



A joyous stroll with mother turns tragic 5-yr-old dies as wall collapses on him in Rampura

RAFIUL ISLAM

Five-year-old Jisan joined mother early yesterday morning on a simple errandto bring tea and breakfast from

Jisan a nearby eatery in the capital's Rampura area.

Bursting with excitement, he was frolicking behind his mother, holding his two-year-old sister Fatema Akter with one hand and carefully balancing a mug to bring back tea with the other, just a few hundred yards from their rented tin-roofed home in the Kunjaban area.

But little did they know about the tragedy that was about to strike them.

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SQUIRRELING ABOUT... An orange-bellied Himalayan squirrel spotted while tree-hopping in the Rangamati's Kaptai National Park. The rodent is found in Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. Like other squirrel species, it is primarily arboreal and herbivorous. One of its most distinguishable features is its vibrant colouration - the fur is predominantly a dark or reddish brown while its belly is a striking shade of orange. It's known to be an agile and solitary creature, preferring to remain on its own until breeding season. Despite its range across South Asia, its numbers have been dropping over the years due to rampant deforestation. The IUCN has categorised the species as "Near Threatened" in its Red List.

Dhaka unhappy with Hasina's statements in Indian media Asks Delhi to bar her from doing so

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Expressing dissatisfaction over former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's frequent political statements from India, Dhaka has requested New Delhi to intervene and

"The government is unhappy with Sheikh Hasina's political statements appearing frequently in Indian media. We have communicated our dissatisfaction to the Indian government through the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka," Toufique Hasan, director general at the foreign ministry's Public Diplomacy Wing, said at the weekly briefing at the ministry vesterday.

About the response from the Indian government, he said the Indian envoy told officials that he would pass the message to his government.

Hasina fled to India on August 5 after the fall of her government in the face of a mass uprising.

About initiating the process for repatriating Hasina in line with an order of the International Crimes Tribunal,

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Challenge for govt is to meet expectations

Says ICG report on interim govt's 100 days in office

STAR REPORT

The interim government should be unstinting in seeking consensus among political parties and other key groups, such as the army and students, as it faces key challenges in carrying out political, economic, administrative, and electoral reforms, said Brussels-based International Crisis Group in a report yesterday.

The report also stressed the need for foreign governments and multilateral institutions' support for carrying out the reforms.

ICG in its report titled "A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform" said the Bangladesh government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus should balance demands for justice with the need for reconciliation, staying within the bounds of the constitution to mitigate the danger of its decisions being invalidated later.

The ICG report came as the interim government completed its 100 days in office following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5. The Yunus-led

government took charge on August 8. The report said the government, which is expected to remain in office

for another year or longer, should seek to hold fresh elections under a reformed polling system within a realistic timeframe, which should not extend beyond eighteen months.

According to the report, after fifteen years of Hasina's rule, Bangladesh has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve governance and put checks in place that would stop another autocratic regime from emerging. If the interim government falters, however, the country could revert to the status quo ante or even enter a period of military rule.

The interim government should aim to produce quick results to maintain public support for more ambitious reforms. It should avoid staying in power too long and build consensus on new measures among political parties. External actors should offer aid; India should work to repair its image with the Bangladeshi people, it added.

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Talks grapple with trilliondollar task Spats continue as Argentina leaves **COP29**

REUTERS, Baku

Developing countries need at least \$1 trillion per year by the end of the decade to cope with climate change, economists told UN talks in Baku, where early efforts to reach a finance deal risk being overshadowed by diplomatic rows.

Money is a focus at COP29 whose success is likely to be judged by whether it can agree a new target for how much richer countries, development lenders and the private sector must provide each year to help developing countries finance the transition to greener energy and protect against extreme weather.

Reaching a deal is likely to be especially hard at a summit where the mood has been soured by disputes and pessimism about shifts in global politics.

'Parties must remember that the clock is ticking," COP29 Lead Negotiator Yalchin Rafiyev told a news conference. "They must use this precious time to talk to each other directly and SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Textbooks to feature July uprising

Materials like images, poems, essays to be in next year's books for classes five to 10

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The government is set to incorporate content on the student-led uprising into school textbooks for the 2025 academic year.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has already begun developing materials depicting the uprising, NCTB Chairman Professor Reazul Hassan told The Daily Star.

He said the materials are likely to appear as images, poems, or essays and will be featured in Bangla and English textbooks of classes

The Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, ousted on August 5, had introduced the National Curriculum-2022, which was rolled out for classes one, six, and seven in 2023, and to classes two, three, eight, and nine this year.

Describing "unimplementable", the interim government decided to discontinue this curriculum and revert to the one framed in 2012.

The textbooks being printed now are of the 2012 curriculum. Printing of Bangla and English books for classes five to 10 has not begun vet.

Asked if stories would focus on individuals who lost their lives, the NCTB chairman said there might be stories about figures like Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed, Khulna University student Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho or other individuals.

"There would be materials on all major uprisings in the history of the country. In those articles, we have plans to incorporate the recent uprising and its heroes," Prof Reazul added.

The textbook board chairman said there will also be content on graffiti and Generation Z (those born between the late 1990s and early 2010s), which played a pivotal role in the uprising, he said.

He also said the cover pages of the textbooks will feature several pieces of graffiti depicting the uprising, which had been decided

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Loyalists, firebrands get top posts in Trump cabinet

Matt Gaetz to head justice dept, Tulsi Gabbard to be director of national intelligence





Tulsi Gabbard

Matt Gaetz

REUTERS

US President-elect Donald Trump chose loyalists with little experience for several key cabinet positions on Wednesday, stunning some allies and making clear that he is serious about reshaping - and in some cases testing America's institutions.

Trump's choice of congressman Matt Gaetz, 42, for US attorney general, America's top law enforcement officer, was a surprising pick. The former attorney has never worked in the Justice Department, or as a prosecutor, and was investigated by the Justice Department over sex trafficking allegations. His office said in 2023 that he had been told by prosecutors he would not face criminal

Trump chose Tulsi Gabbard as director of national intelligence. The former Democratic congresswomanturned-Trump-ally has in the past spoken out against military intervention in the civil war in Syria under former president Barack Obama and implied that Russian President Vladimir Putin had valid grounds for invading Ukraine, America's ally.

Freeze accounts of NRBC Bank chairman **BFIU** asks banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banks have been asked to freeze all personal and private company accounts of three top former and current officials of NRBC Bank

They are Parvez Tamal, chairman; Mohammad Adnan Imam, former executive committee chairman; and Md Jafar Iqbal Howlader, vice president of the financial administration division. Yesterday, the Bangladesh Financial

Intelligence Unit (BFIU) through a letter ordered banks to keep their personal and private company accounts frozen for 30 days in the first phase. The intelligence unit also sought an

update on the details of their personal and company accounts within five working days.

There are several allegations of corruption related to money laundering and recruitment business against a number of board members of the bank, including Tamal and some top management officials.

A central bank report found that the bank outsourced various services at higher rates from the companies of SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Fish traders have set up makeshift shops on this road in the capital's Karwan Bazar area, obstructing traffic. Police personnel in a vehicle appear to be unbothered by the blatant violation of rules. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Air strikes hit Beirut, south Lebanon

Five killed; ceasefire terms come into focus

REUTERS, Beirut

Israeli forces launched airstrikes on Hezbollah-controlled areas in Beirut for a third consecutive day yesterday, hitting locations in the capital's southern suburbs early in the morning after a night of heavy bombardments.

Plumes of smoke rose over Beirut as the strikes continued, while raids also reached southern Lebanon's Bint Jbeil, where overnight airstrikes and artillery shelling inflicted heavy damage on buildings and residential complexes, according to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA).

Five people were killed in airstrikes on the towns of

Bazourieh and Jumayjimah, NNA reported.
Lebanese authorities said areas in Beirut's southern suburbs have been largely evacuated. According to the health ministry, Israeli attacks have killed at least 3,365 people and wounded 14,344 across Lebanon since October 7.

A senior Lebanese official has signalled that Hezbollah is ready to pull its forces away from the Lebanese-Israeli border in any ceasefire, whilst rejecting Israel's demand for freedom to act against the Iran-backed group in the future.

Ali Hassan Khalil, speaking to Al Jazeera late on Wednesday, said Lebanon was ready to "precisely" implement a UN Security Council resolution that ended a 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. Its terms require Hezbollah to remove fighters and weapons from areas between the border and the Litani River.