DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 2026



Unfortunately, the lifting of [US] sanctions [on Russia] will continue. I believe the 'diesel deal' is just the first step.

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY
Ukrainian president

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Ashikul Islam, *right,* holds Nila, the wife of his maternal uncle-in-law Masud, as they sit in wheelchairs at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital yesterday. Masud, *centre,* holding a water bottle, is also among three family members who survived the deadly fire at Tup Tup Resort in Inani yesterday morning. Six of the nine-member family who were at the resort remain missing or are feared dead. PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

At least 10 killed as blaze rips through Inani resort

'Six of a family' among the dead; the fire department flagged the place as 'hazardous' months ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

At least 10 people were killed when a fire burnt down the three-storey Tup Tup Resto & Resort in the Patuartek area near Inani Beach in Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

The fire broke out around 6:30am. Two units from the Ukhiya Fire Service Station, about 20km away, were alerted at 7:25am and reached the scene at 8:00am. The blaze was completely extinguished by 11:00am, according to the fire service.

Cox's Bazar Fire Service Deputy Assistant Director Syed Mohammad Morshed Hossain told The Daily Star that six bodies were found initially, followed by four more in a bathroom.

The rescue operation ended around 2:40pm, with no more bodies believed to remain inside, he said.



The bodies were handed over to police, but severe burns made identification difficult.

Cox's Bazar Superintendent of Police ANM Sajedur Rahman said the extent of the burns could make it difficult even to determine the victims' sex and age. Authorities would examine available records

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'If had a minute or two, I could've saved my wife'

Survivor recounts escape as 6 family members feared dead

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, *Cox's Bazar*

Ashikul Islam's wife, Israt Jahan Maliha, woke him up early yesterday morning as the couple and her family prepared to leave Tup Tup Resort in Cox's Bazar's Inani.

She then went to the other rooms to wake the rest of the family, while Ashikul remained in bed.

That was the last time he saw her.

About 10 minutes later, Ashikul heard a commotion outside and stepped out of their room, only to find flames engulfing the resort.

"As soon as I opened the door and stepped out, I felt the heat of the flames on my face. Within moments, smoke filled the room. The fire outside was terrifying. Our room was on the first floor, and I somehow managed to break a window and jump out."

The fire had broken out at the resort around 6:30am.

Two Fire Service units brought it under control by 8:15am. Fire Service officials said 10 bodies were recovered from the scene.

Ashikul had travelled from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar with nine members of his wife's family for a holiday. They arrived on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Nearly half of families in debt

Finds govt survey on standard of living for pay commission

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

As many as 47.42 percent of households across Bangladesh have fallen into debt for soaring living expenses against stagnant earnings, with rural families hit harder than city dwellers, according to a special survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) at the request of the National Pay Commission.

Over the past year, 51.91 percent households in rural areas, 40.19 percent in urban areas and 32.11 percent in city corporation areas were forced to borrow to cover basic living expenses, found the Living Standard Survey 2025 conducted by BBS's Poverty and Livelihood Statistics Cell.

The average national monthly household income stood at Tk 33,513, while the average national monthly expenses amounted to Tk 35,311, the survey found.

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City corporation areas recorded the highest average monthly expenses of Tk 46,778, followed by urban areas (Tk 37,344) and rural areas (Tk 32,532).

At the national level, monthly expenses are split evenly between food and non-food items, but it diverges by region. Rural areas spend more on food, while urban areas spend more on non-food items. Non-food expenses account for 56.7 percent of city corporation households' monthly expenses.

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Slain journalist warned SP of threat to life



"...They are waiting on the road with two firearms. One of them is a 9mm pistol, and they have five bullets. They are waiting to shoot me when I leave..."

- ALIF FAKIR
told police super around 11 months ago

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*

"I am sitting here with you right now, but I have received a message saying they are waiting on the road with two firearms. One of them is a 9mm pistol, and they have five bullets. They are waiting to shoot me when I leave. But I am not going that way today."

These were the words of Netrokona journalist Lutfozzaman Fakir, also known as Alif Fakir, 44, who warned the district's superintendent of police about threats to his life on November 30, 2025, nearly 11 months ago.

Alif was the Netrokona correspondent for private IPTV channel Ruposhi Bangla. He also ran a Facebook page called "Detective Article", where he regularly published investigative reports on local crime, drug peddling, smuggling and corruption.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Arms-brandishing Ishraque's anti-drug drive stirs outrage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Videos showing State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain carrying a firearm while chasing several people during what he described as an "anti-drug operation" in Gandaria in his constituency have drawn intense scrutiny.



After Ishraque uploaded the videos to his verified Facebook page around 5:15pm yesterday, netizens questioned the display of firearms, taking the law into one's own hands, and confidence in the police.

In a video captioned "Ishraque's action: Drug dens demolished, dealers handed over to police", the minister and several others were seen getting out of a vehicle and chasing a group of people.

Ishraque and another individual were carrying firearms. Parts of the firearm were blurred in one of the videos.

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Prime Minister Tarique Rahman points to a toilet during a surprise visit to Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital in Uttara yesterday. He also visited several other hospitals and educational institutions in Dhaka to assess the dengue situation and cleanliness activities. PHOTO: PMO

PM makes 13 surprise visits, urges cleanliness

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday made surprise visits to 13 locations across Dhaka, including hospitals, educational institutions and government residential quarters to assess the quality of public services, cleanliness and overall management.

Starting at 9:10am, he visited different areas of Dhaka until 1:41pm, speaking to officials and examining cleanliness, service quality and overall management at various facilities, according to his press wing.

He first visited Kuwait-Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital in Uttara, followed by Rajuk Uttara Model College and Mirpur Cantonment Public School and College.

He then visited the National Heart Foundation

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