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PM joins high level general debate of 81st UNGA session

News Desk: Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday attended the high level general debate of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN Headquarters here. The Prime Minister, accompanied by his wife Dr Zubaida Rahman, joined the debate at the North Delegates' Lounge of the UN Headquarters at 9:00am (New York time), said PM's Assistant Press Secretary K M Nazmul Haque. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addressed it, chaired by the president of UNGA 81st session and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman. Upon his arrival at the venue, the Prime Minister was accorded a formal welcome. He then joined other world leaders at the high-level discussions of the

prestigious global forum. The 81st UNGA session is focusing on a range of major global issues, including climate change, resolution of global conflicts, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international economic cooperation. On the sidelines of the session, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to hold a number of bilateral meetings with heads of state and government and representatives of various international organisations. He will also deliver Bangladesh's statement at the General Debate of the General Assembly, where he is expected to highlight global peacekeeping, climate justice and Bangladesh's recent socio-economic

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President stresses practical, job-oriented education

News Desk: President Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday stressed the need to prioritise technology, engineering and technical education to equip young people with skills suited to employment opportunities at home and abroad. He said this when a delegation led by Vice-Chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) Prof.

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PM arrives in New York to attend UNGA

News desk: Prime Minister Tarique Rahman arrived in New York on Monday evening local time to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where he is scheduled to deliver his maiden address to the world body as prime minister on September 24. A Turkish Airlines flight carrying the Prime Minister, his wife Dr Zubaida Rahman and members of his entourage landed at John F Kennedy (JFK) International Airport at

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Iran must stop arming Houthis in Yemen, G7 says ahead of UN General Assembly



News desk: Iran must "end its arming of and support" for the Houthis in Yemen, the foreign ministers of G7 nations have said in a joint statement. The G7 also condemned "in the strongest terms" Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, adding that the recent escalation in fighting against Saudi-backed forces in Yemen represented a threat to regional and global energy security. Thousands of refugees have fled Yemen in recent days after the Iran-backed group seized territory along the country's Red Sea coastline,

including near the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a critical shipping route for global trade. The statement comes ahead of the annual UN General Assembly in New York, where senior Iranian officials are due to speak. "We call on the Houthis to immediately cease all military actions, all threats and attacks against civilian shipping, and to return to the political process in good faith," said the foreign ministers of the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. It went on: "Their

reprehensible actions constitute a dangerous pattern of escalation that risks further exacerbating the conflict, undermining international trade and creating global economic instability." "Looking forward, we will continue to support the legitimate Government of Yemen and reaffirm our strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Yemen," the ministers said. Their statement was issued following a meeting on the sidelines of the

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Govt. decides to adjust fuel subsidies to balance limited resources: Zahed

News Desk: Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman yesterday said the government has decided to adjust fuel subsidies to maintain the balance of the country's limited resources. He said this decision was taken to address the factors such as rising fuel prices in the international market, the need to conserve foreign currency, the risk of fuel smuggling to

neighbouring countries, and the requirement for equitable budget distribution across sectors like healthcare and social safety net programmes (such as the family card scheme). Dr Zahed made the remarks at the weekly press briefing held at Press Information Department (PID) conference room here this afternoon. "Reducing subsidies in the energy sector is a highly

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LDC graduation must strengthen, not constrain, development: Dr Titumir

News desk: Adviser to the Prime Minister on the ministries of Finance and Planning Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir stressed that graduation and sustainable graduation are different, saying that LDC graduation should strengthen, rather than constrain, a country's development trajectory. He made the remarks at the LDC-GIF Mechanism Introduction & High-Level Dialogue at the United Nations Headquarters in New York yesterday. Dr Titumir said graduating countries continue to face structural impediments and limited productive capacity, compounded by geopolitical conflicts, supply-chain disruptions, trade uncertainty, inflation and domestic shocks, according to a press release. He

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Shahe Alam for rapid implementation of priority projects

News Desk: State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam Yesterday directed the authorities concerned to rapidly implement, on a priority basis, the projects related to public-interest. He emphasised prioritising the public interest during project initiation and implementation, as well as completing project work within the stipulated timeframes. Shahe Alam also instructed the authorities concerned to appoint and assign the necessary number of Project Directors (PDs). He gave these instructions during a meeting held at the Local Government Division conference room here. The meeting focused on reviewing and approving new projects — as well as those already approved (listed in the 'Green Page') — included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the 2026-'27 fiscal year under the Local Government Division. State Minister for Planning Zonayed Abdur

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to appoint and assign the necessary number of Project Directors (PDs). He gave these instructions during a meeting held at the Local Government Division

Gazi Nazrul's first wife sent to jail over second wife's 'suicide'

News Desk: A court here yesterday sent to jail Maksuda Islam, first wife of Member of Parliament (MP) from Satkhira-4 constituency Gazi Mohammad Nazrul Islam, in a case filed over allegedly abetting his second wife, Mariam Khatun, to commit suicide. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ripon Hossain passed the order as police produced

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PM to present vision for Bangladesh, people's rights and inclusive development at UNGA: Mahdi

News desk: Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will present before the world community his vision for Bangladesh's future, ways to safeguard the country's interests, uphold people's rights and ensure inclusive development at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Spokesperson Mahdi Amin said on Monday. "Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will carry the same sense of patriotism, emotion and aspirations as his father and mother as he presents to the world community Bangladesh's vision for the future, ways to safe-

guard the country's interests, uphold the rights of its people and ensure inclusive development," he said. Mahdi, also Prime Minister's adviser, was speaking at a briefing for Bangladeshi journalists at the Hyatt Grand Central New York after the Prime Minister arrived in New York to attend the 81st session of the UNGA. He said Tarique Rahman's maiden address to the UNGA on September 24 will be historic as he will become the third member of his family to represent Bangladesh at the world body. His father, Shaheed

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Houthis say Saudi Arabia conducts deadly strike on key port city



government. The Houthis' takeover of the country's Red Sea coast in a dramatic offensive that has left hundreds of people on both sides dead, has also threatened global trade and pushed up energy prices. Gains made by the Iran-backed Houthis have cemented the hold Tehran and its allies have over two key waterways -- the Bab al-Mandab and the Strait of Hormuz -- which top oil and

News Desk: Yemen's Houthis said Saudi Arabia carried out a deadly strike on a key port city on Tuesday, over a week into the Houthi offensive that has seen them seize control of a strait that is crucial to global energy flows. G7 nations called on the Houthis meanwhile to halt cross-border strikes on Saudi Arabia, which backs Yemen's internationally recognised

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Rizvi calls for criticism while maintaining democratic environment

News Desk: BNP Acting Secretary General and the Prime Minister's Political Adviser Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Yesterday said everyone has the right to criticize the government in a democratic environment. However, instead of making sweeping allegations against the government and launching personal attacks, the real causes of the ongoing crisis in the country should be taken into consideration. He said the opposition can strongly criticize the government both inside and outside parliament. It has carried out various programmes, including long marches, but there has been no incident of the government or anyone on its behalf obstructing such programmes. Rizvi made the remarks while addressing a discussion titled "Role of the Government and Opposition in Establishing a Democratic State" as the chief guest. Jatiyatabadi Samamona Jote organized the discussion at the National Press Club this noon. Regarding the adjustment of fuel prices, Rizvi said Bangladesh has to purchase diesel at around Tk 205 per litre, while it was sold to consumers at Tk 115 per litre. As a result, there was a loss of around Tk



90 per litre. Even after the recent price adjustment, he said, there would still be a loss of around Tk 70 per litre. He said the price of diesel in Bangladesh is still lower than in Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and India. Rizvi also claimed that the price adjustment was made considering the rise in oil prices in the international market. When the price of a product is higher in one place and lower in another, the product naturally moves from the place where its price is lower to the place where it is higher. A similar flow could also be created in the case of fuel oil, he

added. Referring to various recent incidents of violence and arson, the acting Secretary General said incidents such as setting fire to buses and trains and explosions of cock-tails have occurred in different parts of the country. Those involved in such incidents should be exposed before the public. Those who are organizing long marches against rising commodity prices or extortion should also organize long marches, protest meetings or processions against such destructive activities, he added. Regarding misinformation about government activities, the

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Naf River polders to be rehabilitated in public interest: Anee



News Desk: Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee has said the rehabilitation of the polders along the Naf River border road will be completed in consideration of national and public interests. "The government is working to ensure border security, control floods, carry out river dredging and promote public welfare. Further steps regarding the Naf River polders would be taken after com-

pleting technical surveys and necessary assessments," he said. He made the remarks Yesterday while addressing a consultation meeting with beneficiaries and local residents on the rehabilitation project of the polders along the Naf River at the Teknaf Upazila Parishad auditorium in Cox's Bazar. Anee said substantial funds had already been allocated for the border road and polder rehabili-

tation project. Despite allocations and revisions at different stages, the project had not delivered the expected benefits to the people, he said. He said that it was essential to implement the project by taking into account agriculture, people's livelihoods, security and the environment. Initiatives would be taken to re-implement the project with the cooperation of local residents, he added. State Minister Farhad Hossain Azad and Ukhya-Teknaf constituency lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury were present at the meeting. Director General of the Bangladesh Water Development Board Md Ruhul Amin, senior officials of the ministry, local political leaders and public representatives were

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Norah Joined 'Bigg Boss' Under a Special Condition After Going Multiple Songs

News Desk: Norah Fatehi entered 'Bigg Boss 9' as a wildcard contestant in December 2015 and was evicted in January 2016. However, the actress-dancer had put forward a specific condition before agreeing to join the Salman Khan-hosted reality show. She recently shared that experience in an interview. At one time, Norah did not place much importance on reality shows, but her perspective changed later. In the interview, she revealed that despite working on several songs, she was not receiving her pay-



ments on time. Although producers were paying her agency, the money was taking a long time to reach her hands. Amidst this struggle, she received the offer to join 'Bigg Boss'. In Norah's words, "I had done several songs, but they weren't paying me. The producers might have paid the agency, but I had to wait. I wasn't getting paid and was constantly fighting—the whole situation was driving me crazy. Right around then, 'Bigg Boss' called and asked, 'Do you want to

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No New Approvals for Clinics and Diagnostic Centres in Front of Hospitals: Health Minister

Laizu Akter, Munshiganj: Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md. Sakawat Hossain has said that no new approval will be given to clinics and diagnostic centres being established indiscriminately around hospitals across the country. He said action would be taken against clinics and diagnostic centres that do not have adequate doctors and technicians or whose licences have not been renewed. The minister made the remarks while responding to questions from journalists in front of the Munshiganj Deputy Commissioner's Office on Tuesday (September 22, 2026), following a

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Hindi Diwas and All-Hindi Pakhwada 2026 Celebrated in Khulna



Rita Rani Khulna : Hindi Diwas and Hindi Pakhwada 2026 were celebrated with vibrant participation and enthusiasm. The event officially commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp. Continuing the celebrations, a running competition followed by a tree plantation drive was held at the Circuit House ground on Tuesday (September 22) at 11:00 AM. Hindi Diwas was celebrated through vari-

Scientists can advance livestock thru research, innovation: Amin Ur Rashid

News Desk: Fisheries and Livestock and Agriculture Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid yesterday said that the scientists have a crucial role to advance the livestock sector of the country through research and innovation. "Proper recognition would be ensured for their innovations and research achievements, as the scientists devote their intellect, labour, time and dedication to create new technologies and knowledge," he said, adding failure to recognise their contributions could reduce the interest in research in the future. The minister made the remarks while addressing the 49th meeting of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock here this morning. The minister said there is no alternative to research for increasing productivity in the livestock sector, preventing diseases, developing improved breeds, ensuring safe pro-

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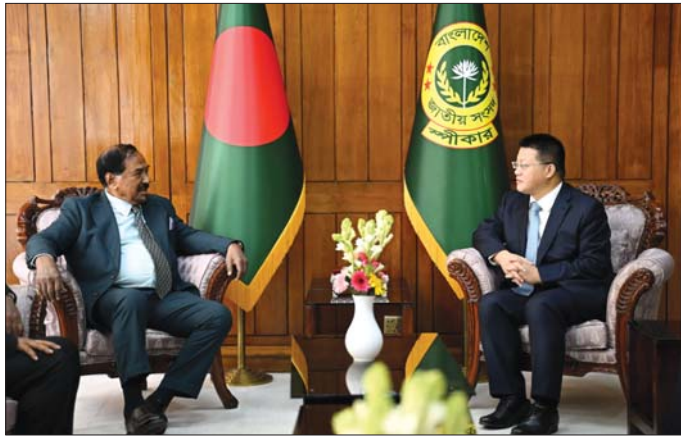


Trump praises leftist Mamdani after meeting in New York

News Desk: President Donald Trump heaped praise Monday onto New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani as the pair set aside their political differences to discuss immigration enforcement and a multi-billion dollar housing project. 'Trump, a Republican, heavily criticized Mamdani before he took office in January -- calling him "my little communist" and a "total nut job" -- but the two men have since struck a surprisingly warm relationship. "Hopefully, you're going to be a great (mayor). I'll be able to say you're going to be a great one, and you're off to a start," Trump told Mamdani at a news conference. Their closed-door talks in Manhattan, which lasted around an hour, marked the pair's third public meeting since Mamdani swept the mayoral election last year.

"We appreciate the president's commitment to the city," Mamdani said of Trump, who was visiting his hometown New York ahead of the United Nations General Assembly. The 34-year-old said he expressed his "very strong opinions about how we can keep New Yorkers safe" when asked about Trump's culling of Temporary Protected Status for thousands of immigrants as part of mass deportation plans. Mamdani said they also spoke about a 12,000-home building proposal in New York, which the pair previously discussed in February and would require an estimated \$21 billion in federal government funding. He said he planned to continue cooperating with Trump, despite acknowledging they have "many disagreements." "We've both spoken

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Bangladesh-China ties can further expand thru investment, parliamentary cooperation:

News Desk: Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikrom, yesterday said China, as a close friend of Bangladesh, has been extending all-out support to the country's development. He made the remarks when outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen paid a courtesy call on him at the Speaker's office here. The Speaker said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman took the first initiative to

develop Bangladesh-China relations, while former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia contributed to their continued development. He said a parliamentary friendship group between Bangladesh and China could play an important role in strengthening parliamentary relations between the two countries, said a press release of the parliament secretariat. Referring to the Rohingya crisis, Continued to Page -7

Govt monitoring market to prevent abnormal hike after fuel price adjustment: Mukhtadir

News Desk: Commerce, Industries and Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtadir Yesterday said that the government is closely monitoring the market and supply chain to prevent any abnormal increase in the prices of essential commodities following the recent adjustment in fuel prices. "The government is monitoring the market situation while maintaining a normal and uninterrupted supply chain so that no unscrupulous trader can take advantage of the fuel price increase to make excessive profits," he said. The minister made the remarks while briefing journalists after distributing raincoats among tea workers at Lakkatura Tea Garden field in Sylhet with support from the government's CSR fund. He said the government is giving importance to keeping the supply

system normal so that the fuel price increase does not lead to an abnormal rise in the prices of other essential commodities. Mukhtadir said international crude oil prices have increased significantly in recent times, and the adjustment of domestic fuel prices is linked to the international market situation. On fuel smuggling, he said border security forces are alert and district administrations are also monitoring the situation. "The situation is being monitored considering the price difference of fuel with neighbouring countries. I do not think there is currently such a situation of fuel smuggling due to a major price difference," he said. Regarding the demand for raising the daily wage of tea workers to Tk 500, the minister said the



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Swimming prodigy

News Desk: The 13-year-old Chinese swimmer Yu Zidi has taken the Asian Games by storm, but when it comes to the intense interest in her, she said: "Interviews are way harder than the race,"

Yu smashed the Games record in winning the women's 200m butterfly on Sunday in Tokyo and then repeated the feat in Monday's 200m individual medley. The schoolgirl's 2min 06.10sec in scorching to victory in the medley was the fastest time in the world this year.

She was only 0.40sec off the world record held by Canada's Summer McIntosh.

Yu has been the talk of swimming since becoming the youngest medallist in world championships history last year with bronze for China's relay team aged just 12.

She is shaping up to be a major medal threat at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

But out of the pool she openly admits to struggling with what to say in front of large numbers of Chinese and international reporters eager to hear from her.

Yu, who turns 14 next month, has tried to shy away from speaking to journalists following her latest eye-popping triumphs.

When eventually coaxed into giving some remarks, she has done so hesitantly.

"How do I answer this question? Can you teach me? You just want me to say what I feel?" she said to reporters in Chinese this week.

"I don't feel anything in particular. I run through the technical details the coach told me once in my head. "In the last 50 metres you can't save energy, you have to give it everything, not think about anything, close your eyes and hang on, that's it."

Under World Aquatics rules, the minimum age for major international championships is 14 but exceptions can be made for younger swimmers if, like Yu, they are fast enough.

Some in the swimming world have questioned the mental and physical impact of high-level training and competing at such a young age.

Yu has admitted to struggling to balance her school work with her status as the brightest young talent in swimming.

As well as international news headlines, her two golds so far this week at the Asian Games have caused a sensation back home.

Her back story, such as being spotted by chance by a swimming coach at a water park, and her struggle with interviews, have gone viral.

Asked if answering questions was the hardest part, she replied with a giggle: "Every time I just want to float off somewhere else."

Rizvi calls for

veteran BNP leader said that such misinformation could obstruct legitimate government activities or the functioning of the government.

He said that efforts were currently underway to reorganize the country's banking and financial sectors. Banks had been merged one after another and depositors were receiving their money through allocations from Bangladesh Bank.

Rizvi further said remittance inflows had increased recently and the country's foreign exchange reserves had also increased significantly compared to the past. As a result, Bangladesh has gained the capacity to purchase gas and fuel oil.

Political Assistant to the Prime Minister Md Rashed Khan attended the discussion as a special guest. Barrister Nasim Khan, chief coordinator of the Jatiyatabadi Samamona Jote, presided over the programme, while the alliance's spokesperson S M Shahadat moderated it. Central leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Samamona Jote also spoke on the occasion.

Scientists can advance

duction of animal protein and enhancing export capacity.

He stressed the need to make research activities more effective and practical so that the farmers and entrepreneurs can directly benefit from their outcomes. He also emphasized the rapid expansion of research-based technologies at the field level.

The minister said the livestock sector has reached its present stage largely due to the relentless efforts of researchers over the years. Necessary support will continue to be provided to make research institutions more effective and update, he added.

Among others, lawmaker from Patuakhali-4 constituency A B M Mosharraf Hossain; Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Vice-Chairman of the Board Md Delwar Hossain, Planning Commission Member Md Mahmudul Hossain Khan; Bangladesh Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Md Rafiqul Islam Sardar, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Executive Chairman Dr Md Abdus Salam, Director General of the Department of Livestock Services Md Shahjahan Khan and BLRI Chief Scientific Officer Dr Sadeq Ahmed, among others, were present at the meeting.

Trump praises

bout very different approaches, very different beliefs, and I will continue to have conversations with the president, and frankly with anyone who can deliver relief to the people of this city," Mamdani said.

Trump's visit came as top US television networks essentially boycotted coverage of the president in protest of his decision to ban three outlets, CNN, MS NOW and Politico, from the White House.

Mamdani said he had told Trump that all members of the press would be welcome at their joint press conference, held in front of the mayor's official residence. "That is something that I believe in, is everyone, no matter the opinion or the critique, that we engage," he told reporters.

Trump, meanwhile, brushed off a suggestion that he had issued the media bans to distract the public from criticism of the war in Iran. "It's interesting because they (the media) said they were going to boycott me, but they never boycott me, so I wasn't very worried about that," he said.

Naf River polders

also present.

The consultation meeting discussed various issues, including the rehabilitation of the Naf River border road polders, the current condition of the embankments, project implementation, and the problems and expectations of local residents. Beneficiaries and local residents shared their views and raised concerns regarding different aspects of the project.

Later, the minister and relevant officials inspected the embankment at Westpara of Shah Porir Dwip.

During the visit, they spoke with local residents and learned about the current condition of the embankment, river erosion and other related problems.

No New Approvals

meeting with Members of Parliament and district-level officials in Munshiganj.

"Sporadically, clinics and diagnostic centres have been established around hospitals across the country. District administrations have been instructed to take action against those facilities that do not have adequate doctors and technicians or whose licences have not been renewed. No new approvals will be given for such establishments," the minister said.

He said various important issues, including law and order, were discussed at the meeting in Munshiganj. Instructions have also been given to take necessary measures if anyone attempts to create disorder and disrupt the peaceful environment.

The minister further said there would be no place for criminal activities such as drug trafficking, robbery, looting and rape, and instructed the concerned authorities to take appropriate action against such activities.

The meeting was attended by Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md. Sakhawat Hossain, MP, as the chief guest.

Munshiganj Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Syeda Nurmahal Ashrafi chaired the meeting.

Among others, Munshiganj-2 MP Abdus Salam Azad, Munshiganj-3 MP Md. Kamruzzaman and Munshiganj District Council Administrator A.K.M. Eradat were present as special guests.

District-level government officials, public representatives and other concerned persons also attended the meeting.

Norah Joined 'Bigg

come?' I said, 'No, I don't. You don't understand my vision.' I was saying all these things. Then they told me how much I would be paid, and hearing that, I agreed!"

Norah further shared that although she initially held a negative perception of reality shows, she later realized that this platform could bring an artist widespread recognition. However, as a wildcard contestant, her chances of staying in the show for a long time were slim. So, she wanted to leverage the opportunity in exchange for something else.

The actress said, "Reality shows aren't bad; it's a platform. If used smartly, one can become a household name very quickly. I was a wildcard entry, so I wasn't meant to stay there for long. I thought about whether I could get something else in return. I really wanted to join 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa,' which was on the same channel. So I told them I needed 'Jhalak,' and in return, I would do 'Bigg Boss.' Later, I was able to join 'Jhalak'."During her stay in the 'Bigg Boss 9' house, Norah formed a close bond with Prince Narula. The two were often seen bantering and sharing intimate moments. Prince even proposed to Norah with a ring and flowers, expressing his gratitude to 'Bigg Boss' for bringing her onto the show.

Hindi Diwas and

coming everyone present at the 'Hindi Diwas and All-Hindi Pakhwada 2026' event, Assistant High Commissioner Pawan Kumar delivered the opening speech. The event featured poetry recitations, a quiz competition, and an impromptu speech competition in Hindi. Indian citizens residing in Khulna, officials and employees of the High Commission along with their children, Indian students studying at Khulna Gazi Medical College, and invited guests took part in the activities.

Additionally, as part of the three-day Hindi Diwas program, various competitions including picture illustration and essay writing were organized for the High Commission officials and staff. Following the competitions, certificates, crests of honor, and prizes were distributed among the winners.

Second Secretary Shri Chandrajeet Mukherjee and other officials were present at all the events.

Bangladesh diesel price

Vietnam, diesel costs Tk137 per litre, Tk2 higher than Bangladesh.

The price difference is also substantial compared with major developed economies. Diesel costs Tk 580.54 per litre in Hong Kong, Tk 347.83 in Germany, Tk 329.40 in France, Tk 317.78 in the United Kingdom and Tk 291.32 in Sweden.

Diesel is priced at Tk 222.69 per litre in Canada and Tk 205.26 in the United States, which are Tk 87.69 and Tk 70.26 higher than Bangladesh's price respectively.

The international comparison also shows that Bangladesh's other petroleum products remain below international average retail prices.

Bangladesh's latest octane price of Tk 165 per litre is around 15 percent below the international average retail price of Octane-95 gasoline. According to Global Petrol Prices, the international average stood at US\$1.57 per litre on September 14, equivalent to approximately Tk 194.12 at an exchange rate of Tk 123.65.

Similarly, Bangladesh's new petrol price of Tk 160 per litre is about Tk 34.12, or 17.6 percent, lower than the international Octane-95 gasoline benchmark.

The new kerosene price of Tk 155 per litre also remains below the international average.

Global Petrol Prices put the average retail price of kerosene at US\$1.34 per litre on September 14, equivalent to approximately Tk 165.69. Thus, Bangladesh's domestic kerosene price is around Tk 10.69, or 6.5 percent, lower than the international average.

The government revised domestic fuel prices amid changes in international fuel prices and other market factors. The revised prices came into effect on September 21.

Govt monitoring

tea industry has a different nature from many other industries, with many tea gardens facing financial difficulties for a long time.

"Determining how much tea workers will be paid is not the only issue. Wages need to be ensured at a level that enables a tea worker to lead a normal and dignified life," he said.

He said the government is working to make tea gardens profitable and sustainable while improving the living standards of workers.

The government plans to increase tea garden income through solar power generation, without harming tea plants, particularly in gardens with electricity transmission and distribution facilities, he said.

Initiatives are also being taken to utilise suitable resources such as spice plants and timber, he added.

The minister said education, healthcare and communication facilities would also be improved in tea gardens. Schools would be established according to need, while roads would be improved in coordination with the relevant authorities.

He said primary healthcare for tea workers would also be strengthened through community clinics.

The government will also create opportunities for the younger generation of tea workers' families to pursue higher education and receive technical and vocational

training, he said.

"The government is working to restore the tea industry to its previous position. Our goal is to make the industry sustainable through coordinated initiatives to increase garden income, improve production and management, and improve workers' living standards," Muktaadir said.

Regarding salaries and allowances in the public and private sectors, the minister said the government has taken initiatives to gradually increase the salaries of government employees as their pay had not been adjusted for a long time.

He said the increases are being implemented in phases rather than through a large one-time adjustment, keeping in mind the need to avoid additional pressure on inflation.

In the private sector, wages are generally determined by employers in line with market demand and labour-market conditions, he said.

"If an institution pays lower wages than the market rate, it becomes difficult for it to find the necessary workers," he said.

The minister also said some institutions under the Ministry of Industries would eventually come under private-sector initiatives.

The programme was chaired by Sylhet Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Al Mamun.

Sylhet City Corporation Administrator Abdul Qayyum Chowdhury, District Council Administrator Abul Kahar Chowdhury Shamim, Sylhet Metropolitan BNP President Nasim Hossain, General Secretary Emdad Hossain Chowdhury, Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khoshnur Rubaiyat, officials of different government and private organisations, and tea garden workers attended the programme.

Bangladesh-China

Hafiz Uddin said Bangladesh faces significant challenges over the repatriation of nearly 1.2 million Rohingyas and sought China's assistance in facilitating their repatriation.

Yao Wen said the present government of Bangladesh was elected with the mandate of the people and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to China had further enriched Bangladesh-China relations.

He described China as Bangladesh's largest trading partner in development and said Chinese investments in Bangladesh now include medium- and small-scale projects alongside mega projects.

The ambassador said China wants to help Bangladesh develop into a production-based hub in the region. He added that Bangladesh could advance economically by producing ICT and various logistics-related products.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on increasing bilateral investment, establishing a Bangladesh-Myanmar-China corridor, the ongoing Rohingya crisis and energy issues.

The Speaker reaffirmed Bangladesh's support for the One-China policy, saying the country would continue to maintain the policy in the future.

He also invited Chinese companies to explore oil and gas production opportunities in coastal areas of Bangladesh, including Bhola.

Hafiz Uddin also sought China's support for Bangladesh's candidate, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Barrister Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, for the Executive Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Officials from the Chinese Embassy and the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, including the Parliament Secretariat secretary, were present at the meeting.

Health officials

ed 65,499. The dengue last year claimed 413 lives and inflicted 1,02,861 people in the country.

Besides, the dengue claimed 575 lives and inflicted 1,01,214 people in 2024.

EPB moves to make Bangladesh’s global trade-fair participation effective

News Desk: The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) is working to make Bangladesh's participation in international trade fairs more strategic and effective, with greater emphasis on market visibility, buyer engagement and better returns for local exporters.

The issue was discussed when EPB Vice Chairman Muhammad Hasan Arif met Messe Frankfurt Bangladesh CEO Omer Salahuddin at the EPB office in the city on Monday, said a press release yesterday.

The meeting followed Arif's visit to Texworld Apparel Sourcing in Paris earlier this month, where he met several Bangladeshi exhibitors.

The EPB and Messe Frankfurt Bangladesh discussed Bangladesh's participation in upcoming international trade fairs and ways to maximise the benefits of such events for the country's exporters.

The discussions covered the future international fair calendar, early booking of exhibition space, promotion of Bangladesh's national pavilions and measures to attract more international buyers to Bangladeshi exhibitors.

The EPB also discussed working with Messe Frankfurt Bangladesh to organise pre-show sessions in Dhaka to better prepare exporters, particularly first-time participants, for international exhibitions.

The sessions are expected to help exporters understand buyer engagement, follow-up strategies, product presentation, international trends, colours and display methods so that participation in fairs can generate greater business opportunities.

Messe Frankfurt Bangladesh also offered to support Bangladesh's visibility at international fairs through stronger national pavilion branding, Bangladesh-focused seminars and greater press and media exposure.

The meeting also highlighted the need for the EPB and exporters to better showcase Bangladesh's progress in sustainable manufacturing.

Bangladesh has more LEED-certified green factories than any other country, while the country's sustainability achievements are not always sufficiently visible to international buyers.

The two sides discussed using Messe Frankfurt's dedicated sustainability platforms, including the Heimtextil Green Directory and the Economy Finder at Apparel Sourcing Paris, to highlight the sustainability credentials of Bangladeshi companies.

Bangladesh already has a strong presence at Messe Frankfurt events, including Apparel Sourcing in Paris and the United States, Heimtextil and Ambiente in Frankfurt, with participation also planned in the upcoming Eurobike.

Salahuddin said Messe Frankfurt Bangladesh plans

to remain more active in Dhaka in the coming months.

"We look forward to having an information booth at the upcoming Global Sourcing Show in Dhaka in November, and we have a number of activities planned for the end of 2026 and the start of 2027," he said.

He stressed the importance of selecting international trade fairs carefully, as participation involves expenses for exhibition fees, travel, freight and stand construction.

The latest initiative reflects the EPB's efforts to enhance Bangladesh's presence in global markets by combining international trade-fair participation with better exporter preparation, stronger country branding and greater exposure to international buyers.



DSE to compensate 97pc affected investors up to Tk5 lakh

News Desk: The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has decided to fully compensate around 97 percent of investors affected by defaults of five brokerage houses, with payments of up to Tk5 lakh per investor from the Investors Protection Fund (IPF).

The compensation payments will begin on September 28, DSE Chairman Maminul Islam told a press conference here yesterday.

Of the 17,925 investors affected by the defaults, 17,332 will receive their full eligible amount under the new arrangement, he said.

"The initiative is a milestone for our capital market and an important chapter in restoring the confidence of ordinary investors," Maminul said.

He said around Tk37.60 crore has so far been paid to affected investors by the concerned brokerage houses and the IPF.

Under the new decision, the IPF will pay up to Tk5 lakh to each eligible investor from September 28. The remaining 593 investors will also be covered through necessary measures to recover their funds, he added.

The DSE chairman said legal action against the defaulting brokerage houses would be strengthened to recover the remaining funds.

"If necessary, steps would be taken to recover money through the sale of shares held by the companies and personal assets of their directors. Future IPF funds may also be considered for payments if required," he added.

Maminul said many retired teachers, judges and bankers had invested their savings in the capital market and faced financial and family difficulties after being unable to recover their money due to the defaults.

He said the moral support of the present government and cooperation from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) had played an important role in implementing the initiative.

Of the five defaulting brokerage houses, four are facing cases filed with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), while a court case is pending against another, he said.

"Strengthening monitoring and surveillance over brokerage houses is also being undertaken to prevent recurrence of such incidents," Maminul said.

He said the DSE was also taking a number of measures to develop the capital market. Companies applying for direct listing or IPO by March 2027 will receive a 50 percent waiver on listing fees, with a target of bringing at least 10 blue-chip companies to the market through direct listing or IPO by 2027.

The companies may include state-owned, multinational and domestic firms, he said, adding that coordinated efforts by the government, regulator, stock exchanges and merchant banks would be required to achieve the target.

Maminul said listing fees for bonds had been reduced significantly and initiatives had been taken to issue sovereign bonds. Greater involvement of international investment banks in Bangladesh's capital market could also have a positive impact on corporate bonds and foreign investment, he added.

IPF Chairman Nasrin Begum said the fund was established to provide protection, within the prescribed limit, to investors affected by defaults.

She said every claim was being settled after verification of claims, examination of necessary documents, determination of eligibility and consideration of the applicable compensation limit.

"At present, the maximum compensation limit for an investor under the IPF provisions is Tk5 lakh," she said. Nasrin said the compensation was neither a grant nor charity, but a settlement process governed by laws and regulations. She said transparency, accountability and necessary safeguards were being ensured in the use of IPF funds.

DSE Managing Director Nuzhat Anwar said the DSE had undertaken several technology-based initiatives for capital market development, including a script trading platform targeted for launch by December 2026. Work is also underway to establish a separate platform for open-end mutual funds, which is expected to be launched by mid-November, she said.

The platform will enable investors to access information on mutual funds and conduct transactions online, she added.

Nuzhat said work was also progressing to develop the bond market, with various issuance-related fees already reduced by around 80 percent.

She said a new matching engine project aimed at improving the DSE's technological infrastructure was also progressing, with the system targeted to go live in January 2028.

The DSE is also working to strengthen its disaster recovery system and other IT infrastructure, she added.