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Bayern know how to 'hurt' PSG: Neuer page-3

Nusraat Faria joins Tania Brishty, Moushumi Hamid in new film! page-3

No plan to deploy army now: Home Minister

Our Correspondent

Home Affairs Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said the government currently has no plan to deploy the army."Strengthening security in the country is a routine responsibility of the law enforcement agencies. The government has no current plan to deploy the army" he said.He made the remarks while responding to questions from journalists at a press briefing at the Ministry of Home Affairs today. The briefing covered the Cox's Bazar master plan and the overall security situation in the country.The home minister also said there is no apprehension over law and order situation among the people. Responding to questions about today's incident in the Nowdoba area under Jajira Police Station near the Padma Bridge, the minister said he is yet to receive details, citing primary information of two deaths. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and other law enforcement agencies brought the situation under control with patience, he said."The area is now peaceful," he added. Reiterating the government's position on security, the Home Minister said security operations remain part of the regular duties of law enforcement agencies.Following the fourth meeting on the district's integrated development strategy, Salahuddin said the government plans to submit the tourism master plan for Cox's Bazar by December.The meeting was chaired by the Finance Minister and attended by the Land Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, members of parliament from Cox's Bazar, and representatives of the Civil Aviation and Environment ministries.The master plan is being prepared by Cox's Bazar Development Authority under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, with Bangladesh Army officials also involved in the planning process.he proposed plan will cover the entire region, including Chakaria, Maheshkhali, Ukhiya and Teknaf.The meeting also discussed the reassessment of Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) in Cox's Bazar.Some previously declared ECA zones were not based on detailed surveys.In line with the High Court's directives, officials from the Environment Ministry, led by the district administration, will prepare a detailed assessment and redefine the boundaries.The meeting also decided to cancel the previous Public Works Ministry notification that prohibited construction within 300 metres of the seashore and within 500 metres outside municipal areas.No new structures or construction projects will be allowed on Saint Martin's and Sonadia islands, according to the decisions discussed at the meeting, the Home Minister said.Both islands will be incorporated into the master plan as Ecologically Critical Areas.Plans for eco-tourism facilities or parks may be considered while ensuring environmental protection.However, the meeting noted that demolishing existing infrastructure on Saint Martin's Island would not be appropriate.The matter will be addressed through subsequent directives. The master plan will also be coordinated with the Maheshkhali Integrated Development Authority to avoid overlapping projects. Maheshkhali is currently witnessing major economic investments, including the development of a power hub. The two authorities will coordinate their activities to ensure an integrated approach to development.



Govt prioritises economic stability as country is in recovery phase: Khosru

Our Correspondent

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury today said restoring economic stability is the government's first priority, acknowledging that economic growth may remain subdued for some time as the country moves through recovery and stabilisation."We are now at the recovery stage and moving towards stabilisation. Our first step at this moment is stability. Growth will remain low for some more time, and we have to accept this reality," he said.The minister made the remarks at a workshop on the Five-Year Strategic Framework for Reform and Development at the National Economic Council (NEC) Conference Room in the capital.Khosru said the government was facing substantial financial pressure due to higher import costs of essential commodities, including fuel, gas and fertiliser."We are firefighting every day. We have to purchase a lot of oil and gas, and the government exchequer is bleeding. We are buying these commodities at higher prices, which is putting enormous pressure on public finances," he said.He said Bangladesh was also importing inflation through higher international prices, which the government could not directly control, although it had some control over domestic inflation.The government had taken measures, including reducing taxes on some essential commodities, to ease domestic price pressures, but inflation needed to come down further, he said.Describing the first year as particularly challenging, the minister said the government would focus on economic recovery and stabilisation, while the fourth and fifth years must deliver stronger economic performance."The first year will be very difficult. But, I cannot say in the fourth or fifth year that we are still in the recovery stage or stabilising the economy. The fourth and fifth years must be our take-off period," he said.On the banking sector, Khosru said restoring depositors' confidence was the immediate priority, assuring that their money was guaranteed and there would be no haircut. He said banks were experiencing an increase in net deposits following government assurances.Regarding the capital market, he said the government was working to restore credibility after years of irregularities and manipulation. He described the previous market as a 'casino' controlled by a group of people, discouraging good companies from listing.He said investors were gradually returning following regulatory reforms, although attracting quality companies remained a priority.Khosru said the government's target of creating one crore jobs would require strategic planning, investment and coordinated contributions from the private sector, government and foreign direct investment.He stressed that development projects must ensure value for money, economic returns, employment creation and environmental considerations, adding that government spending must generate measurable benefits.The minister also called for active participation from the private sector, NGOs, academics and professionals to implement the five-year framework, saying it should remain a living document allowing stakeholders to identify gaps and make necessary adjustments during implementation.Turn this into 400 words





'LNG subsidies reach Tk34,000cr in 6 months'

Our Correspondent

The government spent Tk34,000 crore in subsidies for liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports over six months from March to September this year, Finance and Planning Adviser Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir said on Saturday. He said heavy reliance on imported LNG was putting significant financial pressure on the state, stressing the need to reduce import dependence and expand renewable energy capacity. “Simply increasing electricity generation will not solve the energy crisis. Efficiency must be improved at every stage of the energy system-from generation and transmission to distribution,” he said. Titumir made the remarks at the inaugural session of the three-day Fourth Bangladesh Energy Conference at the Bangladesh Military Museum in Dhaka. The conference, organised by the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development (BWGED) in collaboration with 14 organisations, began under the theme “There is no alternative to

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HSC supplementary exams in Faridpur, Madaripur

Our Correspondent

The supplementary examinations for candidates who failed in one or two subjects in this year’s Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations will begin on 1 December. However, as conditions in Gopalganj are not favourable for holding the examinations, the Dhaka Education Board has decided to arrange for candidates from the district to sit the exams in nearby upazilas of neighbouring Faridpur and Madaripur districts. The upazilas are Rajoir in Madaripur and Alfadanga in Faridpur. The Dhaka Education Board has announced the decision. Gopalganj district falls under the jurisdiction of the Dhaka Education Board. Asked about the matter, Dhaka Education Board Chairman Professor Syed Akhtaruzzaman told Prothom Alo that the supplementary examinations would be held simultaneously across the country, so they would

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Khulna-Dhaka bus services resume via alternative route amid tension in Gopalganj



Our Correspondent

Bus services from Khulna and other south-western districts to Dhaka resumed this morning via the Jashore-Daulatdia-Paturia route, bypassing Gopalganj, amid tension in the district over reports of a two-day programme by the activity-banned Awami League. However, services on 18 routes remain suspended as road blockades and attacks have left transport operators with no alternative routes to reach several destinations.
"Buses from Khulna, Satkhira and other districts in the region resumed services to Dhaka through alternative route via Jashore, Daulatdia and Paturia from this morning," said Mohammad Zahid Hossain Khan, president of the Khulna Motor Workers' Union. He said transport operators had suspended vehicle movement through Gopalganj from around 4:00pm yesterday following a fresh round of tension. Buses from Khulna, Jashore, Benapole, Jhenaidah, Magura, Satkhira, Faridpur, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Narail and Rajbari are now travelling to Dhaka via Jashore, Daulatdia and Paturia, bypassing Gopalganj. Meanwhile, buses from Khulna are operating to Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Barishal, Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali via Bagerhat. However, services connecting Dhaka with

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No Awami League offence will go unpunished: Yasser

Our Correspondent

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Yasser Khan Choudhury today said all the offenses including looting, murder, disappearance and extrajudicial killings, committed by deposed Awami League, will be brought to justice. He said those, who looted public money in Bangladesh, killed around 1,400 people, estimated by the United Nations, and fled the country and were involved in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, are now talking about rescuing the people after returning home. Yasser made the remarks while addressing, as the chief guest, the opening ceremony of the National Conference-2026 of Bangladesh Photojournalists Association (BPJA) at Jatiya Press Club auditorium in the capital. Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Managing Director and Chief Editor Mohammed Kader Gani Chowdhury spoke at the event as the special guest. In his speech, Yasser said the Awami League men were involved in mass killings, bank looting, enforced disappearances, and they should be tried first and must be answered. He asked the activities-banned Awami League to apologise unconditionally to the people of Bangladesh. “Then the people will consider whether your politics will continue in this country. Be respectful to the laws of Bangladesh and stand before the court of justice, let the judgment given by the court be implemented. Then it will be seen at what stage the people

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Four cocktail-like objects recovered in Nilphamari

Our Correspondent

Law enforcement officials recovered four suspicious objects resembling crude bombs (cocktails) wrapped in red scotch tape from the bank of a pond in Nilphamari Sadar upazila on Sunday morning. Police seized the items around 9:00 am from an area adjacent to the Gachhbari Forest Department following a tip-off from local residents. According to police and local sources, residents spotted the four red tape-wrapped objects lying on the bank of a pond belonging to one Aijul Islam in the morning and immediately informed the Sadar Police Station. A police team subsequently rushed to the spot, recovered the suspicious items, and brought them to the station. Confirming the

Continued to page 2



Ex-SB chief Monirul's wife, brothers-in-law arrested in anti-terrorism case

Our Correspondent

Shaila Farzana, wife of former Special Branch (SB) chief Monirul Islam, and her two brothers were arrested today in an anti-terrorism case filed with Airport Police Station. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Deputy Commissioner (Media and Public Relations) Md Akhtar Hossain said the case was filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Explosives Act. Her brothers have been identified as Rezaul Alam Shaheen and Bulbul Mia Mamun, according to the DMP. Earlier this morning, the Detective Branch (DB) of DMP detained Shaila from Mirpur DOHS, while her brothers were detained from Rakeen

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Implement referendum verdict without delay Jamaat Chief

Our Correspondent



Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Leader of the Opposition Dr Shafiqur Rahman has urged the government to implement the referendum verdict without delay, warning that national unity would otherwise remain fragile and unsustainable. “Implement the public verdict delivered through the referendum without any delay. Otherwise, unity will remain fragile and will not last,” he said at the opening session of the party’s Central Majlis-e-Shura on Saturday. The day-long session began at 9am at Al-Falah Auditorium in Dhaka, with Shafiqur Rahman in the chair. Jamaat Secretary General and former MP Mia Golam Porwar moderated the meeting. Party Naib-e-Ameers, assistant secretaries general, members of the Central Executive Council, Central Working Committee and Central Majlis-e-Shura attended the session. In his address, Shafiqur said the country’s political direction following the July uprising required serious consideration, noting that the sacrifices of young people had helped bring about a historic revolution. Recalling the previous 16 and a half years, he alleged that Jamaat leaders and activists had faced widespread persecution under the former government. He claimed that 11 senior party leaders had been subjected to politically motivated judicial executions, while others had died in prison due to neglect and lack of medical treatment. He also alleged that party activists had faced enforced disappearances, killings, demolition of homes, job losses and destruction of businesses. The party’s registration had been revoked and it had been unlawfully banned, he said. Shafiqur questioned the government’s decision to change its position on constitutional reform after assuming office, saying political parties had maintained a common position until the day before the national election. He called on the government to explain its change of position, warning that the public was increasingly concerned about whether Bangladesh would remain a safe place to live. He alleged that the government had disregarded the commitments made during the July uprising by forming a special committee to amend the Constitution instead of pursuing constitutional reform. He said decisions reached through the National Consensus Commission, based on discussions among political parties, must be implemented. “The government created this problem and must resolve it. We will not change our position under any circumstances,” he said, adding that the people did not want a return of either the old fascism or a new form of authoritarian rule. The Jamaat chief also criticised the government’s position on establishing an independent judicial secretariat, alleging that it had blocked the initiative and betrayed the people. He argued that constitutional reforms would provide stronger safeguards against judicial interference, whereas changes made through constitutional amendments could be challenged in court. He further accused the ruling party of allowing its supporters and political cadres to dominate local government institutions, despite earlier commitments to move away from the country’s past political practices.Expressing concern over the law and order situation, Shafiqur alleged that violence, drug trafficking and the circulation of illegal firearms had increased across the country. He claimed that ruling-party activists were killing fellow party members and that women and children were increasingly vulnerable to violence. Drug sales had also spread to areas around schools and even inside school premises, he alleged. He questioned the government’s response to deteriorating security in a district, saying law enforcement agencies had failed to take visible steps to protect residents. Describing the declaration of a district’s independence as an act of sedition, he said ensuring public safety was the government’s responsibility. He also criticised rising commodity prices, accusing the government of failing to take effective measures to control the cost of living and corruption. Referring to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s call for national unity, Shafiqur said his party was willing to join discussions but would raise the demands of the people rather than its own political interests.He also expressed concern over unrest in the garment sector, saying rising living costs had forced workers to take to the streets. “If workers survive, the industry will survive, and if the industry survives, the country will survive,” he said. Calling for a lasting solution to workers’ grievances, he urged the government and factory owners to ensure proper implementation of the wage board’s recommendations, workplace safety and suitable working conditions. Shafiqur also called for greater public participation in protecting people’s rights, saying law enforcement agencies alone could not ensure security without cooperation from citizens. Referring to alleged attempts to push people into Bangladesh across the border, he said local residents and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel had jointly resisted the attempts. He also reiterated his party’s demand **Continued to page 2**



BB closes over 1 lakh MFS accounts

Our Correspondent

More than one lakh mobile financial service (MFS) accounts have been closed following the detection of suspicious transactions, Bangladesh Bank spokesperson and Executive Director Arief Hossain Khan has said, as authorities intensify monitoring of digital financial activities to prevent irregularities and misuse of financial services.Speaking to The Business Standard this afternoon Arief said the accounts would remain closed until the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) gave the green light to reopen them. He said MFS providers had closed the accounts in line with directives issued by the BFIU after suspicious transaction patterns were identified.According to the central bank spokesperson, the closures were part of measures to address potentially irregular financial activities and ensure greater security in mobile banking operations. Financial institutions have been instructed to follow the relevant directives and cooperate with the authorities in identifying accounts linked to suspicious transactions.Accounts opened in Gopalganj by people currently living in Dhaka or other districts were also closed after suspicious transactions were detected. The move has affected customers who opened accounts in the district but now use those accounts while residing elsewhere.However, a senior Bangladesh Bank official told TBS that the actual number of closed MFS accounts was even higher than one lakh, suggesting that the suspension of accounts had been more extensive than initially reported.Notably, MFS customers in Gopalganj continue to face difficulties as widespread suspensions of personal accounts remain in effect. Many customers have reportedly been unable to withdraw money, transfer funds or access their savings for urgent needs, creating uncertainty among account holders.The disruption began around noon on Wednesday (25 November), and normal services were yet to resume for affected account holders as of Friday evening (27 November). The prolonged suspension has caused inconvenience to customers who rely on mobile financial services for daily transactions, payments and money transfers.Meanwhile, customers whose accounts remain active are withdrawing their balances amid fears that their accounts could also be suspended. The situation has raised concerns among users about uninterrupted access to their funds and the impact of account restrictions on daily financial activities.Mobile financial services have become an important part of Bangladesh's financial system, particularly for people **Continued to page 2**

Ganges treaty: Prudent diplomacy needed as expiry looms



Our Correspondent

The Ganges is not just a matter of water-sharing disputes; it is also a test of mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries. The geographical proximity has made the two countries neighbours, but transforming that relationship into effective partnership requires political goodwill, prudent diplomacy, and mutual responsibility. Golam Rasul has written the article. The relationship between Bangladesh and India is now at a critical juncture. Tensions have arisen over Dhaka's request regarding Sheikh Hasina's extradition. Amidst this, the 30-year Ganges water-sharing treaty, which is vital for the livelihoods of millions, is set to expire on 12 December. Less than three weeks after the treaty's expiration, the new water-sharing season will begin. Without a new agreement, legal and institutional uncertainties could arise over the water-sharing of the Padma River during **Continued to page 2**

BNP shifts Tuesday’s rally from Suhrawardy Udyan to Naya Paltan

Our Correspondent

BNP acting secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi speaks at an urgent press conference at the party’s central office in Naya Paltan on 29 November 2026. BNP acting secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi speaks at an urgent press conference at the party’s central office in Naya Paltan on 29 November 2026.Screenshot taken from video Development work is under way at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital. As a result, BNP will not hold its rally there next Tuesday (1 December). Instead, the rally will take place that day on the road in front of the party’s central office in Naya Paltan. The stage will be set up in front of Paltan Community Centre, facing west, towards Bijoynagar. The party’s acting secretary general, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, announced this at an urgent press conference held at BNP’s central office in Naya Paltan on Sunday. Awami League-BNP clashes near Padma Bridge, Jubo League activist killed Awami League-BNP clashes near Padma **Continued to page 2**

Dhaka airport’s 3rd Terminal to be run by Japanese consortium for 15 years

Our Correspondent



The third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.Prothom Alo. A Japanese consortium is set to take responsibility for operating and maintaining the Third Terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital. The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) will sign a 15-year concession agreement with the consortium tomorrow, Monday. Under the agreement, CAAB will receive 13.5 per cent of the total revenue generated from passenger and cargo services at the Third Terminal after it opens. Once the terminal reaches full capacity, CAAB’s share of the revenue will increase to 27 per cent. Preparations are under way to begin partial operations at the Third Terminal on 16 December, Victory Day, with four flights. The target is to transfer passenger and cargo operations for all regular international flights to the new terminal within 14 months of its handover. Accordingly, the terminal is expected to become fully operational around February–March 2028. Air Vice Marshal Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq, chairman of CAAB, disclosed this at a press conference held at CAAB headquarters in Kurmitola, in the capital, today, Sunday. Shahjalal Airport's third terminal to partially open on 16 December He said that, following lengthy discussions, reviews, and technical and financial analyses, the two parties have reached a final agreement on the concession contract. The necessary legal scrutiny has also been completed. The CAAB chairman said the areas covered by the concession at the Third Terminal would be handed over to the operating company within 15 days of the **Continued to page 2**

Bus services via Padma Bridge almost at a halt amid violence by activities-banned Awami League



Our Correspondent

Trees have been felled and placed across the road, bringing traffic to a halt. The photo was taken around 9:45am on 29 November in the Ghonapara area of Kashiani upazila, Gopalganj. Trees have been felled and placed across the road, bringing traffic to a halt. The photo was taken around 9:45am on 29 November in the Ghonapara area of Kashiani upazila, Gopalganj. Bus services to the southern and southwestern regions via the Padma Bridge have been suspended since Saturday night. Buses are not operating because of a blockade called by Awami League, whose activities have been banned, at the Zajira end of the bridge. In addition, vehicles cannot move along highways in different parts of Gopalganj district as trees have been felled and placed across the roads. Transport owners and workers say six locations along the route via the Padma Bridge have become risky for bus operations. On 19 November, the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association wrote to the police headquarters, requesting enhanced security at these vulnerable locations. The locations are Gopalganj intersection, Mollahat intersection, Ghonapara, Muksudpur, Bhatia Para and Khulna Zero Point. The transport owners' association requested the deployment of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel to guard these locations. Sources in the transport sector say that since 17 November, incidents of clashes, road blockades involving felled trees or burning tyres, and vandalism of buses have occurred at one or more of these six locations. As a result, bus services along this route have been reduced even under normal circumstances. Sources concerned say bus services via the Padma Bridge have faced disruptions for the past two weeks. On some days, buses operate, while on others, services remain suspended. An official of a transport company operating on this route, speaking to Prothom Alo on condition of anonymity, said clashes broke out at Mollahat Bridge on Saturday afternoon. Following the incident, bus services to several districts, including Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat, were suspended. **Continued to page 2**

UAE invites PM Tarique to attend World Governments Summit in February

Our Correspondent



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has invited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the World Governments Summit 2027, scheduled to take place in Dubai in February, as the annual gathering seeks to bring together global leaders, policymakers and experts to discuss the future of governance.Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai, extended the invitation, according to a press release from the UAE Embassy in Dhaka today (29 November).In his invitation, Sheikh Mohammed also wished Tarique Rahman and the people of Bangladesh continued success and prosperity, expressing hope that the prime minister would join the summit and contribute to discussions on global challenges and future governance.He said he looked forward to welcoming the prime minister to Dubai to join global leaders in shaping a better future for humanity.The World Governments Summit 2027 will be held from 1 to 3 February under the theme "Shaping Future Governments".The annual summit serves as an international platform for government leaders, policymakers, representatives of international organisations, experts and private-sector stakeholders to exchange views on emerging global challenges, governance reforms and innovative approaches to public administration, according to the press release.The event focuses on exploring ways to improve government performance, strengthen institutional capacity and develop solutions to challenges facing countries around the world. Discussions generally cover technology, economic development, sustainability, public services, leadership and future-oriented policy planning.The summit also provides an opportunity for participating countries to share experiences, strengthen international cooperation and explore partnerships in various sectors. Leaders and experts discuss how governments can adapt to rapidly changing economic, technological and geopolitical conditions while improving public service delivery and institutional efficiency.The 2026 summit brought together more than 60 heads of state and **Continued to page 2**

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Khulna-Dhaka bus services

Tekergat, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Barishal, Barguna, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Bhola and Bagerhat remain suspended. Road blockades in Gopalganj, Mollahat and Tekergat have prevented buses from these areas from travelling to Dhaka. Bus services from Khulna via Gopalganj to Tekergat, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Barishal, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar also remain suspended. The disruption comes as Awami League and its affiliated organisations took to the streets across Gopalganj today in support of the two-day programme announced for November 29 and 30. Blockades were reported from several points along major roads, including the Dhaka-Khulna highway. Traffic was obstructed by tree trunks and other barriers placed across roads, while fires were set at several locations. Awami League activists and those of its affiliated organisations were seen bringing out processions and chanting slogans, according to reports from the spot. Tensions continued at several points along the road from Gopalganj to Kashiani, as well as in Mollahat and Tekergat. Law enforcement agencies were placed on high alert ahead of the programme. Police personnel were seen stationed in front of Gopalganj Police Lines and the Deputy Commissioner's office, while security personnel were deployed at key installations and other important points across the district. According to administrative sources, 58 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), along with adequate numbers of police, Special Reserve Battalion (SRB) and Ansar members, have been deployed to maintain security. At around 11:30am today, Awami League activists and law enforcement personnel came face to face on the road in front of Gopalganj Municipality. Both sides later moved away from their respective positions. No major clashes or untoward incidents had been reported by 12:30pm. Traffic across the district remained almost suspended from the morning, restricting the movement of ordinary people. Most shops and business establishments in the town remained closed, with local traders saying they had shut their businesses in view of the prevailing situation. Some said they might reopen once normalcy returned. Earlier, torch processions were held and loudspeaker announcements were made in different parts of Gopalganj town last evening in support of the reported programme. Market committees subsequently decided to keep markets closed on November 29 and 30. Bus owners also decided to suspend services on the Dhaka-Gopalganj route amid fears of possible clashes. Annual examinations at schools have been suspended, although degree and honours examinations are continuing at various colleges. Students sitting scheduled examinations faced difficulties reaching their institutions because of the road blockades.

No Awami League offence

of Bangladesh stand your organisation," the state minister said. He said after killing and leaving the country, they are talking about rescuing the people of Bangladesh. "The people of Bangladesh know what they will rescue." Emphasising on the role of journalists in establishing democracy and people's rights, the state minister said both journalists and photojournalists have a big role to play in this regard. With the advancement of information technology, media is gradually becoming digital, he said. Yasser said along with print newspapers and magazines, journalists are also actively working in digital media. "Photojournalists are also playing an important role in keeping pace with this change." He said the contribution of journalists is very important in Bangladesh's democracy, people's rights and the advancement of the country. Journalists must stand united for the people and against fascism and arson to maintain voting rights and a democratic environment, Yasser said. Regarding the various demands of the photojournalists, the state minister said if their demands are placed to the ministry in writing, necessary steps will be taken for implementation after talks with relevant stakeholders. Urging the photojournalists to take various facilities through the Journalist Welfare Trust, he said the government is ready to extend a helping hand to journalists in any problem and crisis. Principal information officer Syed Abdal Ahmed, president of Jatiya Press Club Hasan Hafeez, Press Institute Bangladesh director general Faruk Wasif, Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust managing director Mohammad Abdul Basir (Basir Jamal), BKMEA president Mohammad Hatem, BPJA president Md Mohsin and its general secretary Babul Talukder were present, among others.

Implement referendum

that all agreements signed with foreign countries be presented before Parliament, arguing that such agreements affected the interests and future of the entire nation. "The people have the right to know what the country is giving and what it is receiving in return," he said. Concluding his address, Shafiqur said Jamaat was committed to establishing people's rights and building a Bangladesh free from hegemonic influence. He also pledged to involve young people in nation-building and fulfil their aspirations, saying the party wanted to build a humane Bangladesh.

Ex-SB chief Monirul's

City. DB chief Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that a corruption case had been filed against Shaila Farzana, a former additional secretary at the Ministry of Public Administration. He also said the three were accused of planning subversive activities. Farzana was made an officer on special duty (OSD) in September 2024 and sent into compulsory retirement in February 2025. Her husband, Monirul Islam, was also sent into compulsory retirement on August 13, 2024, when he was serving as an additional inspector general of police.

Four cocktail-like

incident, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Nilphamari Sadar Police Station Zillur Rahman said that police promptly responded to the call and seized the four cocktail-like objects from the pond bank. "The recovered items have been kept in a secure location under police custody," the OC said. He further added that the Bomb Disposal Unit has already been notified to examine the objects. Whether the items are actual explosives can only be confirmed after a thorough inspection by the specialist team, he noted.

HSC supplementary

not be postponed. Arrangements have therefore been made for candidates from Gopalganj to sit the examinations in nearby districts and upazilas. The Dhaka Education Board said examinations for the Gopalganj Government College centre would be held in Rajoir, while those for the Ramdia Government Srikrishna College centre in Kashiani would be held in Alfadanga. Examinations for the Kotalipara Government Ideal College centre, the Tungipara Baghiarghat School and College centre, and the Muksudpur Government College centre would be held at various educational institutions in Rajoir. The results of this year's HSC and equivalent examinations were published on 31 October. Of the 1,240,798 candidates who sat the examinations under 11 education boards, 646,685 passed. The average pass rate was 52.12 per cent. This means nearly half of the candidates failed. A total of 40,084 candidates achieved a GPA of 5. This year, 298,040 candidates failed in one subject and 124,865 in two subjects. The education authorities have decided to hold supplementary examinations for students who failed in no more than two subjects in this year's HSC and equivalent examinations. The examinations will begin on 1 December and end on 15 December. The results may be published towards the end of December.

'LNG subsidies reach

renewable energy for energy security". The adviser said the government was targeting renewable energy to account for 20% of electricity generation by 2030 and 30% by 2040. He said Tk1,500 crore had been allocated to support solar power installations, allowing rural households to access loans at 6% interest, repayable over 12 years. Solar power could be expanded through rooftops of government and commercial buildings as well as suitable agricultural land, he said, emphasising the need to mainstream renewable energy into the national energy system. BWGED Member Secretary Hasan Mehedi said Bangladesh's renewable energy potential exceeded the targets set under current policies. He said public participation in electricity generation and management was essential, arguing that decentralised, community-owned energy systems could strengthen energy security and increase people's involvement in the power sector. Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said domestic and international lobbying had established structural and institutional dominance of fossil fuels in the country's energy sector. He said renewable energy must be treated not merely as an alternative but as a national priority to break that dominance. Other speakers included Abdullah Al Noman, chief executive of Lawyers for Energy, Environment and Development; Abil Bin Amin, executive director of Ethical Trading Initiative Bangladesh; Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Centre for Renewable Energy Services Ltd; Sekendar Ali Meena, executive director of Safety and Rights Society; Ashanur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief economist of City Bank PLC; and Mostafa Al Mahmud, president of Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association. The opening session was chaired by BWGED Convener Dr Kazi Maruful Islam. More than 350 stakeholders from national and international organisations are participating in the three-day conference, including policymakers, government and regulatory officials, financial institutions, investors, renewable energy entrepreneurs, researchers, academics, journalists, civil society members and youth representatives. Thirteen thematic sessions will discuss energy policy and institutional reform, risks of LNG and coal expansion, financing the energy transition, regional cooperation, industrial emissions reduction, multilateral development banks and local government roles in renewable energy expansion. Discussions will also cover media's role in energy justice, youth employment and the participation of workers, indigenous communities and women. The first Bangladesh Energy Conference was held in April 2023, followed by the second and third editions in 2024 and 2025.

BB closes over 1 lakh

who rely on digital transactions for sending and receiving money, paying bills and conducting routine financial activities. The recent closures have underscored the importance of balancing financial security measures with ensuring legitimate customers can access their money without unnecessary disruption.Bangladesh Bank and the BFIU are expected to assess the suspended accounts before allowing any reopening, while affected customers await further instructions from their respective MFS providers.

UAE invites PM Tarique

government, over 500 ministers and representatives from more than 150 countries. More than 6,000 people attended the event, including global experts and thought leaders.The upcoming summit is expected to continue the platform's focus on international collaboration, innovation and policy development, bringing together representatives from different countries to exchange ideas and discuss strategies for addressing future challenges.Bangladesh's participation in the summit could provide an opportunity to engage with international leaders, policymakers and development partners on issues of governance, economic development and global cooperation.Add a concise headline and deckTrim speculative and generic details

Bus services via Padma

Since early Sunday morning, no buses have been operating to the entire southwestern region due to clashes at the Zajira end of the Padma Bridge. Transport owners and workers say around 1,500 buses travel via the Padma Bridge every day. The route mainly serves the Barishal division, several districts in Khulna division, and Faridpur, Shariatpur and Madaripur districts in Dhaka division. At least 15 major companies, along with many smaller operators, run buses on these routes. Most buses travelling via the Padma Bridge depart from Dhaka's Sayedabad and Fulbaria bus terminals. The owner of a transport company operating buses to Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and other districts via Gopalganj told Prothom Alo, on condition of anonymity, that his company had not operated any buses along the route since Saturday evening. He said one of their buses came under attack while travelling to Dhaka on Saturday during the day, sustaining some damage. The company suspended its bus services following the incident. However, some operators are running a limited number of buses from Sayedabad and Fulbaria using the alternative ferry route via Paturia and Daulatdia. Saiful Alam, secretary general of the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, told Prothom Alo that they had identified several vulnerable locations in the Gopalganj area and shared the information with law enforcement agencies. "It is difficult to operate buses while facing these security risks," he said.

Dhaka airport's 3rd Terminal

agreement being signed. The target is to transfer services for at least 25 per cent of regular international flights to the new terminal within eight months of the handover. The number of flights will then be increased in phases, with all regular international passenger and cargo handling operations expected to be transferred there within 14 months, he added. However, the 15-year term of the agreement will begin on the date when all regular international flights at Hazrat Shahjalal Airport have been transferred to the Third Terminal. In other words, the 15-year period will not start from the date the agreement is signed. Under the agreement, the Japanese consortium will operate, repair and maintain the Third Terminal, the multi-storey car park and the new import and export cargo terminals at its own expense. It will also be responsible for purchasing, installing and commissioning additional equipment needed to increase passenger service capacity. In addition, the company will have to carry out necessary expansions to related infrastructure, including mechanical, electrical and water supply systems. CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq speaks at a press conference held at the CAAB headquarters in Kurmitola, Dhaka, on 29 November 2026. CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq speaks at a press conference held at the CAAB headquarters in Kurmitola, Dhaka, on 29 November 2026. Once the terminal becomes fully operational, passenger services for all regular international flights at the airport will be handled there. International cargo operations will also be conducted through the new cargo terminal. As a result, CAAB will be able to use Terminals 1 and 2 for domestic flights, Hajj flights and other non-scheduled flights. To ensure the quality of passenger services, the agreement sets out minimum service standards and key performance indicators (KPIs). These include terminal cleanliness, adequate lighting, the operational availability of lifts and escalators, check-in, baggage delivery, cargo handling and car parking services. Dhaka Elevated Expressway: 81pc completed, Panthakunja ramp likely to open soon, Kamalapur section by June Specific targets have also been set to reduce the time passengers have to wait for their luggage after landing. The first bag must be delivered to the conveyor belt within 15 minutes of the aircraft coming to a stop. The deadline for delivering the last bag has been set at 42.5 minutes for narrow-body aircraft and 47.5 minutes for wide-body aircraft.

Waiting times at check-in counters have also been specified. The standards require average waiting times to be limited to five or 10 minutes for business-class passengers and 20 or 30 minutes for economy-class passengers. The operating company will also have to ensure that the terminal's key technical systems remain operational for specified periods. These include the baggage handling system (BHS), the common-use passenger processing system (QUT), the automated self-service check-in system (QSS) and the flight information display system (FIDS). The standard has been set to keep these systems operational 95 to 98 per cent of the time. If the operator repeatedly fails to meet the prescribed service standards and performance indicators, it will have to pay financial compensation. Depending on the nature and recurrence of the failure, the agreement provides for compensation ranging from USD 5,000 to a maximum of USD 35,000 for each instance of non-compliance. According to CAAB, the Third Terminal covers an area of approximately 230,000 square metres and has the capacity to serve 24 million passengers a year. When asked why it took so long to reach an agreement with the Japanese consortium on operating the Third Terminal, the CAAB chairman said both parties had made every effort to protect their respective interests. The process had involved assistance from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), various government bodies and experts. In response to a journalist's question, he said the initial proposal had been for CAAB to receive a 15 per cent share of the revenue, but this had been increased to 27 per cent following lengthy negotiations. Metro rail extension to Kamalapur 85pc complete, service set to begin in He claimed that every clause of the agreement had been reviewed in an effort to safeguard national and financial interests. Overall, he said, CAAB was satisfied with the terms of the agreement. Those present at the press conference included CAAB Member (Operations and Planning) Air Commodore Abu Sayeed Mehbub Khan, Member (Administration) SM Lablur Rahman, Member (Security) Air Commodore Md Asif Iqbal, Member (ATM) Air Commodore Md Nur-e-Alam, Member (Flight Standards and Regulations) Air Commodore Md Monirul Islam, Member (Finance) Mohammad Nazmul Haque, and Chief Engineer (in charge) Md Zakaria Hossain, along with other officials of the authority.

BNP shifts Tuesday's

Bridge, Jubo League activist killed The rally will mark the launch of the BNP's month-long programme for December, the month of victory in the Liberation War. Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson, Tarique Rahman is expected to attend the rally as the chief guest. Rizvi said they had initially announced Suhrawardy Udyan as the venue for the rally. However, it would not be possible to hold the event there because of changes to the layout of the grounds and the ongoing development work. The venue had therefore been changed to the road in front of the party's central office in Naya Paltan, Rizvi said. He added that preparations for the rally had already been completed. BNP has called on party leaders and activists, as well as residents of Dhaka, to attend. When journalists asked Rizvi about the 'lockdown' programme announced by the Awami League, whose activities are banned, he replied, "What lockdown? Everything in the country is normal." Speaking about the current political situation, Rizvi said defeated forces were trying to destabilise the country by carrying out crude bomb explosions, arson and acts of terrorism in different parts of the country. The government was trying to deal with these situations peacefully, Rizvi said. However, he called on law enforcement agencies to become more active. Rizvi said terrorist activities, arson and attacks on people were being carried out in different areas using illegal firearms. It was the responsibility of law enforcement agencies to bring those involved to justice, he said. Their inaction was raising questions among the public. Rizvi said BNP leaders and activists were ready to build resistance against terrorism. "However, the state forces themselves must take action against those wreaking havoc with illegal firearms. It is the government's responsibility to ensure that peace-loving people feel safe," he said. Towards the end of the press conference, journalists asked Rizvi about the 'lockdown' programme announced by the Awami League, whose activities are banned. He replied, "What lockdown? Everything in the country is normal. It is unfortunate that questions are being raised about something said by an illegal organisation. There is no lockdown. Everything is proceeding as usual. The BNP does not consider the programme of any terrorist organisation to be a political programme."

Ganges treaty: Prudent

the dry season of 2027. Although these are separate issues, the current political situation may allow one to impact the other. Now is the test of political prudence for the two countries: Will cooperation over the shared river's water be hindered by managing a serious disagreement? The answer is crucial not just for bilateral relations but also for Bangladesh's food security, the livelihood of the southwest region, and regional stability. Bangladesh needs a fair and reliable share of water; India needs an agreement that also considers the concerns of its basin states. These two objectives are not mutually exclusive.

The 1996 Ganges Treaty was a major diplomatic achievement. After a long-standing dispute over the dry-season water distribution at Farakka, the two countries agreed on a formula for sharing water on a 10-day basis from 1 January to 31 May. A joint committee was formed to oversee the implementation of the treaty. It also included commitments to enhance the Ganges' flow during the dry season and to agree on the water-sharing of other shared rivers. While not resolving all disputes, the treaty established an institutional framework for managing a sensitive issue. However, three decades of experience have highlighted some of the treaty's limitations. It does not manage the entire Ganges basin's water, primarily controlling the dry-season water distribution at Farakka. Although there is a guarantee of 35,000 cusecs of water to both countries for three 10-day cycles between 11 March and 10 May, there is no specific minimum flow ensured for Bangladesh for the entire dry season. If the flow at Farakka drops below 50,000 cusecs, the two governments are required to consult urgently. However, there is no independent arbitration or binding mechanism for dispute resolution; it ultimately depends on the discussions between the two governments. As Bangladesh receives less water than expected from the Ganges and Teesta during the dry season, the Brahmaputra (known as the Jamuna in Bangladesh) remains the country's most important source of freshwater As Bangladesh receives less water than expected from the Ganges and Teesta during the dry season, the Brahmaputra (known as the Jamuna in Bangladesh) remains the country's most important source of freshwater.Soyel Rana This is why the demand for a "guarantee clause" or assurance of minimum water in the new treaty is important for Bangladesh. The 1977 treaty included such a provision. It stipulated that at least 80 per cent of the allocated share should be given to Bangladesh, even if the water flow decreased. Subsequent agreements no longer included this assurance. However, if the water availability in the river is uncertain, guaranteeing a specific amount of water under all circumstances may not be realistic. Therefore, the new treaty should include a mechanism that ensures Bangladesh receives an acceptable minimum flow based on jointly verified water availability in the river. Additionally, there should be clear conditions for initiating urgent consultations if the flow falls below the specified level, along with a fixed timeframe for dispute resolution. If necessary, a panel of independent experts could be established to quickly provide technical opinions. Despite this need, formal discussions have not progressed significantly. Bangladesh formed a high-level technical committee in June and requested India to form a corresponding committee. In August, the call for resuming discussions was reiterated. On 17 November, the Water Resources Minister of Bangladesh, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee, wrote to India's Minister for Jal Shakti, CR Patil, urging for immediate discussions. However, no formal timetable for discussions has been announced. On 22-23 November, the report on the implementation of the treaty for 2026 was finalised during the 91st meeting of the Joint Committee of the Joint River Commission in Dhaka; discussions on a new treaty did not take place. Thus, while regular technical communication is ongoing, there is no visible initiative for political decisions regarding the future treaty. The delay so close to the expiry date is concerning. India's internal politics is also complicating the discussions. The Bharatiya Janata Party's ally, Janata Dal (United), opposes the renewal of the treaty under the current terms. In Bihar's politics, there are also concerns about the Farakka Barrage, siltation, floods, and irrigation water demands. These issues should not be conflated with Bangladesh's water share. Integrated efforts on silt management, river erosion, and flood control could be undertaken between India and Bangladesh. Although new opportunities for political coordination have emerged between India's central government and West Bengal, there is no guarantee that this will automatically pave the way for a treaty. Ultimately, political goodwill and realistic compromise are necessary. The risks are significant for both countries. Climate change is making river flows more uncertain; population growth, urbanisation, and increasing demand from agriculture and industry are putting pressure on water resources. In Bangladesh, reduced Ganges flow during the dry season affects irrigation, fisheries, river navigation, and livelihoods. When the Ganges flow decreases, the water flow in the Padma's tributary, Gorai, is also disrupted. This increases the risk of salinity in the southwest region, impacting agriculture, freshwater ecosystems, and the Sundarbans. Water security is thus interconnected with food security and the stability of the rural economy. The Ganges basin is equally important for India's population, agriculture, and industry. The new treaty must take into account the equitable needs of both countries. The political situation has made this task more challenging. Bangladesh views Sheikh Hasina's extradition as a matter of legal accountability and the country's judicial process; India states the request is being considered according to the law and established procedures. The tensions over this issue have impacted other areas as well. The consular dialogue between the two countries, scheduled for 17-18 November in Dhaka, has been postponed. In such a situation, it is essential to give distinct importance to long-term and public interest issues like the water treaty. Ensuring that a disagreement on one issue does not damage the entire relationship between the two countries is crucial. Mature diplomacy does not require agreement on every issue; it requires that disagreements in one area do not paralyze cooperation in another. Water-sharing, flood forecasting, disaster management, energy trade, and communication have their own necessities. These cannot be held hostage to a different political dispute. This does not mean compromising national interests; rather, it means safeguarding interests through evidence, continuous dialogue, and effective institutions. Bangladesh needs a fair and reliable share of water; India needs an agreement that also considers the concerns of its basin states. These two objectives are not mutually exclusive. A new treaty should not be limited to just water-sharing formulas. It should strengthen information exchange, joint monitoring, and validation. Future water flow and demand, ecological water requirements, sediment management, and the livelihoods of people dependent on the river must also be considered. New initiatives are necessary to realise the commitment to enhance dry season flow in the 1996 treaty. Cooperation on upstream reservoir and basin management, improving irrigation efficiency, and reducing water wastage could benefit both countries. India diverts water from the Ganges through the Farakka Barrage. India diverts water from the Ganges through the Farakka Barrage.Collected However, it is important to ensure that the costs and risks of such initiatives are not unfairly imposed on Bangladesh. Additionally, effective water management to conserve, distribute, and use water efficiently within the country must be strengthened. However, such initiatives are no alternative to ensuring the legitimate water rights of the common river.