junior, directed by Nazrul Islam Raju. Richi, who was once a regular performer in television dramas, became less active in acting after moving to the United States with her family. However, she has been living in Bangladesh for the past few years and has gradually increased.



'Street Fighter' released in Bangladesh

Entertainment Desk

Movies based on video games have been gaining popularity in recent years. Examples include 'A Minecraft Movie', 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie', 'Resident Evil' and 'Five Nights at Freddy's'. In continuation of this, Capcom's popular hand-to-hand combat game 'Street Fighter' has come to the big screen.



Music is my passion: Kornia



Entertainment Desk

Zakiya Sultana Kornia is one of the popular singers in Bangladesh's music scene. Alongside her singing career, she is serving as a judge on RTV's reality show Little Star Season 2. She is also busy working on new music and performing live on stage. Asked about her experience as a judge on RTV Little Star Season 2, Kornia said taking on the role for the first time had been a unique experience. "When the organisers put their trust in me, I try my best to live up to their expectations. I want to judge each contestant's singing fairly, without letting emotions or other factors influence my decisions," she said. Veteran pop singer Ferdous Wahid and singer Liza are also on the judging panel. Kornia herself rose to fame through a reality show. Does sitting on the other side of the judging table bring back memo-

ries of her own journey as a contestant? "Of course, it does. I was once in the same position, trying to prove myself through a competition. Having gone through that experience, I understand how important this stage is for a contestant," she said. Kornia is now planning to release several new solo and duet tracks. Known for winning over audiences with her stage performances, she was also asked whether she might venture into modelling or acting. "Not really. I have modelled for fashion features in various newspapers and magazines, but those opportunities came mainly at their invitation. I never pursued modelling because I wanted to become a model. I have no particular plans to act either. I might try something different for fun, but I want to remain a singer first and foremost. Music is my passion, and I want to keep moving forward with it," she said.



All Blacks back on track after South Africa wake-up



Sports Desk

New Zealand coach Dave Rennie hailed his team's "character and courage" after two decisive victories over Australia put their 3-1 series defeat to world champions South Africa in the rearview mirror. Following a 50-19 thrashing of the Wallabies in Auckland last week, New Zealand were equally dominant in crushing them 43-21 on Saturday. Their devastating first-half in Sydney to take a 36-7 lead into the break was vintage All Blacks, with six tries in the bag to leave Australia shellshocked. "That was excellent," said Rennie. "A lot of stuff that we did well last week, we were able to put 40 minutes of that together. "Quality of the carry, winning races and brutality around the clean-out, and then quality of the decision making, the pass selection to put people in space. I thought we were really clinical. "I'm proud of the character and the courage," he added. "But disappointed that we weren't as clinical (in the second half). I think if we'd scored a couple early, it would have really put

the foot on the throat." Two of New Zealand's tries came from rejuvenated full-back Beauden Barrett, who was largely overlooked during their recent "Rugby's Greatest Rivalry" series against South Africa. Injuries opened the door again against Australia and the 147-Test veteran jumped at the chance, with Rennie full of praise. "It just highlights how fortunate we are," he said. "Beauden's experience, communication, the quality of his decision-making is excellent. It's great having him in the mix." The All Blacks went into the Sydney game with a slew of players out with injuries, including Ardie Savea, Leroy Carter, Caleb Clarke, Ruben Love, and Richie Mo'unga. Knocks to Shannon Frizell and Samisoni Taukei'aho added to the casualty list ahead of travelling to Europe for the culmination of the Nations Championship next month. Skipper Codie Taylor said he was proud of how the team bounced back after the South Africa disappointment. "We had an honest look at ourselves after that RGR, and you know, as always, you're never satisfied and we probably walked away from that pretty gutted," he said. "But also knowing that we were playing a brand of rugby that we could be really proud of and really grow on. "To go and play in New Zealand and (win) the Bledisloe (Cup), and then a real mental challenge this week around owning the standards that we want to have in this team and step up. "I thought we did that for majority of the game, so really proud of the lads."

Williams lifts Valkyries past Dream in WNBA Finals opener

Sports Desk

Gabby Williams scored a game-high 26 points, including four key free throws in the final 1:18 as the Golden State Valkyries held off the Atlanta Dream 68-64 in game one of the WNBA Finals on Saturday. Williams, runner-up to Atlanta's Angel Reese in Defensive Player of the Year voting, has emerged as an offensive force for the Valkyries in the playoffs. She carried the scoring load on a tough shooting night for the hosts -- who didn't have another player score in double figures. She took some time to warm up, going scoreless in the first quarter as the Valkyries got off to a tentative start in front of a raucous crowd at Chase Center arena. "Once we all started having fun and the excitement got out, we started to kind of find our way," Williams, who erupted for 16 points in the second quarter, said in an on-court interview. "There was a lid on that basket tonight, but that's why we rely on our defense," she said. Golden State trailed by one with 1:18 remaining when Williams seized the rebound off a miss by Atlanta's Allisha Gray and was fouled by Reese. Williams made both free-throws to put the Valkyries up 65-64 and added another pair of free throws to seal the win with 4.1 seconds left. Gray, the Dream's leading scorer, returned after missing two games with a hand injury and scored 19 points.



Bangladesh suffer crushing 99-run defeat to Zimbabwe

Sports Desk

Bangladesh kicked off their tri-nation ODI series campaign in disappointing fashion as they endured a 99-run defeat to Zimbabwe at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, UAE on Saturday. Zimbabwe recovered from a shaky start to post 271-8, a target that Bangladesh found tough to deal with and eventually were bowled out for just 172 in 33.4 overs. Opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim fought a lone battle to be the top-scorer with 46 runs. The defeat once again exposed Bangladesh's batting frailties after their bowlers had initially put Zimbabwe under pressure. Soumya Sarkar fell for 9, caught off Blessing Muzarabani, before Tanzid provided some resistance with an aggressive knock. Najmul Hossain Shanto scored 13, while captain Towhid Hridoy also made 13 before being trapped leg-before by Sikandar Raza. Hridoy's dismissal at 97-4 left Bangladesh struggling to keep pace with the required run

rate. The wickets continued to tumble at regular intervals, leaving the visitors with little chance of mounting a comeback. A late 32-run partnership off 26 balls between Rishad Hossain and Taskin Ahmed reduced the margin of defeat. Rishad scored 23, while Taskin remained unbeaten on 16. Brad Evans led Zimbabwe's bowling attack with four wickets, while Raza and Masakadza claimed two wickets apiece. Earlier, Zimbabwe recovered from a shaky start to post a respectable total after being sent in to bat. Taskin struck early, leaving Zimbabwe reeling at 24-3, but Brendan Taylor and Craig Ervine steadied the innings with a crucial 150-run fourth-wicket partnership. Taylor scored 81 off 101 balls, while Ervine made 93 off 106 deliveries to guide Zimbabwe to a competitive total. Taskin finished with three wickets for 44 runs, while Shoriful Islam and Saif Hassan claimed two wickets each. Bangladesh will face Afghanistan in their next match on October 21.

Bangladesh's equation to play tri-nation ODI series final

Sports Desk

Despite a heavy defeat against Zimbabwe, Bangladesh still can play the final of the tri-nation ODI series in United Arab Emirates if some equation favours them. Bangladesh's fate now partly depends on the outcome of the Zimbabwe-Afghanistan match, which is scheduled to be held tomorrow (Monday). The simplest route for Bangladesh would be for Zimbabwe to beat Afghanistan in their second fixture. If it happens, it will secure Zimbabwe's place in the final and leave Bangladesh and Afghanistan to compete for the remaining spot in their match in Sharjah on October 21. In that case, Afghanistan vs Bangladesh match would effectively become a virtual semifinal, with Bangladesh needing a victory to keep their campaign alive. However, an Afghanistan victory over Zimbabwe would complicate Bangladesh's qualification prospects. In that scenario, Bangladesh would not only need to defeat Afghanistan but could also have to rely on net run rate to determine their place in the final. Bangladesh suffered a crushing 99-run defeat to Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, leaving them in a difficult position in the three-team tournament. Chasing a target of 272, Bangladesh were bowled out for 172, with their net run rate dropping to -1.980.



Taskin rues batting failure after Bangladesh's defeat

Sports Desk

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed has expressed his disappointment over the side's lackluster batting in the tri-nation ODI series opening game against Zimbabwe, citing the batting collapse as the key reason behind their 99-run defeat. Chasing a victory target of 272, after Zimbabwe put up 271-8, Bangladesh experienced a batting collapse which eventually bowled them out for just 172 in 33.2 overs. Taskin said the target was within reach on an otherwise a friendly batting pitch. "The pitch was the same as it was yesterday, and we bowled well. A little bit of a twist was going to get us punished. 272 was definitely chase-able," Taskin said after the match. "In these conditions, it was necessary to chase. We should have done it. We did not play well and could not build a partnership. The match would have been different had we could build some partnerships. There are regular mistakes in batting. The consistency in bowling has also improved a bit. I think the batters should have won this match." Taskin claimed 3-44 in 10 overs in the match to be standout amongst the Bangladeshi bowler. His opening burst which saw them got three wickets in first six overs left Zimbabwe in precarious situation but they recovered through steady 150-run partnership between Craig Ervine and Brendan Taylor to post a competitive total. The lanky Bangladesh fast bowler praised Zimbabwe's batters for building partnerships and handling pressure on a favourable batting surface, qualities he felt Bangladesh lacked during their chase. "A few days ago, the Test in Abu Dhabi was also drawn. This pitch is good for scoring runs. Partnerships could have been built if we had wanted. They did that. They handled the good balls very well and punished the bad ones," he said. "They showed that no matter how much pressure there is, it is possible to score well if you build a partnership on a good pitch." The Bangladesh pacer said the defeat should serve as a reality check for the team, stressing that both batters and bowlers must take responsibility for improving overall performance. "This has been a reality check. We have understood that there are some areas that need to be improved. This is not an individual game. Individual performances by one or two players do not matter if the team cannot win. We have to improve as a team. Batters and bowlers are equally responsible," he said. He also weighed in on criticism of the team's local coaching staff following the defeat, arguing that coaching credentials should not be judged solely on whether coaches are local or foreign. "Whether the coaching staff is local or foreign, the basic theory is the same. It is not that everything in the world will turn upside down when a foreign coach comes. Local coaches are also quite capable. They have played at a good level and are coaching well," Taskin said. He added that the scrutiny of local coaches often intensified after defeats, while victories tended to attract less discussion about their role. "It's not about domestic or foreign. It's all about results. If you win, everything is fine," he said.

Davidovich Fokina beats rising star Jodar to win Shanghai Masters

Sports Desk

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina fought back to beat rising star Rafael Jodar in the final of the Shanghai Masters on Sunday to claim the biggest title of his career. The gutsy world number 26 from Spain outlasted his tiring compatriot 1-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. "I don't know what to say, I don't know what I feel. Just like a huge relief," Davidovich Fokina said. It is a first title at the prestigious 1000 level for the 27-year-old, who extended his winning streak in China to 10 matches after claiming victory at an ATP 250 tournament in Chengdu. The 20-year-old Jodar, ranked 13 and rising fast, was ruthless to start with. He reached over his shoulder to save a point before winning it with an overhead smash as he broke for a swift 2-0 lead. Davidovich Fokina put pressure on his backhand, but Jodar kept calm as his opponent succumbed to a series of errors. Jodar broke again for 5-1 before closing out the first set after just 27 minutes with an ace. Davidovich Fokina dropped serve to hand Jodar a 3-2 lead in the second set, but finally came up with some answers in



the next game, falling on his back to save a point at the net and level at 3-3. Both men battled to hold serve in a run of intense rallies, with the duo needing to restart a point during the ninth game when a ball rolled onto the court. Davidovich Fokina was shouting in frustration but saved two break points to go up 6-5 when Jodar returned into the net. But the younger Spaniard would not crumble, sending down a dangerous backhand to force a tie-break. Davidovich Fokina held his nerve in the tie-break to force a decider. He was suddenly in control, breaking Jodar's serve in the first game. Jodar grabbed back a break but the older man led 3-2 when Jodar fired long. Jodar needed a medical timeout for his right thigh at 4-3 down. He buckled in pain during a must-win ninth game, keeping the match alive for a bit longer but needing a trainer for his left thigh when trailing 5-4. Davidovich Fokina sensed victory and claimed the title on his second championship point. "This is going to be a memory for the rest of my life," the victor said during the trophy ceremony. He also commended his opponent. "You are 20-years-old but man, you have a future. And you're gonna be here many times."

Nahida named Bangladesh Women's T20 captain

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has appointed left-arm spinner Nahida Akter as the captain of the Bangladesh women's T20 team for a one-year term. The 26-year-old replaced Nigar Sultana Joty, who recently stepped down from the role, citing the reason to focus on her batting. Nahida, Bangladesh's leading wicket-taker in women's T20 internationals, has established herself as one of the best spinners in the format.

Zakir's grit, Mahfizul's century highlight NCL action

Sports Desk

The third round of National Cricket League (NCL) kicked off yesterday with Mymensingh batter Mahfizul Islam Robin hitting a century to put his side in a strong position. Sylhet captain Zakir Hasan also caught the attention by battling through a challenging innings with a fighting 71. In the Sylhet-Rangpur encounter at Bir Shrestha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman Stadium in Chattogram, Sylhet were bowled out for 179 in 68 overs before Rangpur reached 32-1 in 13 overs at stumps. Meanwhile, Mymensingh ended the day at 226-4 in 86 overs against Dhaka, thanks largely to Mahfizul's unbeaten 116 at Cox's Bazar Stadium. Zakir led Sylhet's resistance with a patient 71 off 135 balls, hitting two fours and a six. Despite losing partners at regular intervals, the captain

Agha hits hundred as Pakistan make 305 in tri-series opener

Sports Desk

Salman Agha returned to international cricket with a century to lift Pakistan to 305 in the one-day tri-series opener against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi on Sunday. The 32-year-old scored a 90-ball 107 with a six and ten fours to anchor Pakistan, who were bowled out in 49.5 overs after they were sent in to bat on a good-paced pitch. Agha had a miserable last three months. He was sent home ahead of the third Test in England in August after leading the team in the first match. Agha hit two consecutive boundaries off pacer Asitha Fernando to complete his fourth one-day international hundred, finally falling to the same bowler in the 47th over. He added 97 runs for the fifth wicket with Hasan Nawaz (37) and another 64 for the sixth with Arafat Minhas, who made 18. Left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka had jolt-



ed Pakistan with the wickets of openers Saim Ayub (seven) and Fakhar Zaman (16). Debutant Saad Baig scored a brisk 40-ball 39 with two sixes and three fours. Along with Babar Azam (45) they lifted the score during their 74-run stand. Fast bowler Eshan Malinga dismissed both in successive overs to halt Pakistan's progress before Agha came into his own. Malinga was the pick of the Sri Lanka bowlers with a career-best 4-46 while Fernando took 3-59. England are the third team in the tri-series.

Messi brace lifts Inter Miami to 3-1 win in Atlanta

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi scored twice in the space of four minutes to lift Inter Miami to a 3-1 victory at Atlanta United on Saturday as the Herons' MLS title defense continued to gain steam with the playoffs approaching. The 39-year-old superstar tops the Major League Soccer scoring chart with 25 goals, six ahead of Croatian striker Petar Musa of FC Dallas and Philadelphia's Milan Iloski. At the same Atlanta stadium where Messi helped Argentina beat England in the World Cup semi-finals in July, Messi delivered two scintillating goals to secure Miami's third straight victory. German Berterame, who put Miami up 1-0 in the 45th minute, turned provider, finding Messi who weaved through the Atlanta defense to unleash a left footed shot from the center of the box and make it 2-0 in the 56th minute. Four minutes later Messi struck again, breaking away on a pass from Luis Suarez and getting the better of hapless Junior Alonso to fire past Atlanta keeper Lucas Hoyos. Messi had helped put Miami on top shortly before halftime, heading the ball to Suarez who shook off his defender in the box and lofted a pass that Berterame nodded home to make it 1-0. Messi was credited with an assist, that saw him pull level with LAFC's Son Heung-min atop the assists table. Messi is the first player in MLS history to record at least 15 assists in three straight seasons. Messi now has four goals in three matches since his emotional Argentina send-off. Miami, who clinched a playoff berth on



Wednesday, won their third straight game under Cristian "Kily" Gonzalez, who took over as coach last month. Fafa Picault converted a penalty in the 89th minute to pull a goal back for Atlanta, but at second-from-bottom in the Eastern Conference Gerardo Martino's team are running out of time to turn things around in time to reach the playoffs. - St. Louis streak ends - Elsewhere, St. Louis City's MLS record-tying 19-match unbeaten streak ended with a 3-2 loss at Minnesota as Philadelphia's undefeated run reached 15 matches with a 2-2 draw with Charlotte. Canadian Marcus Almeida scored the game winner for Minnesota in the 86th minute after United fell behind early on St. Louis goals by Brazilian forward Rafael Navarro and South Korean winger Jeong Sang-bin. Aziel Jackson answered for Minnesota in the 49th minute and Kelvin Yeboah netted the equalizer in the 68th. St. Louis City, already headed to the playoffs for the first time since 2023, missed the chance to break the MLS unbeaten streak mark it now shares with Columbus, Dallas and Inter Miami. City also saw their MLS-record 21-match unbeaten streak across all competitions snapped. City had not lost an MLS match since falling 2-0 at Austin on May 3, with 13 victories and six drawn in the run. Philadelphia had won eight MLS matches in a row before the firefight home draw with Charlotte. Philadelphia lost 6-4 at Miami on May 24 but since then the Union have won 12 times and drawn three, taking 39 of a possible 45 points since Ryan Richter took over as interim head coach during the league's World Cup break.



Residents form human chain in Brahmanbaria over land grabbing allegation, fear of clash at any moment



M. Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent)

Local residents formed a human chain against Ali Mia and his associates on allegations of land grabbing, harassment and threats in Telinagar area of Talshahar Purbha Union, Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila. The human chain was held in Telinagar area on Friday (October 16) at noon.

Local residents including women and men took part in the human chain. At that time, Rahmat Ali and Md. Roman Mia delivered speeches. They said, the amount of our land is 85 decimals, former dag numbers 2126/2127/2128, present dag 7076/7077. It is mentioned that in 2006 we got verdict from the lower court and in 2008 from the Judge Court. Since the fall of the government, he has been threatening us identifying himself as the vice-president of Union BNP.

Besides, Habibur Rahman, Humayun Kabir, Dulal Mia, Jahangir Mia, Harun Mia, Aslam Mia and Mujibur Rahman along with local residents were present.

In the human chain, the victims alleged that

Ali Mia, identifying himself as vice-president of Talshahar Purbha Union BNP, and his people have illegally constructed wall and boundary wall on their purchased land. There has been a long-standing dispute over this. They claim that they have been possessing that land for about 50 years. About 30 years ago a case was filed in court over the land. They also claimed that they got verdict in their favor in the lower court and district judge court in that case.

The victims alleged that even after getting the court verdict, Ali Mia and his men have constructed boundary wall on their land by exerting influence. Ali Mia forcibly occupied the land and put up a signboard for sale. In addition, they are being harassed and threatened in various ways. They alleged that they have even been threatened that they will not be allowed to live in the area.

Speakers at the human chain said that they have been suffering immensely due to the long-standing dispute over land. They claimed that due to the influence and harassment of the accused, they cannot even live peacefully in their own houses.

At that time, the victims sought urgent intervention of the administration to determine the boundary of the land, to get back possession of their own land and to stop harassment. At the same time, they demanded to investigate the allegation and take necessary legal action. During the human chain, accused Ali Mia obstructed.

Local residents claimed that bloody clash may occur centering the said land.



Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. In the said program, the Chairman candidate o for 14 No. Haitkandi Union and all Ward Member candidates were present

Special Correspondent

An election workers' conference of the 14 No. Haitkandi Union Parishad of Mirsarai Upazila was held at the initiative of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. In the said program, the Chairman candidate of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami for 14 No. Haitkandi Union and all Ward Member candidates were present. Besides, all leaders and supporters of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami of 14 No. Haitkandi Union were also present. In the said conference, various directive discussions were held regarding the upcoming Chairman election under the Ministry of Local Government.

Electricity Consumers' Forum Calls Half-Day Hartal in Rangpur

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Citizen and consumer rights protection committees in Rangpur have been carrying out continuous movements with various demands, including the removal of prepaid electricity meters, cancellation of the project, and an end to consumer harassment. As part of this ongoing movement, a half-day hartal has now been called in Rangpur from 6:00 am to 12:00 noon on November 30, with five-point demands.

The programme was announced at a press conference held in front of Rangpur Press Club on Sunday (October 18), under the banner of the "Electricity Consumers' Forum, Rangpur". The press conference was addressed by Anwar Hossain Bablu, convener of the Electricity Consumers' Forum, Rangpur, member Arefin Titu, and other leaders. At the press conference, five demands were raised, and it was stated that if these demands are not fulfilled before November 30, a half-day hartal will be observed on that day. The demands are: (1) All forcibly installed prepaid meters must be removed immediately, and the previous digital postpaid meters must be reintroduced. (2) Excessive billing in the name of meters must be stopped. (3) Demand charges must be stopped. (4) Mental harassment of consumers must be stopped. (5) The anti-people prepaid meter installation project of NESCO must be completely cancelled without the consent of the general public.

Mosque-temple in same compound stands as testament to communal harmony

Rangpur Correspondent

In the district town of Lalmonirhat, a mosque and a temple standing side by side within the same compound have become a unique testament to Bangladesh's century-old tradition of communal harmony. Located in the Kalibari area of Lalmonirhat town, the Puran Bazar Jame Mosque and the Kalibari Central Temple have served for generations as shining examples of religious tolerance.

On one side, the sounds of gongs, bells and ulu-dhwani (ceremonial ululation) resonate, while just six feet away, the sacred call to prayer, known as the Adhan, rings out. There are no walls or artificial divisions. Places of worship for two different faiths stand facing each other in the same courtyard, with mutual respect. Talking to President of the Puran Bazar Jame Mosque Committee Amirul Hayat Ahmed Bakul and President and Head Priest of Kalibari Central Temple Shankar Chakraborty recounted the history of the mosque and the temple, which together stand as a unique example of harmony and brotherhood. They said the Kalibari Central Temple was established there in 1836. Later, a market began operating in the area. In 1900, local traders and pious Muslims established the mosque beside the temple for their religious observances, in consultation with members of the Sanatan community. Since then, members of the two communities have peacefully carried out their respective religious activities at the two places of worship without any disputes, setting a remarkable example of communal harmony. Members of the Sanatan community are now celebrating Sharodiyo Durga Puja, their greatest religious festival, with ululation and music in one part of the compound, while Muslims perform their five daily prayers and other religious rituals in another part of the courtyard.

Mirsharai Library Comes Alive with Autumn Poetry, Book Reading and Baul Music

By Jewel Nag, MIRSHARAI, Chattogram

The premises of Rokeya Sattar Memorial Library in Purbha Govania, Mirsharai, Chattogram, came alive with autumn poetry, literary readings and the soulful melodies of Baul music as a three-day book-reading festival concluded with a vibrant cultural programme.

The closing ceremony of the festival, organised by the Mirsharai Upazila branch of Jugantor Shwajan Samabesh, was held on Saturday afternoon, October 17. The event brought together poets, writers, readers and cultural enthusiasts through a variety of literary and cultural activities.

Participants recited nature-themed poems by Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Jibanananda Das, celebrating the beauty of autumn. The programme also featured recitations of original poems written by participants. The festival aimed to promote the joy of reading and foster a reading habit among people, with the concluding session highlighting creativity and literary expression.

Tanvirul Kader, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Mirsharai and administrator of Mirsharai Municipality, attended the programme as the chief guest. He welcomed initiatives that encourage people to read books, expressed solidarity with creative and cultural activities, and pledged to support the overall development of the areas surrounding the library.

Professor Akhtaruzzaman presided over the ceremony, while poet and journalist Mahbub Palash, founder of the library, conducted the programme.

Special guests included former Mirsharai Press Club president Nurul Alam; Professor Shamsunnahar; newly elected president of the Mirsharai Upazila Press Club Rajib Majumder; Chattogram-based poet and writer Alamgir Hossain; poet and social worker Rafia Dolly; poets and writers Nigar Sultana



and teacher Saifuddin Mir Shahin; Master Mazharul Haque; Maulana Alauddin; Taslima Chowdhury Surabhi; Md Alamgir Hossain; Jalil Master; Shakti Majumder; and Muslim Uddin.

Journalists Nasir Uddin and Imam Hossain, along with Javed Hossain, Sanwar Islam Roni, Shihab Uddin Shiblu, Azmal Hossain, Haradhan Chakraborty, Rakibul Hasan and Tabibur Rahman, also addressed the gathering, among others.

During the closing session, participants in different categories of the book-reading programme were presented with awards. Five distinguished poets selected by Khabarika—Sittul Muna, Rafia Dolly, Nigar Sultana, Rehana Akter and Mahbuba Chowdhury—were also honoured. Poet Alamgir Hossain received the crest on behalf of Mahbuba Chowdhury.

The festival concluded on a melodious note with performances of Lalon songs by Sujan Baul and Shubhashree, who travelled from Chattogram. Their soulful renditions captivated the audience, bringing the three-day festival to a memorable close.

Blending poetry, book reading and traditional Baul music, the festival concluded with renewed hopes of advancing literary pursuits, cultivating reading habits and strengthening cultural activities in the community.



KCC conducts cleanliness, mosquito control drive to prevent dengue

Khulna Correspondent

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) has conducted a cleanliness and mosquito control drive around the Government Majid Memorial City College hostel to prevent dengue in the city. The drive was part of the Prime Minister's three-month nationwide cleanliness campaign, under which KCC has been conducting regular operations across the metropolitan area. KCC Administrator Nazrul Islam Manju inspected the campaign on Saturday morning. The drive, conducted with technical assistance from the World Health Organization (WHO), covered areas up to Nirala intersection in Ward No. 26. During the operation, volunteers removed water hyacinths from the pond beside the college hostel, drained stagnant water, cleaned drains, removed waste and sprayed mosquito repellent. Manju told journalists and local dignitaries that water samples from the pond would be tested at Khulna University's laboratory to assess water quality and determine its suitability for recreational use. Depending on the test results, the KCC would take initiatives to encourage residents to use the pond for swimming and other physical activities, he added. KCC officials, Healthy City Forum members, around 50 BD Clean volunteers, local residents, community leaders and people from various professions participated in the drive.

Sarees, lungis distributed among poor in Naogaon

Naogaon Correspondent

Member of Parliament for Naogaon-3 (Badalgachhi-Mahadebpur) constituency Md Fazle Huda Babul distributed sarees and lungis among poor and distressed people of the Hindu community in Mahadebpur upazila of the district yesterday on the occasion of Sharadiya Durga Puja.

The distribution programme began at 11.00 am at Jahangirpur Model High School ground of the upazila.

Ratan Kumar Mondal, convener of the Mahadebpur Upazila Puja Celebration Front, presided over the programme.

Former Mahadebpur Upazila Parishad chairman and former upazila BNP general secretary Abdus Sattar Nannu, BNP senior vice-president Jaharul Islam, vice-president Md Akkas Ali and BNP organising secretary and former upazila vice-chairman Abdus Sattar, among others, attended the event.



Cleanliness Drive Across Wards Initiated by Pirojpur Municipality

Pirojpur Correspondent.

A cleanliness drive has been launched across various wards of Pirojpur Municipality as part of efforts to prevent dengue. Beginning this Sunday afternoon, the mosquito-control operation focused on clearing stagnant water from ditches, canals, and drains in the Uttarpara and Palpara areas, alongside the removal of weeds. Larvicides and adulticides were sprayed to curb the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes.

Present at the event were Mahmudur Rahman Mamun, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) and Administrator of Pirojpur Municipality; Municipal Executive Officer Boni Amin; Administrative Officer Jamal Hossain; and Touhidul Islam, Organizing Secretary of the Pirojpur unit of the BNP.

Other attendees included municipal officials, representatives from civil society, and members of the media. Similar mosquito-control and cleanliness drives are currently underway across various upazilas and municipalities in Pirojpur district to combat dengue. Mahmudur Rahman Mamun, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) and Administrator of Pirojpur Municipality, stated that such public-welfare initiatives to tackle dengue will continue.



Couple held with 20,200 tapentadol tablets

Dinajpur Correspondent

Police arrested a couple with 20,200 Indian tapentadol tablets during a special anti-narcotics drive in the district town last night.

Superintendent of Police Md Zedan Al Musa confirmed the information to at midnight on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a special drive around 10:30 pm at a house in Rail Line Par area near Nimnagar Fulbari Bus Stand in the town and recovered 20,200 tapentadol tablets, concealed inside the house, and arrested the couple on charges of storing and selling the narcotic drugs. The arrestees were identified as Md Sohel Rana, 35, and his wife Lucky Begum, 30, residents of the Sipahipara Dhakaiyapatti Linepar area near Fulbari Bus Stand. During the operation, police also seized a motorcycle allegedly used for transporting drugs, two bags, Taka 40,000 in cash suspected to be proceeds from drug sales and five mobile phones. A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station against the couple.

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Ref: TDBS/Admin/2026/018Date: October 18, 2026

OFFICE ORDER

Subject: Temporary Suspension of Staff Reporter.

This is to inform Mr. Abdur Rahman Apu, Staff Reporter, The Daily Bangla Sky, ID Card No. 1041, that you are hereby temporarily suspended from your post with effect from today, October 18, 2026.

As you have not submitted a single news report to the house for the last five months, this decision has been taken as per the executive decision of the management.

Your position may be reconsidered and reinstated later upon review.

By order of the Authority,

Sd/-
Niamul Hossain
Acting Editor
The Daily Bangla Sky

CC for information:
1. Office Copy
2. Accounts Section

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Ref: TDBS/Admin/2026/017Date: October 18, 2026

OFFICE ORDER

Subject: Temporary Suspension from the post of Director Admin.

This is to inform Mr. Delowar Hossain Sahil Sarker that you are hereby temporarily suspended / withheld from the post of Director Admin of The Daily Bangla Sky with effect from today, October 18, 2026.

This order has been approved as per the executive decision of the management.

As you have not been involved in any activities of The Daily Bangla Sky for the last three months, this decision has been taken.

Your position may be reconsidered and reinstated later upon review.

By order of the Authority,

Sd/-
Niamul Hossain
Acting Editor
The Daily Bangla Sky

CC for information:
1. Office Copy
2. Accounts Section