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## Invest more in service sector to boost export

### Yunus to business people

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the country's business community and entrepreneurs to come forward to strengthen its export base with more investment in the services sector to boost overall exports to the competitive global market.

"We need to enhance our exports. I urge all businesspeople to come forward to invest more in the services sector in addition to products to boost our exports," he said while inaugurating the 29th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)-2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre at Purbachal.

Highlighting the importance of entrepreneurs' role, Dr Yunus said developing an exportable product is important but it is more important to know who developed the product.

The chief adviser said every year, an initiative is launched to announce



SEE PAGE 6 COL 7



Braving the biting cold, labourers are working in a potato field in Yakubpur village of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday morning. The northern district has been experiencing severe cold weather for the last couple of days.

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

## Wrong name of July martyr printed in textbook

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has made an error in publishing the name of a July uprising martyr in one of the textbooks for fifth graders.

The Bangla textbook reads that along with others, a protester named Nahiyen was killed. However, NCTB officials said it was meant to be Nafisa Hossain, a protester killed by law enforcers in Savar.

The book tells the story of Abu Sayed, a student leader in Rangpur, who was shot dead by police at a close range while he stood with his arms outstretched in defiance against police brutality. His death and the photo of defiance spread like wildfire, drawing people from all corners of the country onto the streets.

A massive uprising followed. In Dhaka's Uttara, Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho, a student, was killed while giving out water bottles to protesters.

"Countless lives were lost, including [Golam] Nafiz, Nahiyen and Anas. Even children in their mothers' arms, children playing with their fathers, rickshaw pullers, labourers, farmers, hawkers, office

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## DUAL CITIZENSHIP ACC seeks info on govt employees

### Sues ex-law minister over corruption

DIPAN NANDY

After former ministers and lawmakers, the Anti-Corruption Commission is now enquiring about government employees' dual citizenship.

The anti-graft body yesterday wrote to the Security Service Division under the home ministry, the Department of Immigration and Passports and the Special Branch of Bangladesh Police, seeking relevant information, said Akhtar Hossain, director general (prevention) of the ACC.

Recently, the ACC urged the Election Commission and the home ministry to take action against 24 former ministers and lawmakers who held foreign citizenship while in office.

Concealing information, several corrupt government officials are obtaining and using passports of other countries, the letter said.

"Through this, these suspects are trying to protect themselves from legal action and cover up their misdeeds."

Taking up second citizenship is a violation of section 40 of the Government Service Act-2018, section 21 of the Penal Code, section 2 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 and section 110 of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Israeli air strikes kill 17 in Gaza

Over 1,500 tents flooded, unusable in the Palestinian enclave after days of rain

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israeli air strikes on al-Bureij refugee camp and Jabalia town in central and northern Gaza killed at least 17 Palestinians yesterday, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment although in a post on X, its Arabic spokesperson warned residents of al-Bureij earlier to evacuate ahead of an imminent strike against Hamas men firing rockets from the area.

It also said overnight that it killed Abd al-Hadi Sabah, a senior Hamas member who helped lead the infiltration into Kibbutz Nir Oz during the October 7, 2023 attack by the group on southern Israel.

The instruction to clear the al-Bureij camp has caused a new wave of displacement, although it was not immediately clear how many people were affected.

Israel's Gaza campaign has killed at least 45,553 Palestinians, according to health officials in the Hamas-run enclave. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced and much of the tiny coastal strip is in ruins.

Palestinian and United Nations officials say

no place is safe in Gaza and that evacuations worsen the humanitarian conditions of the population.

According to the Palestinian civil defence, more than 1,500 tents sheltering displaced people across Gaza were flooded by heavy rains over the past two days, leaving people exposed to the cold, their belongings damaged.

Hundreds more tents experienced less severe flooding that still left displaced people unable to use them.

Much of the area around the northern towns of Beit Hanoun, Jabalia and Beit Lahiya has been cleared of people and razed, fuelling speculation Israel intends to keep the area as a closed buffer zone after the fighting in Gaza ends.

WAFA said the military blew up residential blocks in Beit Lahiya and in and around Jabalia, while tanks shelled parts of Gaza City and the al-Bureij camp.

Meanwhile, Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz warned yesterday that Israel will step up its strikes in Gaza if Hamas keeps up its rocket fire at Israel.

The Hamas-run territory's health ministry said seven children have died from the cold over the past week.

- » Residents of al-Bureij camp told to evacuate
- » Senior Hamas member killed in drone strike
- » Death toll in Gaza rises to 45,553

## SC lawyers' team to seek Chinmoy's bail today

FMMIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

A team of 11 Supreme Court lawyers will take part in today's bail hearing for former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari.

Court sources said the team, led by lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhattacharjee, will represent Chinmoy, also spokesperson for Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, in the sedition case filed over disrespecting the national flag.

Contacted, lawyer Apurba said, "We have come to Chattogram under the banner of Ainjibi Oikya Parishad, and we will move for Chinmoy in the court for his bail."

"I already got the Vakalatnama from Chinmoy. I'm a member of both the Supreme Court and Chattogram Bar associations, so I don't need authorisation from any local lawyer to move the case," he told The

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



## Mystery of famine-causing volcanic eruption solved

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A team of researchers have helped solve the mystery over a volcanic eruption that caused famines and crop failures around the world, almost 200 years ago.

Scientists from the University of St Andrews say they have discovered the exact volcano that erupted in 1831, leading to a global cooling of approximately 1°C.

The team discovered it was the Zavaritskii volcano on the remote, uninhabited island of Simushir, which is part of the Kuril Islands -- a disputed territory

between Russia and Japan.

Currently controlled by Russia, the island operates as a strategic military outpost. During the Cold War, the Soviets used Simushir as a secret nuclear submarine base, docking vessels in a flooded volcanic crater.

Scientists also discovered the eruption occurred sometime during spring or summer. Scientists were previously unsure as to which volcano had erupted, and it was debated in the science community for many years.

However, the new research, led by Dr Will Hutchison from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, reveals how the team analysed ice core records from the event, identifying a perfect match of the ash reports.



## 3 lives lost in road crashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Three people were killed and six others were injured yesterday in separate road accidents in Narayanganj's Rugganj upazila.

Hridoy Khan, 26, son of Kalam Khan of Barisal, died after his motorcycle collided head-on with a brick-laden three-wheeler (also known as Nosimon) on the Kanchan-Rups road in the upazila's Hatabo area around 8:00am.

Hridoy died on the spot while his pillion riders, Munna and Shanto, were critically injured, said Mehedi Islam, senior assistant superintendent of Narayanganj police.

The officer said they came to the area from Dhaka's Notun Bazar area to drink date juice. The injured are currently being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he added.

Meanwhile, Ram Das, 70, and Md Ebadullah, 71, both residents of Hatabo, died after a private car

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Palestinian children inspect the damage at the site of an Israeli strike the previous night, in Jabalia, in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. As most of the world welcomed the new year with fireworks and music, Palestinians in Gaza entered 2025 with the sound of air strikes that flattened more buildings and killed 17 more.

PHOTO: AFP

## 10 killed as driver rams truck into New Orleans crowd

### Suspect killed; over 35 hurt; FBI launches terror probe

AFP, Washington

A US citizen with an Islamic State flag slammed a pickup truck into a crowd of New Year revellers in New Orleans yesterday, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 35, officials said.

The FBI identified the attacker as Shamsud-Din Jabbar, a 42-year-old "US citizen from Texas."

"An ISIS flag was located in the vehicle, and the FBI is working to determine the subject's potential associations and affiliations with terrorist organisations," the FBI said in a statement.

The suspect was fatally shot in an exchange of gunfire with police. Potential homemade bombs were found in his truck and around the Louisiana city's famed French Quarter, the FBI said.

Local police said the incident took place at around 3:15am (0915 GMT) in the heart of the French Quarter, which was packed with people celebrating the start of 2025.

"This man was trying to run over as many people as he possibly could," Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick told reporters.

Driving at "very high speed" and in a "very intentional" manner, "he was hellbent on creating the carnage and the damage that he did," Kirkpatrick said. He wounded two

PHOTO ON PAGE 8

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2