DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 11, 2026



It is certainly not how partners should treat each other.

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY, Ukrainian president, on US-Russia deal on diesel

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B1 | SUBSIDISED FOOD DISTRIBUTION FALLS, RAISING POVERTY CONCERNS

P5 | RADDA HEALTH CENTRE RISES FROM RUINS

P7 | TEA WORKERS DESERVE A SAY IN REFORMS TO THEIR INDUSTRY

P13 | PORTUGAL PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDS RONALDO

INDIAN VOTER LIST ROW

Thousands held in protest crackdown

Youth-led movement vows to continue protest till CEC resigns

AGENCIES

Indian authorities yesterday locked down parts of the capital and detained thousands of people, including political leaders, lawyers and students, in an attempt to stop an anti-government protest.

Thousands of police and paramilitary personnel were deployed across the city, mobile internet services were suspended in the central business district, and dozens of metro stations and markets were shut as authorities moved to stop the demonstration called by the "Cockroach Janata Party" (CJP) to protest against an exercise that has stripped 130 million names from India's electoral roll.

The CJP, as well as opposition parties, civil society and student groups, have alleged that the process of "purifying" India's voter roll was done to entrench the power of Narendra Modi's BJP government, and have called for India's chief election commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, who oversaw the exercise, to resign.

The movement had planned to gather thousands of people at Jantar Mantar in central Delhi, but the area was sealed off by security forces before the demonstration began.

Four ex-CMs, including Mamata, Kejriwal, briefly detained | Police say all 3,000 detainees released, except protest leaders | UN slams 'arbitrary detentions'; India protests



Delhi police detain Mamata Banerjee.

A home ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that more than 2,000 people were detained in Delhi. Local media said about 400 protesters were held in India's financial hub, Mumbai.

However, police later said they released almost "all 3,000 people" they detained across Delhi. CJP's top leadership and YouTuber Dhruv Rathee remained in custody.

However, CJP claimed the detainee number was much higher.

"More than 15,000 protesters have been detained," Ajinkya Shinde, a CJP leader, said at a news conference in Delhi.

Delhi police denied permission for the protest, and in the days leading up to yesterday, officials began to barricade roads throughout Delhi. More than 25,000 police and security personnel were deployed across the city, many pulled from other states.

Abhijeet Dipke, the founder and leader of the CJP, accused the government of being scared of the young people who were rising up in protest. "The mass crackdown on protesters and the shutdown of Delhi are not signs of strength but of a leader terrified of his own people," said Dipke.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Security personnel detain Cockroach Janta Party activists seeking the resignation of India's Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

FIXING PLUNDERED BANKS

Tk 60,000cr of taxpayers' money needed annually for up to 8yrs: BB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has proposed a Tk 60,000 crore-fund every year from the national budget for the next five to eight years to make up for money plundered from banks, said its Governor Md Mostaqur Rahman yesterday.

If approved for the full eight years, the government will have to provide Tk 4.8 lakh crore to the banking sector; over five years, the sum would be Tk 3 lakh crore, he said at the launch of Bangla QR with ONE Bank at United International University.

Defaulted loans in the sector currently stand at Tk 6.06 lakh crore.

"The money that was siphoned out of the banks belongs to the public -- we have to return it. For the next five to eight years, we will need this amount from the budget. This is your money and my money. Yet it was looted by another group, and we are the ones paying the penalty."

Citing the government's Family Card programme, he said Bangladesh has roughly four crore families, of whom about

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Buy planes first, figure out business case later?

Questions remain over Biman's plan for new aircraft, financing

TASNEEM TAYEB

Biman has 35 aircraft on order against its current 19-strong fleet. The scale of the expansion is significant. But the more fundamental question is whether it rests on an adequately deliberated business case.

Biman has spoken of expanding into North America, Europe, Australia, and several regions of Asia, while the government wants the airline's share of Bangladesh's passenger market to rise from around 20 percent to at least 50 percent.

NEWS ANALYSIS

What has not been made public is a route-by-route plan showing how the aircraft will be deployed, how quickly new markets are expected to mature, and how Biman can move beyond its heavy dependence on Middle Eastern traffic.

In July 2025, while Dhaka was negotiating tariffs and trade imbalance with Washington, the then interim government publicly said the planned Boeing purchase had risen from 14 aircraft to 25.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Flights cancelled as blast rocks Riyadh airport

Biman suspends 2 Riyadh flights

REUTERS, *Riyadh*

Several people were wounded in an attack on King Khalid International Airport in Saudi Arabia's capital yesterday that forced a suspension of operations, the country's civil aviation authority said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but it comes amid an escalation of missile strikes by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis against Saudi Arabia.

The airport had already been struck in two earlier attacks this week that left four people dead and exposed vulnerabilities in the kingdom's ability to defend itself as it wages war on the Houthis. Saudi Arabia's early warning system did not issue an alert ahead of yesterday's incident.

The Saudi government's media office did not immediately respond to questions from Reuters.

One eyewitness at the airport reported seeing an explosion and then multiple people lying injured on the ground inside. More than a dozen ambulances were seen rushing towards the facility.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

Traffic came to a standstill at Shahbagh in the capital as hundreds of jobseekers block the road yesterday, protesting the postponement of the recruitment examination for assistant upazila youth development officers following allegations of a question paper leak. Story on page 5.

INT'L DAY OF GIRL CHILD

Why do cases of child sexual abuse fail to secure justice despite stringent laws? Fowzul Azim, legal analyst, researcher and former judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, speaks to Star's Nilima Jahan about systemic failures in investigation, prosecution and case management, and the reforms needed to address them.

'A child should never suffer twice in pursuit of justice'

TDS: Stringent laws exist, yet the overwhelming majority of child sexual abuse cases end in acquittal. Where does the fundamental failure lie?

Fowzul Azim: The crisis stems not from a lack of stringent laws, but from a breakdown in coordination across three vital stages: investigation, prosecution and adjudication.



A court cannot convict based on moral certainty or social probability. Guilt must be established beyond reasonable doubt through lawful, admissible evidence.

A recent Supreme Court–BRAC study identified the primary obstacles: absent witnesses, repeated adjournments, investigative delays, weak evidentiary chains and lack of witness protection.

A crucial distinction must be understood: a crime not occurring is not the same as a crime not being proven beyond reasonable doubt in court.

In sexual violence cases, discrepancies between the First Information Report and trial testimony, absent witnesses, improperly collected medical evidence, delayed forensic or DNA reports, and hostile witnesses can prevent conviction despite strong suspicion.

Increasing conviction rates is not about imposing harsher penalties, but ensuring cases are supported by sufficient, admissible evidence before reaching court.

TDS: The Supreme Court–BRAC study reveals that trials take an average of 1,370 days (nearly 3.7 years) across 22

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3