

'We need to be patient'

Says Kremlin on Trump and possible Ukraine talks; 3 killed in Russian strikes

AGENCIES
The Kremlin said yesterday there had been a lot of inaccurate reports on US plans for ending the Ukraine war and called for patience as speculation swirled around the timing of a possible meeting between presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump.

At a briefing with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was asked about a report that Trump's envoy for Russia and Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, was seeking to arrange a truce even before talks on a peace settlement. "We have nothing to add yet. There are a lot of statements and reports on this topic that are refuted, changed, recognised as hoaxes or something else the next day," Peskov said. "There is nothing substantive on this account yet; we just need to be patient."

Trump and Putin have both said they are keen to meet in person. The agenda, if such a meeting takes place, is expected to focus on Trump's stated aim to bring a swift end to the three-year old conflict, reports Reuters.

"Russia is open to negotiations. In any case, a settlement should come as a result of negotiations," Peskov said.

Meanwhile, Russian strikes on the Ukrainian border region of Sumy overnight killed three people who were pulled from the rubble of a two-storey residential building, prosecutors said yesterday.



A National Guard officer on a pickup truck stands guard during a check on vehicles heading to the United States at the Mexican side of the San Ysidro crossing port in Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico, on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

China blames US 'sabotage' after Panama exits BRI

REUTERS, Beijing

China is opposed to US "smearing and sabotage" of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Panama through "pressure and coercion", its foreign ministry said yesterday, after the South American nation decided to exit the programme.

At a regular press briefing, a ministry spokesperson, Lin Jian, said China deeply regretted Panama's decision.

"We hope that Panama will make the right decision based on the overall situation of bilateral relations and the long-term interests of the two peoples, and eliminate external interference," he added.

Panama has formally presented a document to exit the Belt and Road Initiative, President Jose Raul Mulino said on Thursday, after meeting US Secretary of State



Marco Rubio this month, but denied that the United States had sought the move.

More than 20 Latin American nations are among the more than 150 countries that have participated in the Belt and Road Initiative, with results benefited their people, Lin said.

China introduced the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013.

In November 2017, Panama became the first Latin American country to officially join, five

months after switching diplomatic ties to China from Taiwan, the democratically governed island Beijing claims as its territory.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said Panama has ceded control of the canal to China, an accusation both nations deny.

The BRI is a massive infrastructure project that is a central pillar of using the BRI to enmesh developing nations in unsustainable debt to exert diplomatic leverage over them or even seize their assets.

Western critics accuse China of using the BRI to enmesh developing nations in unsustainable debt to exert diplomatic leverage over them or even seize their assets.

Beijing yesterday insisted that it "supports Panama's sovereignty over the canal". "The US side's attacks and interference in relevant cooperation once again expose its hegemonic nature," the foreign ministry said.

Six Chinese balloons detected near Taiwan

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan detected six Chinese balloons off the island, the defence ministry said yesterday, as Beijing maintains military pressure to push its claim of sovereignty.

The six balloons were spotted in the 24 hours to 6:00 am yesterday (2200 GMT Thursday), the ministry said, giving one of its highest daily tallies of the devices.

Along with the balloons, nine Chinese military aircraft, six warships and two official ships were detected near Taiwan over the same period.

SEISMIC ACTIVITY Greece declares state of emergency on Santorini

REUTERS, Santorini

Greek authorities are monitoring increased seismic activity on the island of Santorini, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said yesterday, urging the public to remain calm and follow the advice of the civil protection service.

Greece has declared a state of emergency on Santorini as hundreds of earthquakes have rattled the popular tourist island over the past week, prompting the evacuation of more than 10,000 residents and workers.

Authorities have warned of a high landslide risk on parts of the island and have shut schools, sent rescuers and advised residents to avoid indoor gatherings and ports. Army, fire service and police units have been deployed preemptively.

Some of the measures have been extended to islands of Amorgos, Ios and Anafi. "I want to assure the residents of Santorini and the neighbouring islands, which are being tested these days, that the state mechanism is on their side," Mitsotakis said.

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The 25th Convocation

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

IUB AT A GLANCE

Established in 1993, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is a leading private university in Bangladesh with a focus on research and global partnerships. With over 10,000 students enrolled at undergraduate and graduate levels, 237 highly qualified full-time faculty members (more than 50% holding PhD degrees), and an alumni network of nearly 19,000, IUB is committed to ensuring education for all to promote the national agenda of sustainable and inclusive development.

Vision
IUB aspires to be a leading seat of learning and research, developing technologically competent, environmentally responsible, and globally conscious future leaders with a strong liberal arts foundation.

Mission

- Produce graduates with cutting-edge knowledge and transferable skills.
- Foster an environment to enhance research and innovation promoting sustainable development.
- Develop impactful partnerships through academia, industry, and community engagement to contribute to the advancement of society.

The Campus
The IUB campus, spread over 3.2 acres in Bashundhara Residential Area, Dhaka, features an amphitheater, state-of-the-art laboratories for life, environmental and social sciences, pharmacology, and engineering. The campus houses 95 multimedia classrooms equipped for both physical and online classes, an auditorium, separate gymnasiums for men and women, a swimming pool, an international-standard squash court, yoga and self-defense studios, chess and carrom stations, table tennis courts, a spacious sports complex with a multipurpose pulastic floor, and a food court and cafeteria.

Accommodation
IUB offers secure, need-based dormitories for meritorious female students from outside Dhaka, foreign students, and a guesthouse for visiting scholars.

Library
The IUB Library contains over 250,000 e-books and provides access to renowned resource hubs, including ABI Global (ProQuest), Cambridge University Press Journals, EBSCOhost,

POFILE OF THE 25TH CONVOCATION SPEAKER

Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, former Executive Director of the Policy Research Institute (PRI), joined as the 13th Governor of Bangladesh Bank on 14 August 2024.

Dr. Mansur started his career in 1976 as a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Dhaka. In the same year, he left for Canada to pursue higher studies in Economics. As a graduate student and research assistant, he also imparted regular Economics courses at the undergraduate level at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, from 1978 to 1981. Dr. Mansur joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under its Economist Programme in 1981.

During his long career at the IMF, Dr. Mansur worked with Middle Eastern, Asian, African, and Central American countries. He worked in several important functional departments (Fiscal Affairs and Policy Review and Development departments) and area departments (the Middle East and Central Asia and Asian departments) of the IMF. He also served as the IMF Senior Resident Representative to Pakistan from 1998 to 2001 and as the Fiscal Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Government of Bangladesh (1989-91). During his assignment in Bangladesh, Dr. Mansur was involved in the successful introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in 1991. He also served as the Division Chief of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Division and, at the same time, as the IMF Mission Chief for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman. After taking early retirement, Dr. Mansur joined with some professionals to establish an institute for policy analysis and became the founding Director and Executive Director of the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh. Meanwhile, between 2017 and 2023, he served BRAC Bank PLC as a Director and later as the Chairman.

Dr. Mansur has published extensively in various prestigious journals (including Econometrica, Journal of Economic Theory, and IMF Staff Papers), edited books on specialized economic topics, and contributed to the IMF Occasional Paper and Working Paper series. He edited a book (with Fernando Delgado) titled Stock Market Developments in the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, published by Palgrave Macmillan in its Finance and Capital Markets Series in November 2008.

Dr. Mansur received the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in International Economics, awarded through an open worldwide competition (1979-81); the Special University Scholarship, University of Western Ontario (1977-81); the Graduate Students Award, University of Western Ontario (1977-81); the McMaster University Graduate Scholarship (1976-77); and the First Grade Merit Scholarship, University of Dhaka (1970-75).

Dr. Mansur obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, in 1982. He completed his M.A. at McMaster University, Canada, in 1977 and earned a B.A. (Hons.) in Economics with first-class honors and distinction in Mathematics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 1974.

GRADUATING STUDENTS OF THE 25TH CONVOCATION

Name of School	Graduate	Undergraduate
School of Business and Entrepreneurship	232	859
School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences	31	279
School of Environment and Life Sciences	-	118
School of Law	5	47
School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	34	88
School of Pharmacy and Public Health	63	159
Total	419	1,550

THE 25TH CONVOCATION AT A GLANCE

Total Number of Graduates : 1,969
Undergraduate Level: 1,550
Graduate Level : 419

TOP PERFORMERS (Undergraduate Level)

Chancellor's Gold Medal	02
Summa Cum Laude	20
Magna Cum Laude	98
Cum Laude	139

TOP PERFORMERS (Graduate Level)

Top Achiever's Awards	05
CGPA: 4.0 (on a scale of 4.0)	

TOP PERFORMERS

Valuedictorian and Chancellor's Gold Medalist	Chancellor's Gold Medalist	All-Rounder Award	Community Service Award	Community Service Award and Cultural Activities Award	Cultural Activities Award	Sports Activities Award

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

TOP ACHIEVER'S AWARD | Graduate Program

School of Environment & Life Sciences	School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences	School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

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Courtesy: **DHAKA BANK PLC.**

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