

‘TM BACK’  
Trump returns to  
Facebook, YouTube

AFP, Washington

Former president Donald Trump wrote his first posts on his reinstated Facebook and YouTube accounts Friday, more than two years after he was banned over the US Capitol insurrection.

“TM BACK,” Trump exclaimed, alongside a 12-second video clip that appeared to show him giving his victory speech after winning the 2016 election saying: “Sorry to keep you waiting – complicated business.”

The 76-year-old Republican leader – who is running for president again – has been unable to post any content for his 34 million Facebook followers and 2.6 million YouTube subscribers.

The platforms benched Trump days after the January 6, 2021 insurrection, when a mob of his supporters seeking to halt the certification of his election defeat to Joe Biden stormed the US Capitol in Washington.

He was sanctioned for posting content that the platforms said incited unrest, with YouTube announcing his reinstatement on Friday, two months after Facebook said it was unlocking his account.

The former reality TV star had spent weeks falsely claiming that the presidential election was stolen from him, and he was subsequently impeached for inciting the riot.

The former president’s Twitter account, which has 87 million followers, was also blocked after the riot.

New Twitter owner Elon Musk reinstated Trump last November, days after Trump announced a fresh White House run, but he has yet to post there.



Policemen use heavy machinery to enter Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan's residence in Lahore yesterday after Khan left for Islamabad to appear before a court.

PHOTO: AFP

HIMALAYAN FLASHPOINTS

Situation with China fragile,  
dangerous: India

REUTERS, New Delhi

The situation between India and China in the western Himalayan region of Ladakh is fragile and dangerous, with military forces deployed very close to each other in some parts, Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said yesterday.

At least 24 soldiers were killed when the two sides clashed in the region in mid-2020, but the situation has been calmed through rounds of diplomatic and military talks.

Violence erupted in the eastern sector of the undemarcated border between the nuclear-

armed Asia giants in December but did not result in any deaths.

“The situation by my mind still remains very fragile because there are places where our deployments are very close up and in military assessment therefore quite dangerous,” Jaishankar said at an India Today conclave.

India-China relations cannot go back to normal, he said, until the border row is resolved in line with the September 2020 in-principle agreement he reached with his Chinese counterpart.

“The Chinese have to deliver on what was agreed to, and they have struggled with that.”

Although forces from both sides have disengaged from many areas, discussions are proceeding over unresolved points, Jaishankar said.

“We have made it very clear to the Chinese that we cannot have a breach of peace and tranquility, you can’t violate agreement and want the rest of the relationship to continue as though nothing happened. That’s just not tenable.”

Jaishankar said he discussed the situation with China’s new foreign minister, Qin Gang, on the sidelines of a meeting of the foreign ministers of the G20 nations hosted by India this

month.

Regarding India’s presidency of G20 this year, Jaishankar said India has made progress and expressed hope that New Delhi can make the forum “more true to its global mandate”.

“The G20 should not be a debating club or an arena only of the global north. The entirety of global concerns needs to be captured. We have already made that point very forcefully,” Jaishankar said.

Two G20 ministerial meetings in India in the last three weeks have been overshadowed by Russia’s 13-month invasion of Ukraine.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT  
100 killed this year

AFP, Ramallah

Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian Friday in what the army described as an attempted “stabbing attack”, bringing the number of people killed in the conflict this year to 100.

The Palestinian health ministry announced the death of Yazan Omar Jamil Khasib, 23, who died “after the occupation (Israel) opened fire on him at the northern entrance of Al-Bireh” city near Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli army said “soldiers spotted a suspect and asked him to identify himself. The suspect drew a knife and approached the forces who responded by opening fire”. “The assailant was neutralised,” the army said in a statement, adding that the incident took place close to Beitin, a Palestinian village near Al-Bireh.

No military personnel were injured in the incident, it added.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the Six-Day War of 1967. Since the start of the year, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has claimed the lives of 86 Palestinian militants and civilians, including children.

Thirteen Israeli adults and children, including members of the security forces and civilians, and one Ukrainian civilian have been killed over the same period, according to an AFP tally based on official sources from both sides.

Millions of dead fish  
clog Australian river

AFP, Sydney



Millions of dead and rotting fish have clogged a vast stretch of river near a remote town in the Australian outback as a searing heatwave sweeps through the region. Videos posted to social media showed boats ploughing through a blanket of dead fish smothering the water, with the surface barely visible underneath. The New South Wales government said on Friday that “millions” of fish had died in the Darling River near the small town of Menindee, in the third mass kill to hit the area since 2018. “It’s horrific really, there’s dead fish as far as you can see,” Menindee local Graeme McCrabb told AFP. “These fish deaths are related to low oxygen levels in the water (hypoxia) as flood waters recede,” the government said in a statement.

# The 23<sup>rd</sup> Convocation

## Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

### IUB AT A GLANCE

Established in 1993, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is one of the oldest and leading private universities in Bangladesh with an explicit focus on research and global partnerships. With a current enrollment of around 10,000 students at undergraduate and graduate levels, more than 370 highly-qualified faculty members, 64% of whom have PhDs, and an alumni strength of close to 15,000, IUB aims to ensure quality education for all to promote the national agenda of sustainable inclusive development.

**IUB Campus**

The IUB campus is spread over 3 acres, has an amphitheater, dedicated state-of-the-art laboratories for life, environmental and social sciences, and engineering. There are 75 multimedia classrooms that are fully-equipped for both physical and online classes. The IUB campus also hosts an auditorium, separate gymnasiums for men and women, swimming pool, yoga studio, chess and carrom stations, table tennis court, spacious sports complex and a food court. There is also a dormitory for female students from outside Dhaka and a guest-house for visiting scholars. The IUB Library contains over 30,000+ books and access to renowned resource hubs such as ABI Global (ProQuest), Cambridge University Press Journals, EBSCOhost, Emerald Journals, IEEEExplore, JSTOR Journals, Literary Encyclopedia, National Geographic, SpringerLink Journals, and so on. The faculty members of IUB are actively engaged in research and publish regularly in peer-reviewed journals. Along with conventional classroom-based teaching, students are engaged in research relatively early in their academic lives. In 2021, IUB spent a total of BDT 3.05 crore in funding research activities.

**Academic Programs**

The academic curriculum is based on the North American Liberal Arts Model and the medium of instruction is English. There are currently five academic schools:

- School of Business & Entrepreneurship
- School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences
- School of Environment & Life Sciences
- School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
- School of Pharmacy and Public Health

**Financial Aid & Student Employment**

IUB strongly believes that financial circumstances should never keep eligible students away from great achievements. The Financial Aid Office of IUB caters with high priority to the university's commitment to meet the financial need of eligible students. Strictly

adhering to the Private University Act 2010 of Bangladesh, the Financial Aid Policy of IUB offers financial aid, scholarships and discounts on tuition fees in the following categories:

**Waiver**

- on admission test result
- on previous academic attainments
- for wards of freedom fighters

**Discount for**

- Female students
- Disabled students
- Excellence in extracurricular activities
- Siblings admission policy
- Students from small ethnic communities
- Children of IUB alumni

Students can also avail financial benefit by working as Student on Duty (SOD), Teaching Assistant (TA), and Graduate Assistant (GA).

**Facilities for underprivileged female students**

From its strong commitment to support a broadly diverse student community, IUB offers scholarships along with free boarding and lodging at the "Saima Hall" dormitory to meritorious underprivileged female students from outside Dhaka in collaboration with the Shaheed Khalek and Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust.

**Live-in-Field Experience**

IUB's pioneering Program, Live-in-Field Experience, a 3-credit Program mandatory for all undergraduate students, gives a distinctive opportunity to learn about rural life. The program complements the course titled "National Culture and Heritage", a comprehensive study of the history, society and culture of Bangladesh.

**Co-Curricular Activities**

IUB places strong emphasis on co-curricular activities and provides students with unlimited opportunities to enhance their talent and skills. The Division of Student Activities (DoSA) coordinates all student activities including the programming of the 48 student clubs. Students are also encouraged to participate in community services programs like blood donation drives, distribution of winter clothes in marginalized locations, fundraising for victims of natural disasters, and so on to promote leadership and personal growth.

### POFILE OF THE 23<sup>RD</sup> CONVOCATION SPEAKER

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud is an internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi economist and a leading economic policy expert, having expertise in a wide range of fields including development and growth theory, macroeconomic reforms, microfinance, migration, agricultural and rural diversification, poverty reduction, sustainable development, and rethinking of economics from moral perspectives.

Born in 1948 in Noakhali, Dr. Mahmud has the rare distinction of obtaining the top position, with record marks, in all his public examinations from the Secondary School Certificate to the Master's in Economics. He then went to the University of Cambridge, UK, and obtained his PhD in 1977.

Dr. Mahmud joined in 1969 as a faculty at the University of Dhaka, from where he retired in 2011 as Professor of Economics. Currently, he is Chairman of Economic Research Group, Dhaka, and is on the Board of the Global Development Network (GDN), and is also affiliated in advisory capacity with the International Growth Centre based at the London School of Economics. He has served as a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) and as Chairman of the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes. He has also worked in various teaching and research roles at the University of Cambridge, IDS at Sussex University, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), UNDP, and the World Bank, among other institutions.

In addition to his teaching roles, Dr. Mahmud has been closely involved with the formulation of key economic policies in Bangladesh. Notably, he chaired the Panel of Economists for the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Five-Year Plans and the Perspective Plan of the Government of Bangladesh (2015-2030), and he also chairs the National Advisory Committee of the Bangladesh government's "Vision 2041" strategic plan. He led the government committee for monitoring and implementation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and, since 2001, he has overseen as chair of the technical committee the periodic revisions of Bangladesh's national income accounts. He was on the Board of the Bangladesh Bank for 16 years, during which time he chaired two bank reform committees. He is a co-founder and a former Chairman of the PKSF, the apex organization for funding the microcredit programmes of NGOs in Bangladesh. In 1996, he served as a member of the Caretaker government in charge of the ministries of finance and planning. He received the Bangladesh Bank Award in 2020 for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of Bangladesh's economy.

Dr. Mahmud has published on a wide range of topics in economic development, and is on the editorial advisory board of several international academic journals. His authored and edited books include, among others, Adjustment and Beyond: the Reform Experience in South Asia (Palgrave-Macmillan for the International Economic Association), Handbook on the South Asian Economies (Edward Elgar), The Theory and Practice of Microcredit (Routledge), Seasonality of Hunger and Public Policies (World Bank Publications), and most recently, Markets, Morals and Development: Rethinking Economics from a Developing Country Perspective (Routledge).

His late wife, Simeen Mahmud, was an internationally acclaimed researcher in demography and gender studies. His two sons studied, respectively, public policy at Harvard and astrophysics at Rice University in the US and his only daughter is Assistant Professor of Demography at the University of California, Berkeley.

### GRADUATING STUDENTS OF THE 23<sup>RD</sup> CONVOCATION

Name of School	Graduate	Undergraduate
Business & Entrepreneurship	259	688
Engineering, Technology & Sciences	18	265
Environment and Life Sciences	20	91
Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	16	96
Pharmacy and Public Health	6	-
Total	319	1,140

### THE 23<sup>RD</sup> CONVOCATION AT A GLANCE

Total Number of Graduates : 1,459  
Undergraduate Level : 1,140 | Graduate Level : 319

TOP PERFORMERS			
Chancellor's Gold Medalist	03	Magna Cum Laude	42
Summa Cum Laude	23	Cum Laude	80

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### TOP PERFORMERS | Undergraduate Program

**Chancellor's Gold Medalist**

**All-Rounder Award**

**Cultural Activities Award**

**Sports Activities Award**

**Community Service Award**

**TOP PERFORMERS AT SCHOOL LEVEL | Undergraduate Program**

**Graduate Program**

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