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INDEPENDENCE DAY World leaders send greetings

US, India, China, Russia seek to bolster ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

World leaders yesterday congratulated the leaders and people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the country's 54th Independence Day and expressed their commitments to deepen their ties with Bangladesh.

In a statement, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed the US's commitment to strengthen democratic governance and protecting human rights, efforts which will increase Bangladesh's prosperity.

"The United States is proud to partner with Bangladesh on many of today's most pressing issues, including combating climate change, advancing economic development, responding to the Rohingya refugee crisis, supporting peacekeeping operations worldwide, and addressing global health challenges."

He said the US-Bangladesh partnership plays an important role in ensuring a free, open, secure,

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Two people struggle to get an overloaded rickshaw van across a level crossing in Dhaka's Sayedabad. Vehicles often get stuck on this level crossing due to its poor condition. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

5 of a family electrocuted to death

They include 3 children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moubibazar

Five people, including three children of a family, were electrocuted to death in Goalbari village of Moulvibazar's Juri upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were Foizur Rahman, 52, his wife Siri Begum, 45, daughters Samia Begum, 16, and Sabina, 13, and son Sayem, 10.

His eight-year-old daughter Sonia Akhter, who was critically injured in the incident, was undergoing treatment at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Quoting his relatives, police said a live electric wire fell on the corrugated-iron sheet house of Foizur during a storm around 5:00am. A fire broke out after the wire fell on the house.

As the victims were trying to get out, they were electrocuted to death, said police.

On information, police and fire service officials went to the spot, doused the fire and recovered the bodies, said SM Main Uddin, officer-in-charge of Juri Police Station.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT JNU For 2yrs, suspect protected, victim tormented

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

For two years the Department of Film and Television of Jagannath University protected a teacher accused of sexual harassment and went after the complainant.

It was not until the death by suicide of another unrelated sexual harassment victim in the university that the authorities take action against the suspect and his abettor.

Fairuz Sadaf Abontika died by suicide on March 15 after failing to get a remedy for harassment by a classmate.

Six days later,

lecturer Abu Shahed Emon was suspended and his abettor and chairman of the department Prof Junaid Halim was relieved from his post on March 21 in connection with a sexual harassment complaint filed two years ago.

The victim, then a second-year student, verbally complained to the department that Emon sexually harassed her in 2019.

Angered by her move, Emon mounted pressure on her via another teacher and did not let her sit for a mid-term exam in 2021.

The student in December 2021 wrote to the university authorities for redress but it yielded no results.

It was not until the death of law student Abontika, who also did not get any remedy after filing a harassment

"I have been deprived of justice. Suspension is hardly a punishment. I want the expulsion of the accused teachers."

Says the victim

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Baltimore bridge collapses after ship collision Six missing as vehicles plunge into harbour

REUTERS, Baltimore

A 948-foot container ship smashed into a four-lane bridge in the US port of Baltimore in darkness early yesterday, causing it to collapse and sending cars and people plunging into the river below.

Rescuers pulled out two survivors, one in very serious condition, and were searching for more in the Patapsco River after huge spans of the 1.6-mile Francis Scott Key Bridge crumpled into the water.

Baltimore officials said at least six people were believed to have been thrown into the water but could not give an exact figure hours after the collision, which closed one of the busiest ports in the United States.

The ship was identified as the Dali, owned by Grace Ocean Pte Ltd and managed by Synergy Marine Corp.

Kevin Cartwright, the spokesperson for Baltimore City Fire Department, earlier told Reuters that as many as 20 people could be in the river along with cars and possibly a tractor-trailer.

No let-up in Gaza attacks despite UN resolution

70 Palestinians killed in Israeli air strikes in north, south Gaza

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Israeli troops battled Hamas fighters in the Gaza Strip yesterday, with no sign of a let-up in the offensive despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an "immediate ceasefire".

Israeli air strikes killed at least 70 people in north and south Gaza early yesterday, according to the Gaza health ministry, including 18 in Israeli air strikes around the south Gazan city of Rafah, a key flashpoint in the offensive.

Dozens of Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles surrounded the Nasser Hospital, where thousands of displaced people have sought refuge from the fighting.

Witnesses told AFP yesterday that shots were being fired at the sprawling complex in the southern city of Khan Yunis.

Gaza's Hamas run health ministry said Israeli troops were shooting and firing "shells and (conducting) violent raids in its surroundings in preparation for its storming".

"Thousands of displaced people are still inside the hospital," the ministry said. "They do not have sufficient quantities of drinking water, food and infant formula, and

- » Dozens of tanks surround Nasser Hospital
- » Thousands displaced still inside the hospital
- » Negotiations 'ongoing' for Gaza truce: Qatar
- » Death toll in enclave now 32,414



their lives are in danger."

For the past nine days, Israeli troops have been involved in heavy fighting in and around Gaza City's Al-Shifa Hospital, the territory's biggest. They claim to have killed 170 Hamas

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INDOMITABLE MARCH

Archer K blood's situation report

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

March 27, 1971

American Consul General Archer K Blood in a situation report submitted on March 27, 1971, wrote that according to numerous accounts, including eye witness reports, the Pak military crackdown on Bangalee nationalists has been carried out throughout Dacca swiftly, efficiently (despite heavy resistance from some quarters, including pro-Awami League police and East Pak Rifles), and often with ruthless brutality.

Referring to the then Indian deputy high commissioner, he stated that the Pak Army surrounded Tanti Bazar and Shankhari Bazar, predominantly Hindu areas, and burnt houses and innocent people. Residents fleeing the areas were also not spared, he added.

He further reported that thousands of Bangalees were streaming through the city, carrying personal belongings, to find shelter.

Brian Bell, public affairs officer of the American consulate in Dhaka, toured the city on the same day and reported that the Ittefaq office was razed; police barracks at Rajarbagh police camp leveled, apparently by heavy guns; Iqbal Hall badly damaged with dead body lies 10 feet from entrance, and a large area on the outskirts of Old Dhaka gutted.

The army also demolished the Central Shaheed Minar.

ZIA'S HISTORIC RADIO BROADCAST

Maj Ziaur Rahman, at 7:45pm on March 27, made a radio broadcast from Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in Kalurghat, north of Chattogram city.

"This is Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. I, Major

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Anticipatory bail cannot be open-ended

Observes SC in full text of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the full text of an order has observed that nobody can be granted anticipatory bail for an indefinite period.

"...The principle as enunciated in all the cases mentioned above is that the person/persons should not be allowed to remain on anticipatory bail for an indefinite period.

"Thus, the High Court Division failed to consider the principle as enunciated in the aforesaid decisions while enlarging the respondents on anticipatory bail till filing of the police report. Because sometime investigating agencies require more time to submit their report for the purpose of proper investigation. In the circumstances, the accused is not entitled to enjoy the privilege of anticipatory bail till filing of the police report," a three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, said in the full text of the order which was released recently.

The other judges of the bench are Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Abu Zafor Siddique.

On March 6, the Appellate Division bench delivered the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by the state challenging a High Court order.

The HC on November 8 last year granted anticipatory bail to BNP leaders and SC lawyers Zainul Abedin and AM Mahub Uddin Khokon till submission of the police

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The Dali cargo vessel after it crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge causing it to collapse in Baltimore, Maryland yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

To instill a love for books: Youth sets up library for children

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-45	4-45	6-16	7-45
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-00	6-26	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING				
RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR	
16	27			6:16
17	28	4:34		6:16
18	29	4:33		6:17