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## BUS ROBBERY 3 arrested, duty officer suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Police have arrested three suspects in Savar in connection with a robbery and the alleged sexual assault of women on board a moving bus in Rajshahi.

The force also suspended Atikuzzaman, the duty officer of Mirzapur Police Station in Tangail, for negligence of duty, the district's Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman said at a press briefing yesterday.

The arrestees are Shahidul Islam alias Muhit, 29, of Manikganj's Doulatpur, Mohammad Sabuj, 30, of Shariatpur's Zajira, and Md Sharifuzzaman alias Sharif, 28, of Savar.

Members of the Detective Branch of police in Tangail and Mirzapur Police Station personnel made the arrests during a joint drive in Savar's Genda on Friday evening. They also recovered Tk 29,370, three robbed mobile phones and a knife.

SP Mizanur said the suspects were

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Locals assess the damage caused by Friday night's fire at a sawmill at Khilgaon Taitola in the capital. Several cars and shops were completely gutted in the fire.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Unity crucial to save Bangladesh from plotters

Says Tarique

UNB, *Jashore*

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said unity among the democratic forces is crucial to protect Bangladesh and its people from conspirators.

"If we want to protect the people of the country and, above all, to safeguard Bangladesh, we must all remain united at any cost," he said while virtually addressing the council of the Jashore district unit BNP at Central Eidgah Maidan.

The BNP leader warned that autocratic forces were attempting to resurface and that conspirators were not sitting idle. "They are continuing their plans under various pretexts, but we cannot allow them to succeed."

"There may be differences of opinion among us. We'll sit together and discuss. If one discussion is not enough, we will sit again. Through discussions, we'll find solutions to our problems," he said.

He highlighted the BNP's commitment to rebuilding the country, stating that the party had presented a 31-point outline for the reform of the state structure, which includes plans for education, employment, healthcare, and agriculture.

Tarique said the main goal of his party is to restore the

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### REVISED BUDGET FOR FY25

# Government going for generous ADP

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

In a first, the ministries and divisions would be allocated more funds than they are seeking in the revised development budget for this fiscal year as the government attempts to rev up a slowing economy.

"The implementation has been slow due to the political changeover," said a planning ministry official.

In the first seven months of the fiscal year, only 21.52 percent of the ADP budget could be used.

"Usually, the ministries seek additional funds to what they are allotted. But this time, they demanded less than Tk 200,000 crore."

Since the finance division has made more funds available than the ministries' demands, the planning commission will accommodate the additional funds in the revised annual development programme (ADP), he said.

Subsequently, the number of the projects under ADP has been increased to 1,434 from 1,326 in the original ADP.

Of the 57 ministries and divisions, the allocation for 48 increased by 26 percent in the revised ADP.

The other eight ministries and divisions' allocation increased by

0.81 percent, the planning ministry official added.

Subsequently, the size of the revised budget for fiscal 2024-25's ADP is likely to be Tk 226,125 crore, down 19 percent from the original budget.

The draft of the revised ADP is set to be presented in today's extended Planning Commission meeting to be presided by Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud.

**"Usually, the ministries seek additional funds to what they are allotted. But this time, they demanded less than Tk 200,000 crore."**

A PLANNING MINISTRY OFFICIAL

Once the Planning Commission finalises the revised ADP, it will be placed at this month's National Economic Council meeting to be chaired by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

The proposed revised ADP will see about 46.5 percent of the total allocation going to three sectors: transport and communication, power and energy, and education.

Of the ministries and divisions, the local government and rural development ministry (Tk 36,159 crore), which is 16.74 percent of the total allocation. It was followed by power division (Tk 21,475 crore), road transport and bridges ministry (Tk 18,624.6 crore), primary and mass education ministry (Tk 12,764 crore) and science and technology ministry (Tk 12,129.63 crore).

In the draft proposal, the portion of government's own funds that would go towards ADP has been slashed by about 18.2 percent to Tk 135,000 crore and foreign funds by 19 percent to Tk 181,000 crore.

Besides, the ADP for the state-owned enterprises could be Tk 10,125 crore, which was Tk 13,288 crore originally.

The revised ADP will incorporate seven new directives that the ministries and divisions must follow.

As per one directive, the ministries have to submit combined proposals for small projects instead of sending separate proposals.

Also, the ministries have to give priority to projects taken in light of Green Climate Resilient Development (GCRD), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and Delta Appraisal Framework (DAF).

### ATTACK ON ADIVASIS Key suspect held in N'ganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested another suspect over the attack on a group of indigenous people outside the National Curriculum and Textbook Board in the city's Motijheel last month.

The arrestee, Saeed Fazlul Karim Swapan, 42, is a key suspect in a case filed over the attack, according to police.

A team from Motijheel Police Station arrested him during a drive in Narayanganj's Fatullah around 2:30am yesterday, said Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Later, Swapan was produced before a Dhaka court.

Police said they tracked Swapan by using advanced technology. With him, the number of arrests made in the case rose to five.

CCTV footage and video clips of the incident showed Swapan attacking Rupaiya Shrestha Tanchangya, 24, a central leader of the Students Against Discrimination platform, on that day.

On January 15, at least 20 people, including

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## Back resolution on Ukraine

US urges countries at UN;  
Trump calls for Putin-  
Zelensky talks

AFP, *United Nations*

The United States urged UN members to back its "simple, historic" resolution on the Ukraine war, which diplomatic sources said omits mention of Kyiv's territory occupied by Russia.

Washington's proposal, seen by AFP, appears to rival a separate draft resolution produced by Kyiv and its European allies -- countries that US President Donald Trump has sought to sideline from talks on the future of the three-year-old war between Russia and Ukraine.

Contrary to the Ukrainian-European proposal which blames Russia for the invasion and commits to Kyiv's "territorial integrity," the US's 65-word draft proposal does not criticise Moscow.

Instead, it calls for a "swift end to the conflict" without mentioning Kyiv's territorial integrity.

It also begins by "mourning the tragic loss of life throughout the Russia-Ukraine conflict," before "reiterating" that the United Nations' purpose is the maintenance of "international peace and security" -- without singling out Moscow as the source of the conflict.

Calling it a "simple, historic resolution," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged UN member states on Friday "to support (the US draft) in order to chart a path to peace."

The US draft was welcomed by Moscow's ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia as "a good move" -- but stressed that it did not address the "roots" of the conflict.

Earlier this week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had complained that his country had been left out of talks between US and Russian officials --

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## Great Wall of China may be centuries older than thought

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Archaeological excavations in eastern China's Shandong province suggest that some of the oldest sections of the Great Wall were built 300 years earlier than previously thought.

Recent digs in the Changqing area show that the engineering marvel wasn't a single construction project, but a series of fortifications built during multiple dynasties.

The Great Wall was built to secure ancient China's northern borders against nomadic groups from the Eurasian Steppe. Historical records suggest the construction of the Unesco World Heritage monument spanned centuries. However, extant documentation of the wall lacks details that could reveal its true origins.

It was believed that the largest portions of the first walls were constructed around the 7th century BC and joined together under the Qin dynasty around the third century BC.

However, new excavations undertaken last year and covering over 1,000 square meters found sections of the wall dating back to the late Western Zhou Dynasty, which ruled from 1046BC to 771BC, and to the early Spring and Autumn Period of 770-476BC.



**Josh Inglis and Glenn Maxwell embrace after guiding Australia to a five-wicket win against England in their ICC Champions Trophy fixture at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Inglis scored an unbeaten 120 as Australia chased down England's 351, powered by Ben Duckett's 165, with 15 balls to spare.**

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Records tumble as Aus beat Eng by five wickets

**India-Pakistan  
blockbuster clash in  
Dubai today at 3:00 pm.**

REUTERS, *Lahore*

Australia pulled off a monster chase against England in the Champions Trophy on Saturday after Josh Inglis's incendiary hundred helped them to prevail in a high-scoring Group B thriller by five wickets.

Opener Ben Duckett smashed 165 to propel England to 351-8, a record total in the tournament's history until Australia overwhelmed it, after they were put into bat.

Inglis, born in Leeds to English parents, hammered 120 not out off 86 balls while Alex Carey (69) and Matthew Short (63) chipped in with half-centuries as Australia reached the target with 15 balls to spare.

The way Australia completed the highest chase in a men's event in an ICC tournament was in stark contrast to their wobbly start.

Jofra Archer took a return catch to dismiss the dangerous Travis Head

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