

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 74

CHAITRA 15, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAMADAN 28, 1446 HIJRI

16 PAGES: TK 15.00



A shopper's
guide to Dhaka

WR1



Eid in a time of
uncertainty and
change

P9



BIMSTEC must
adapt to global
shifts and future
challenges

P8



Dengue surge
feared as
millions leave
Dhaka

P3

China pledges \$2.1b in loans, investment

Yunus, Xi Jinping hold bilateral meeting; Dhaka welcomes Beijing's interest in Teesta water management project

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Chinese government and businesses committed \$2.1 billion in loans, investments, and grants to Bangladesh during Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's visit to China.

Prof Yunus and Chinese President Xi Jinping met at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday morning.

After the bilateral meeting, a joint statement was issued, highlighting the cooperation between the two countries.

President Xi promised to encourage Chinese firms to relocate their manufacturing plants to Bangladesh as they look to diversify their production destination, said Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority.

Nearly 30 Chinese companies have pledged to invest \$1 billion for the establishment of a Chinese Industrial Economic Zone in Chattogram as Prof Yunus urged them to invest in manufacturing in Bangladesh, CA's Press Wing said in a statement.

SEE PAGE 2 COL. 2

CHINESE GOVT TO LEND

- \$400m for Mongla Port modernisation
- \$350m for China Industrial Economic Zone
- \$150m as technical assistance

30 Chinese companies pledge to invest \$1b

One agreement, 8 MoUs signed

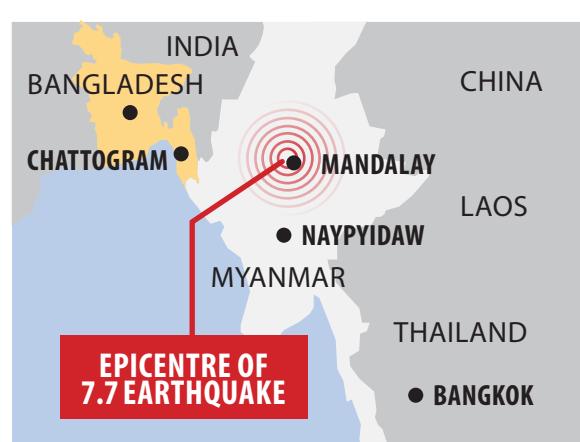


Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus meets Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday -- the third day of his four-day visit to China.

PHOTO: PID



Rescue workers walk past the debris of an under-construction building that crumbled in Bangkok yesterday. Bottom left, a collapsed building in Mandalay, Myanmar. A powerful earthquake, originating in central Myanmar, rocked the region, buckling roads, and destroying buildings.



Eid travel mostly smooth so far

STAR REPORT

Thousands of Eid holidaymakers hit the road yesterday, leading to a surge in traffic on highways. However, there were no reports of major gridlocks, mainly due to the extended nine-day holiday.

Meanwhile, another rush is expected today as garment factories and other businesses will be closed for Eid celebrations.

Traffic on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway slowed to a crawl along a 10km stretch from Tongi to Chandana intersection yesterday morning. However, conditions improved as the day progressed, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

Rafiqul Islam, a passenger stuck in the congestion, told The Daily Star around 10:00am, "I left Mohakhali for Tongi, but I have been stranded here for two hours. The bus moves a little, then stops again. I haven't even reached the intersection yet."

Ashok Kumar Pal, additional deputy commissioner (traffic) of Gazipur Metropolitan Police, attributed the slowdown to the early exodus of garment workers and the reckless movement of battery-run rickshaws. "We lack



Hundreds of people travelling to their village homes crowd onto launches, filling every inch of available space, including the roof, as the nine-day Eid vacation began yesterday. The photo was taken from Postogola Bridge in Dhaka.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 2 COL. 5

NCP pushes for grassroots support amid Eid holiday

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Key leaders of the recently launched National Citizen Party (NCP) are actively engaging in mass contact in their respective areas, capitalising on the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation.

As they prepare to contest the upcoming national election, many have travelled to their parliamentary constituencies to celebrate Eid and connect with local voters.

In the days leading up to Eid, NCP leaders conducted extensive outreach activities, including attending community iftar events and visiting villages, neighbourhoods, and local communities to interact with people.

Several key leaders told The Daily Star they aim to solidify their grassroots support ahead of the election, utilising the holiday period when people return home to celebrate Eid.

Party leaders said they would prioritise door-to-door campaigns over large scale rallies and planned to meet families of those killed and injured during the July

SEE PAGE 2 COL. 5