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UK PM accuses Putin of hollow promises on Ukraine truce

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Move to revise DAP bad news for Dhaka

Experts say if carried out, the revision may worsen liveability

HELEMUL ALAM

The government is weighing potential revisions to the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), a blueprint meant to guide Dhaka's development, just two years after its approval, raising serious concerns among urban planners.

The proposed amendments, driven largely by demands from real estate developers, would increase the population density in an already overcrowded city, urban planners say.

They warn that these changes, if implemented, will aggravate the city's liveability, but real estate developers argue that the revisions are needed to meet the growing demand for housing in the rapidly expanding urban centres.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) drafted the amendment after real estate developers intensified protests against DAP 2022 following last year's political changeover.

The amendment proposal was discussed at the first meeting of an evaluation committee, which included seven advisers



"Such changes would not align with fundamental urban planning principles and would encourage the indiscriminate construction of high-rise buildings solely to benefit developers."

Adil Mohammad Khan
urban planning expert

to the interim government, on March 19. The committee decided to seek stakeholders' input before finalising the amendment.

If the amendments are approved, it will allow developers to raise building heights by two to four stories and floor area in most neighbourhoods, significantly increasing population density.

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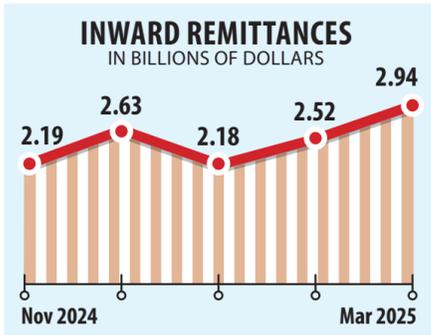


With the approach of Eid vacation and the closure of offices, the rush to return home has increased at railway stations in and around the capital. This was evident yesterday at Joydebpur Railway Junction in Gazipur, where a departing train was packed to its absolute limit with passengers occupying every inch of available space.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Eid spurs record remittance surge

Expected to pass \$3b by month end



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh received a record \$2.94 billion in remittances during the first 26 days of March, driven by Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the largest festivals for Muslims.

The inflow was 82.46 percent higher than the same period last year, according to industry insiders. Central bank data showed that expatriate Bangladeshis sent \$1.61 billion during this period in 2024.

Remittance receipts are expected to exceed \$3 billion by the end of the month, marking a historic

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Unite to ensure Rohingya repatriation

Yunus urges Asian leaders at Boao Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As global efforts to deal with the Rohingya crisis are drastically shrinking, Asian leaders must come together to ensure the refugees' safe and dignified repatriation, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said.

"The protracted crisis in Myanmar threatens regional stability", Yunus said yesterday, addressing the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 in Hainan, China, with the theme of "Asia in the Changing World: Towards a Shared Future".

Yunus joined the conference on the second day of his four-day visit to China. The Boao Forum for Asia is an international organisation that promotes economic integration in Asia. Its mission is to pool positive energy for the development of Asia and the world.

The chief adviser said Bangladesh has been hosting over 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas for more than seven years. "We continue to bear significant social, economic, and environmental costs."

On global conflicts, he said that in today's poly-crisis world, wars, and conflicts erode rights and disrupt economies.

The genocide in Gaza continues despite global condemnation. The crisis in Palestine is not just an Arab or Muslim concern, it is a humanitarian issue. The continued tension in Ukraine is heavily tolling on global supply chain.

Yunus said the Boao Forum conference took place at a critical juncture. Global governance under multilateralism is being questioned. Geopolitical tensions are rising. Climate

change is escalating. Debt burdens are unsustainable. Humanitarian crises are growing, according to the full text of his speech shared by the chief adviser's press wing.

Political will for development cooperation is weakening. The world faces an alarming shortfall in collective action.

Asia, home to 60 percent of the global population who contribute 55 percent to global GDP, is at the centre

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BUSINESS

75pc factories yet to pay March wages

Nearly 75 percent of the 9,596 garment and non-garment factories across Bangladesh were yet to pay workers their March wages till yesterday, according to Industrial Police, as Eid holidays are just around the corner.

The figures, compiled until 3:00pm yesterday, also show that 74.57 percent of the factories have so far paid Eid bonuses.

BGMEA Administrator Anwar Hossain said most factories would likely pay wages in the next two days before the holidays, as is customary.

"Paying earlier risks workers leaving before the official holiday, disrupting urgent production and shipments," he added.

STORY ON BI

No emergency without JS nod

Says NCP in its proposals to consensus commission

MD ABBAS

The National Citizen Party (NCP) has proposed that parliamentary approval be made mandatory to declare a state of emergency.

In its proposals submitted to the National Consensus Commission, the NCP also said an election must be held for a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. The assembly will later transition into the legislature.

The newly formed party opposed the president's appointment by parliament and proposed setting the minimum age for MP candidates at 23 and the voting age at 16.

It supported replacing the existing four principles of the constitution — nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism — with equality, human dignity, social justice, pluralism, and democracy. The party stressed that "pluralism" should be explicitly defined to acknowledge multiple nationalities, religions, languages, and cultures.

Additionally, the NCP sought constitutional recognition for the indigenous communities, proposed the president's advisory role to be non-binding, advocated for curtailing the absolute powers of the prime minister, and recommended that a National Constitutional Council function as the election period caretaker government.

The party also suggested that the protection of life and nature be considered fundamental rights.

The NCP agreed partially or in total with several proposals, while opposing some key provisions recommended by the Constitution Reform Commission.

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Hasina sued for conspiring to wage civil war, oust govt



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, along with 72 others, has been sued for conspiring to overthrow the interim government through a civil war.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police filed the sedition case with the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The court took cognisance of the case and directed the CID to investigate, said a press release issued by the CID yesterday.

According to the case statement, the CID received

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Readymade garment workers from TNZ Group protesting outside the head office of the labour department (Sromo Bhaban) in the capital yesterday. Their demands include three months of unpaid wages and Eid bonus. Over the past week, there have been similar demonstrations by workers from several RMG factories in Dhaka and its outskirts.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Court declares Ishraque Dhaka south mayor

Cancels results of 2020 polls

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday declared BNP leader Ishraque Hossain mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

Judge Md Nurul Islam of the Election Tribunal of Dhaka pronounced the judgment, cancelling the result of the DSCC polls held in February 2020, a court staffer told The Daily Star.

The tribunal also cancelled the gazette notification that declared Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh the winner of the 2020 election, he said.

Ishraque, son of former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Sadeque Hossain Khoka, was present in the courtroom during the verdict.

Shortly after the judgement, BNP leaders and activists, accompanied by pro-party lawyers, held a procession on the court premises to celebrate the victory.

"I express my gratitude to Almighty Allah. I have received justice. Whether I can become the mayor or take the oath as mayor is entirely a party decision," Ishraque told the journalists on the court premises yesterday.

Taherul Islam Tawhid, a lawyer for Ishraque, spoke to this newspaper yesterday about why it took over five years to dispose of the lawsuit.



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