

Rushanara

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in a press release yesterday.
Rushanara is the first person of Bangladeshi origin to be elected to the British parliament. She is the Labour Party MP for the constituency of Bethnal Green and Bow.
In her parliamentary career, she has been Shadow Minister for Education and International Development and a member of the Parliamentary Treasury Select Committee.
She currently serves as a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee for Energy and Climate Change.
"I am delighted to have been appointed to this cross-party role as the UK trade envoy to Bangladesh," Rushanara said on her appointment as the trade envoy.
"The UK and Bangladesh have historic and longstanding ties. Bangladesh has been identified by UKTI [UK Trade and Investment] as an emerging market with substantial trade and investment opportunities. "It is a country of particular importance to me: a third of my constituents have Bangladeshi heritage and I was the first person of Bangladeshi origin to be elected to the UK parliament. I want to see Britain play a twin role helping Bangladesh thrive economically and supporting the country's efforts to tackle the threat of climate change," Rushanara said.
"I am delighted that at the start of the new Bengali year, the prime minister has appointed Rushanara Ali MP as the UK's trade envoy for Bangladesh," British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alison Blake was quoted as saying.
The cross-party Trade Envoy programme was established in 2012 to build bilateral trade relationships and help drive economic growth in countries identified as key markets for the UK.
Two-way trade between the UK and Bangladesh stands at £2.3m. The UK has strong business interests in Bangladesh and remains the largest foreign investor.
Over 100 British companies are operating in sectors including retail, banking, energy, infrastructure, consultancy and education with main centres of operation in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet. The UK is also the third single largest destination for exports from Bangladesh.
Through UKAID the UK remains the largest bilateral donor of grant aid to Bangladesh (£180 million in FY2014/15), added the release.

Fifty fall
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(mashed potatoes), *Chingri Bharta* (mashed shrimp), *Dal Bharta* (mashed lentils), and brinjal fry were on the menu of the programme. A local hotel served the food.
Kamrul Islam, father of a victim, said the guests of the programme ate the food between 10:00am and 11:00am. The food was served under the open sky and the temperature was high at that time.
Saiful Islam, emergency medical officer at Kachua Upazila Health Complex, said the patients were taken to the health complex with vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhoea complications.
These symptoms indicated that they fell sick from food poisoning, he said.
He added that the condition of the patients was improving.
Kazi Mahbubur Rashid, Kachua Upazila Nirbahi Officer, said a three-member probe body, led by Upazila Livestock Officer Debendranath Sarkar, was formed to find the reasons of the incident. It was also asked to submit its report to the UNO within three working days.

No IS
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atheists and murtads."
The minister vowed that the government will not allow any external forces or militant outfits to carry out attacks on neighbouring countries establishing strongholds in this country or using any local militant organisation.
He added, "Islam does not support attacks on minorities... So those who preach this [attacks on minorities], they are enemies of Islam and humanity."
IS has not given any formal announcement of opening its branch in Bangladesh. But according to some reports, it claimed responsibility for some incidents, including killings of two foreigners and Hossaini Dalan blast.
The government all along has said the global terror body has no organisational presence in the country.
In the interview, Abu Ibrahim also said the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami are deceiving their followers.
He also said, "There are some grassroots level followers and supporters of 'Jamaat-e-Islami' who have repented from their shirk and joined the ranks of the Khilafah's soldiers in Bengal."
Jamaat in a statement, yesterday rejected the claim terming it "baseless" and "false" and said that no grassroots activists of the party have joined IS.

End abusive policies against Rohingyas

US rights agency urges Myanmar

REUTERS, Washington
The US government agency charged with monitoring international religious freedoms called on Myanmar's new government on Thursday to do away with abusive policies against the country's minority Rohingya Muslims.
The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) praised the government of de facto head of state Aung San Suu Kyi for releasing political prisoners after its November election victory.
But it said Myanmar, which is also known as Burma, needed to act to protect freedom of religion and end discrimination against minorities.
"One such step is Burma's government radically changing its abusive policies and practices in Rakhine state, which have harmed members of the ethnic communities who live there, especially Rohingya Muslims," it said in a statement.
The commission called on the government to do away with laws discriminating against ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians and Rohingya and other Muslims - notably the 1982 Citizenship Law.
It said the government should ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, improve access to humanitarian aid for displaced reli-

gious and ethnic minorities, and invite the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief to visit.
It should also allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to open a country office, the report said.
Myanmar has denied discriminating against 1.1 million Rohingya Muslims in the country, most of whom remain stateless and live in apartheid-like conditions.
Last month, Yanghee Lee, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, said creation of the first civilian-led government after decades of military rule offered the chance of breaking this "tragic status quo situation."
However, 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi has so far taken a cautious line on the Rohingya issue, in spite of her status as a human rights icon during her long battle for democracy.
The Rohingyas are widely maligned in Myanmar, where they are seen as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh - including by some in Suu Kyi's party - and she risks hemorrhaging support by taking up their cause.
Some US and other international sanctions remain in place in Myanmar despite its change of government and the Obama administration and influential members of Congress still have concerns about human rights, including treatment of Rohingyas.

Call for crackdown

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"Today we deal another hammer blow against those who hide their illegal tax evasion in the dark corners of the financial system," British Finance Minister George Osborne said in a statement.
Spain's industry minister, Jose Manuel Soria, stepped down yesterday after being named in the leaked papers, citing "mistakes" in explaining his alleged offshore interests and "the obvious harm that this situation is doing to the Spanish government."
Soria's troubles began on Monday when Spanish online daily El Confidencial, which has had access to the Panama Papers, said he was an administrator of an offshore firm in 1992.
Soria called a news conference to deny any link to the company, but as the week went by, more allegations emerged from other media outlets, revealing further alleged connections to offshore havens.
It is unclear as yet whether any of his alleged actions were illegal.
In their joint statement during a meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, the five EU ministers said: "The recent extensive leaks from Panama show the critical importance of the fight against tax evasion, aggressive tax planning and money laundering."
World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said the illicit financial activities enabled by tax havens undermined the fight against poverty.
"When taxes are evaded, when state assets are taken and put into these havens, all of these things can have a tremendous negative effect on our mission to end poverty and boost prosperity," he said.
The joint European move was a reaction to the leak of thousands of documents on anonymously-owned shell companies from Mossack Fonseca, a Panamanian law firm that specialized in setting up such firms.
The trove showed the use of shell companies by prominent politicians including close associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin, family members of Chinese leaders, British

Premier David Cameron, and the leaders of Iceland and Argentina.
The leak placed Panama in the spotlight as one of the leading havens that have not joined an agreement on sharing information on bank accounts and other assets.
The five threatened to create a blacklist of countries which do not cooperate on sharing data. "We want to have lists which make it possible to place sanctions on countries which don't respect the rules," French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said.
Under pressure, Panama said Thursday it was ready to begin working together with the "Common Reporting Standard" (CRS) system on sharing information about assets and accounts.
"Panama's path to financial transparency is irreversible," Vice President Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado said in a statement.
But the Oxfam anti-poverty group, which released Thursday a paper showing how top US coproations have socked away \$1.4 trillion in profits in tax havens, said the European proposals are still too weak.
"If the proposed registry of beneficial owners of companies and trusts is hidden from the public, how can we know who is hiding their profits and fortunes and trying to avoid paying their fair share?" they said.
In the meetings that got underway Thursday, both the IMF and World Bank urged countries to do more to support economic growth and prevent the world from backsliding toward recession.
They said the demand for financial support from struggling governments has risen to levels normally seen during crises.
"In the global economy, there are not many bright spots," World Bank President Kim said. "The weakening global economy threatens our progress toward ending extreme poverty by 2030."
"We are on alert, not alarm," IMF chief Christine Lagarde said. Lagarde also warned that Britain's threatened pullout for the European Union was a "serious concern" for the global economy.

Twin quakes hit Japan

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Geological Survey, struck at 1:25am (1625 GMT Friday) at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 miles).
The Japan Meteorological Agency, which put the magnitude at a revised 7.3, initially issued a tsunami warning for the western coast of Kyushu but later lifted it.
There were several reports of people being trapped under debris at various locations, and NHK showed images of rescue workers removing rubble from atop a collapsed house in an apparent search for anyone stuck underneath.
Other footage from the NHK bureau in Kumamoto showed objects falling off desks and shelves during the powerful shaking.
Thursday night's quake killed nine people and injured nearly 900. That one was measured at magnitude 6.2 by USGS, and 6.5 by the Japanese agency.
Shotaro Sakamoto, a Kumamoto prefectural official, said yesterday's quake was comparable to Thursday's.
"The latest earthquake felt as strong as, or stronger than the original one, Sakamoto, told AFP.
"It was really strong... many people on the street appeared panicked."
The latest quake came as officials had said they did not expect the death

toll from the first quake to rise.
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was due to visit Kyushu, but Jiji Press reported his visit was cancelled.
"We are trying our best to assess the damage situation as it could spread," he told reporters yesterday.
Riho Tajima, an official at the Kumamoto disaster management office, said it had received unconfirmed information indicating one person was feared dead due to a collapse of a house.
"We are still in a tense situation as aftershocks are still rocking us continuously," she told AFP.
Man stabbed
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around 7:00am, two youths halted his rickshaw and tried to take away his bag. At one stage, they stabbed Sayeed and fled the scene, said Tofail, the rickshaw-puller.
Critically injured Sayeed was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.
Victim's family members said muggers might have killed Sayeed.
However, Sheikh Md Nasir Uddin, inspector of Bangshal Police Station, said no valuables were snatched away from Sayeed. "We are investigating whether it was an incident of mugging."

CDA to examine

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buildings in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, after a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar and jolted Bangladesh on Wednesday night.
The tremor was felt at 7:55pm in Bangladesh and its epicentre in Myanmar was 420km east of Dhaka city.
Meanwhile, several owners of the buildings in the port city claimed that their buildings did not tilt due to the earthquake.
In Jhatala area, owners of two buildings, one of which had leaned on another, claimed that their buildings did not tilt.
"My building is all right," said Nurul Alam, owner of a building.
Yunus, caretaker of another building, claimed that their one too did not move a bit.
Ataur Rahman, owner of "Suraiya Villa" at Chandgaon Residential Area, said the adjacent "Shirin Niketan" tilted on their building due to the impact of the earthquake.
Ataur's son Muntasir Mamun said their family and the tenants are now living in fear.
Two families had given notice that they would leave the building this month, he added.
Nurul Azim, owner of "Shirin Niketan" lives abroad and his brother-in-law Mohiuddin, who looks after the building, could not be found while visiting the spot.
Contacted over the phone, he asked this correspondent to communicate later.
Nur Ahmed, caretaker of the building, said except for one family, all the tenants had left following the earthquake.
On Wasa High Level Road, no gap was seen between three buildings -- Tower Al-Amin, Moon Plaza and Meem Tower.
Mohammad Elius, owner of Moon Plaza, claimed that their building is "attached" with Meem Tower from a long time. Shafiqul Azam, owner of Tower Al-Amin, alleged that Meem Tower had tilted on their building after the earthquake. The owner of Meem Tower, however, could not be contacted over the phone for comments.

'Invisible' train
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could gently coexist with this variety of scenery," Sejima said.
Sejima founded the SANAA architecture firm with Ryue Nishizawa in 1995.
The company is known for its use of light and space.
Sejima was commissioned to design the train in honor of the Seibu Group's 100th anniversary.
The company owns Seibu Railways, which operates train service around Tokyo and Saitama prefectures.
Among Sejima and Nishizawa's notable designs are the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York; the Serpentine Pavilion in London; the Rolex Learning Center in Lausanne, Switzerland; the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion in Toledo, Ohio; and the Christian Dior Building in Omotesando in Tokyo.
Sejima and Nishizawa were named Pritzker Architecture Prize laureates in 2010, architecture's highest honor.
"They explore like few others the phenomenal properties of continuous space, lightness, transparency and materiality to create a subtle synthesis," according to the jurors' citation.

Writing against

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part of freethinking has become a "fashion" nowadays.
"I don't consider such writings as freethinking but filthy words. Why would anyone write such words? It's not at all acceptable if anyone writes against our prophet or other religions.... I hope no one would write such filthy words."
Hasina questioned why the government would take the responsibility of an untoward incident if that occurred due to such writings.
About the killings out of vengeance for such writings, she said Islam does not permit it and Almighty Allah does not bestow the duty of trial on them (killers).
"If anyone doesn't abide by the guidance of Almighty Allah and his prophet and thus kills people, it is 'Shirk'. I hope no one would get involved in such an activity," she added.
About the criticism of some quarters and individuals of the government restrictions on open air programmes after 5:00pm on Pahela Baishakh, she said the measures were taken on security grounds.
"We've the responsibility to ensure security of the citizens. I hope everyone will abide by the guidance about the security measures."
She took a swipe at an eminent citizen for venting his anger on the restric-

Paresh has 2 aides

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The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the report.
Paresh, leader of the Ulfa's anti-talks faction, stands accused in a number of cases, including murder, illegal arms and abduction. The Interpol issued arrest warrants against him in 1997.
He was sentenced to death in the 10-truck arms haul case on January 30, 2014. Later, the Paresh-led faction of Ulfa requested the Bangladesh government to review the verdict.
There is no definite information about the present location of Paresh. Some Indian newspapers quoting intelligence agencies reported that he could possibly be staying in Tengchong near the China-Myanmar border, the report says.
According to the report, both Alamgir and Nobi are from Noakhali. Alamgir's father is a principal (in-charge) of a Dakhil Madrasa in Koratkhil of Chatkhill upazila. Alamgir recently visited China, but is now in Dhaka.
Golam Nobi, also from the same area, passed Alim (HSC-equivalent) exam from a local madrasa and got enrolled in Titumir College in Dhaka. He too visited China.
The report expresses concern over the duo's link with Paresh and recommends detaining Alamgir and interrogating him for detailed information about the Ulfa leader.
Contacted, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal last week said he had not seen the report yet. "Of course, we will take tough action against anyone helping separatists of neighbouring India."
The minister also alleged that the previous BNP-Jamaat coalition government had helped and patronised the separatists of India. "The incumbent government will not tolerate


tions. "I want to say whether that person would shoulder the responsibility if any untoward incident occurred."
Greeting everybody, including the expatriate Bangladeshis, on Pahela Baishakh, she said everyone needs to exercise tolerance as it is essential for the country's development.
She hoped the pace of socio-economic development in various fields will continue. She noted that her government for the first time in the country's history has introduced Baishakhi allowance for the public servants.
Mentioning that the Bangalis observe the first day of the Bengali New Year as Pahela Baishakh with festivity, she said some term it "Hinduism".
"Despite being Muslims, we're Bangalis also. We should not forget that we've liberated our country after fighting against the occupation forces as Bangalis. It's not like that we can't be Muslims, being Bangalis."
Earlier, central leaders of the ruling party greeted the PM, also the AL chief, with bouquets.
Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, AL presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Sahara Khatun and Satish Chandra Roy were present, among others.
The guests were treated with traditional sweetmeats and fruits.

Paresh has 2 aides

anyone working against a friendly country like India," he added.
The report also mentions that some BNP and Jamaat leaders are looking after Paresh's properties in Bangladesh. It recommends identifying them for taking action.
It says Paresh has links with the extremist groups in Khagrachhari.
Besides, the report suggests that the law enforcement agencies, including the Border Guard Bangladesh, remain alert so that Paresh could not enter frontier districts in Chittagong region and carry out any activities.
It reads that India regularly alleged Ulfa to be working as a bridge between the separatist groups of north-eastern Indian provinces and extremist groups of Bangladesh.
The Ulfa rebels have been fighting for a separate Assamese homeland since 1979.
In order to establish separate independent states from north-eastern Indian provinces, Paresh on April 17, 2015, announced forming of a new alliance named United Liberation Front of Western South East Asia (UNLFW). Four other groups -- United Liberation Front of Asom, National Democratic Front of Boroland, Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland and People's Liberation Army of Manipur -- joined the new alliance, according to the report.
The new alliance is headquartered in Myanmar.
The pro-talks faction of Ulfa led by its chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa recently agreed to hold peace talks with the Indian government. Ulfa general secretary Anup Chetia was with the faction.
Chetia had been detained in Bangladesh in 1997 for illegally entering the country using a forged passport. He had been handed over to India in January this year.

Microsoft sues

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The situation has become more urgent as computing and data storage services shift from software packages loaded onto individual computers to servers running in the Internet cloud.
"Today, individuals increasingly keep their emails and documents on remote servers in data centers -- in short, in the cloud," Smith said.
"But the transition to the cloud does not alter people's expectations of privacy and should not alter the fundamental constitutional requirement that the government must -- with few exceptions -- give notice when it searches and seizes private information or communications."
Controversy over spying, security and privacy on the Internet has been heating during the past decade, boiling over after former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden revealed evidence of wide-scale online spying.
While rights groups have filed suits to stop the government from covert snooping on the Internet, Microsoft is on firmer legal footing as a cloud service provider being hit with court orders, according to Electronic Frontier Foundation staff attorney Lee Tien.
"Microsoft has a view of what is happening that the EFF does not," Tien told AFP.
"This is important for advocacy in general and for litigation, because facts put the meat on the bone for what is going on -- to explain to the court the scope of the problem."
Legally, Microsoft took aim at the Electronic Communications Privacy Act -- typically used by police investigating crime, and not the one used to back National Security Letters that order tech companies to remain mum about search warrants in the name of fighting terrorism.
The constitutional arguments against gagged warrant requests in both cases are very similar, and a Microsoft victory in court could echo in a challenge to national security letters, the attorney reasoned.
Microsoft's legal challenge follows a high-stakes battle over FBI demands for access to an iPhone used by a gunman in a December 2 rampage that left 14 dead in San Bernardino, California.
The government wanted Apple to create a new tool to bypass the smartphone's security systems, but the company refused.
Although that showdown ended with investigators saying they had extracted the data from the iPhone on their own, the Justice Department reignited the battle last week in a separate case involving someone accused of trafficking in methamphetamines.



**Department of International Relations
University of Dhaka**

**Admission Announcement
Postgraduate Diploma in International
Relations (PGDIR), Summer-2016**

The Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka is offering a 4-month long *Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations* (PGDIR) for the Summer, 2016 session. The program is designed to equip different segments of the society to face the challenges of time as well as to provide an in depth understanding and analysis of the issues and events having implications at national, regional, and global levels. Individuals planning to sit for competitive examinations will also benefit from this program.

Eligibility: At least a bachelor's degree from any discipline with 2nd class/CGPA 3.00 on a 4.0 scale.
Duration: May - August, 2016.
Class Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon on every weekend (Fridays & Saturdays)
Course Fee: Tk.22,000 (Full payment before enrollment)
Admission Procedure: Application forms to be collected from and submitted to the Office of the Department on working days (9:00am - 5:00pm) at a cost of Tk.300 on or before **5 May 2016**.

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