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## Trump keen to boost US-Bangladesh relations



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US President Donald Trump, in a message to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, expressed confidence in advancing bilateral relations between the two nations and promoting regional security in the Indo-Pacific.

In his message, Trump extended greetings to Yunus and the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of Independence Day (March 26), according to the chief adviser's office.

"This period of transition [in Bangladesh] presents an opportunity for the people of Bangladesh to strengthen democracy, drive economic progress, and enhance security," Trump said, adding that the US looks forward to continuing its partnership in this decisive year.

"I am confident that we can advance our bilateral economic development while we strengthen our relationship and work together on promoting regional security in the Indo-Pacific," he said.



Army personnel maintaining order and ensuring safety at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal where thousands of people have been thronging in recent days to travel to the southern districts for the Eid holidays. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 1,42,000 displaced in Gaza in one week

Says UN after Israel resumes military ops

AGENCIES

The resumption of Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip has displaced 1,42,000 people in a mere seven days, the United Nations said Wednesday, warning of dwindling stocks of humanitarian aid.

"In just one week, 1,42,000 people have been displaced," the spokesman for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, pointing out that about 90 percent of Gaza's

population has been displaced at least once between the start of the offensive on October 7, 2023 and January of this year.

The space available for families is "shrinking," he said, adding that displacement orders currently cover some 17 percent of Gaza.

With each wave of displacement, thousands of people "lose not just their shelter, but also access to essentials such as food, drinking water and health care," said the

spokesman, Stephane Dujarric.

The "relentless bombardments and daily displacement orders" coupled with blocks on aid "are having a devastating impact on the entire population of more than two million people," he said.

"Our humanitarian partners are warning that as a result, medical stocks, cooking gas and fuel needed to power bakeries and ambulances are running

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## DHANMONDI HEIST Target was the jeweller's stashed gold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The robbery in Dhanmondi was well planned, as criminals collaborated with a network of individuals, who posed as Rab members, intelligence officers, informants, a magistrate, and even student representatives.

Their target was to loot a large amount of gold and money they believed was stashed in the building owned by a jewellery trader in Dhanmondi, investigators said.

Around 4:00am on Wednesday, a group of 25-30 criminals stormed the six-storey building on Dhanmondi Road No 8, owned by MA Hannan, proprietor of Alankar Niketan Jeweller's at Bashundhara City.

They took away Tk 36.5 lakh and 2.5 bhoris of gold ornaments, according to the case filed with the Dhanmondi Police Station.

"They introduced them as law enforcers, a magistrate, journalist, informants, and students to enter the building in the name of conducting a raid," Masud Alam, deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press conference at its media centre yesterday.

Police have arrested six suspects, including an army sergeant. They are army sergeant Farhad

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## Monthly food ration per Rohingya now \$12

WFP backs away from drastic cuts; US promises \$73m for refugees

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has moved away from its recent decision to halve the monthly food aid for the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char.

The monthly ration per refugee has been revised, and it would now be \$12 in Cox's Bazar and \$13 in Bhashan Char, Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Mohammed Mizanur Rahman told this newspaper.

The RRRC informed the RRRC of its decision through a letter yesterday afternoon. Earlier on March 5, the WFP announced that it would cut the monthly food aid from \$12.50 to \$6 per refugee from April.

The RRRC said that despite significant funding challenges, WFP has now ensured that

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## Ghost writers dish out dubious articles on Bangladesh

Dismislab investigation finds

STAR DESK

US-based International Policy Digest (IPD) has been allowing ghost authors to publish articles critical of Bangladesh's interim government since the August 2024 political changeover, an investigation by Dismislab has found.

These articles, often containing misinformation, have been republished in some Bangladeshi media, adding to a questionable narrative. They have also been shared and reshared on social media.

They gained traction when posted by ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and other official pages linked to the

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## SILENT SENTINEL OF THE SUNDARBANS

A saltwater crocodile enjoys a mud bath in the Sundarbans, regulating its body temperature and preventing overheating. The largest living reptile, it thrives in coastal brackish waters, rivers and mangrove swamps across South and Southeast Asia. Once widespread in the Sundarbans, its population has plummeted due to habitat destruction, poaching and human-wildlife conflict, leaving only 100-150 mature individuals. As a keystone species, it helps maintain ecological balance by controlling prey populations and supporting the health of aquatic ecosystems. Its nesting behaviour also aerates soil and sustains the mangrove ecosystem. Conservation efforts, including habitat protection and breeding programmes, are now critical to preventing its extinction and preserving the world's largest mangrove forest.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রাস্টমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)  
কলসেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬

আপনার রান্নার কাজ শেষ হয়ে থাকলে এখুনি গ্যাসের ফ্লাট নিভিয়ে ফেলুন

জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অঙ্গীকার

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তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ

Prime Bank

PRAYER TIMING

MARCH 28

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:39 12:30 4:45 6:13 7:45

JAMAAT 4:49 1:15 5:00 6:28 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
27	28		6:13
28	29	4:36	6:14
29	30	4:35	6:14

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