

THE BEST QUALITY EVERY TIME GUARANTEED BSRM

THE NATION'S LARGEST ROD MANUFACTURER

BSRM building a safer nation

SHAH CEMENT

BANGLADESH'S NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE

Bangladesh ready to send more aid: Yunus

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has assured Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing that Bangladesh stands ready to extend further humanitarian support to victims of the recent earthquake in Myanmar.

He conveyed condolences and sympathy to the people of Myanmar over the tragic loss of life caused by the March 28 earthquake, according to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

The commitment was made during a meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok on Friday.

During the talks, they discussed Bangladesh's ongoing humanitarian efforts, which include the deployment of rescue teams to assist Myanmar following the disaster.

"We remain ready to provide further humanitarian support. Our ships are ready," Prof Yunus said.

Min Aung Hlaing, who also serves as prime minister and chairman of Myanmar's State Administration Council, congratulated Professor Yunus on assuming the



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



The holy Ashtami Snan, a Hindu ritual, is being performed in the holy waters of the Brahmaputra at Langalbandh in Narayanganj. The celebration takes place on the lunar month's eighth day, which was yesterday.

PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

INDIAN WAQF BILL

Petition filed before SC challenging amendment

Islamist bodies in Bangladesh condemn bill

STAR REPORT

Amanatullah Khan, a member of the Legislative Assembly from the Aam Aadmi Party, yesterday moved to the Supreme Court to challenge the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by both Houses of Parliament in India recently.

In his petition, the Delhi Waqf Board chairman stated that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, curtails the religious and cultural autonomy of the Muslims, enables arbitrary executive interference, and undermines minority rights to manage their religious and charitable institutions, reports The Statesman.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Dozens of crude bombs go off as AL men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

At least seven people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League in Shariatpur's Zajira early yesterday, during which, at least 100 crude bombs were detonated, police said.

The clash broke out in the Mulai Bepari Kandi and Durbandanga areas of Bilaspur union between supporters of Kuddus Bepari, Zajira upazila AL member, and Jalil Madbar, former president of the union's Swechhahasebak League, over establishing supremacy in the area, they added.

Both the leaders have 8-10 explosive and murder cases filed against them, the police said.

Shariatpur Superintendent of Police Md Nazrul Islam said at least seven people were injured due to the blasts. However, their injuries were not life-threatening.

Two video clips of the clash have gone viral on social media.

Police have deployed additional force in the areas to maintain law and order, he said. In one of the videos, verified by police, groups of men were seen running haphazardly carrying red buckets. Some of them were wearing helmets. The video showed two groups of people hurling objects at each other which detonated upon impact and created smoke. Multiple explosions could be heard.

Kuddus Bepari did not receive phone calls but over texts, he denied involvement in the clash and blamed the other group for attacking his men.

Jalil Madbar, currently in jail, and his brother Md Abu Salek Madbar could not be reached for comments.

Disaster risk funding inadequate

Says IMF's recent report on Bangladesh

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's vulnerability to natural disasters has placed significant strain on its economy and financial resources, with about \$5 billion needed in the short term for relief and early recovery, according to the International Monetary Fund.

About \$15 billion is required for reconstruction in the medium term, said the technical assistance report titled "Bangladesh: Disaster Risk Financing" unveiled yesterday.

Between 2000 and 2003, disasters caused an estimated \$13.6 billion in damages, affecting 130 million people.

Subsequently, there is a pressing need for enhanced financial mechanisms to address medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts.

"Disasters in Bangladesh have profound economic impacts, affecting agriculture by destroying crops and fisheries, disrupting industries, damaging infrastructure like roads and buildings, and leading to loss of lives and displacement of people," the report said.

The country being in the low-lying delta region makes it particularly vulnerable to these disasters.

The total funding needed in response to a repeated event that occurs once every two years is estimated at \$4.7 billion,

IMF'S PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- \$4.7b needed for events that occur every two years
- \$5b needed in short-term for severe disasters
- \$15b needed in medium-term for reconstruction
- Only \$1.5b can be mobilised at present under existing policy mechanisms

which is about 1 percent of annual GDP. This comprises immediate response and early recovery efforts, including food, shelter, health, and income recovery support for floods and cyclones of \$1.2 billion and medium-term costs for rehabilitation and reconstruction of \$3.5 billion. The total resource requirements are

expected to increase significantly for more severe natural disasters such as those that occur once in 50 years.

The needs would amount to \$20 billion or about 4 percent of annual GDP and are comparable in magnitudes to the 2004 floods and the 2007 Cyclone Sidr in terms of the share of GDP.

With the policy mechanisms that are already in place, as much as \$1.5 billion can be mobilised for the immediate response and early recovery phase of disaster response.

However, for moderate disasters such as those occurring every three to five years, the government faces a financing gap.

For a one-in-five-year disaster event with a 20 percent chance of occurrence in a year, the financing gap for immediate relief and early recovery is \$0.9 billion, and the mid-term reconstruction financing gap is \$4 billion.

For catastrophic disaster events, the financing gap increases significantly -- a one-in-fifty-year disaster event leads to a short-term financing gap of \$3.5 billion and a reconstruction financing gap of \$11.8 billion.

The IMF report emphasises the importance of strengthening fiscal policy mechanisms to close these gaps.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Celestial 'music' may point to our origin

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The "music" of stars could help explain how galaxies form, according to scientists.

The stars that we see in the night sky are undergoing continuous "starquakes" which means their brightness fluctuates all the time.

Those fluctuations can be turned into frequencies, like those in music, scientists say. The frequencies, in turn, can help us understand how old and massive a star is, as well as other characteristics.



Researchers say they can listen to the changes in those frequencies, like the altering pitch of a piece of music, to understand the story and origins of stars.

"Starquakes occur in certain stars, leading to a continuous cycle of brightening and dimming. By carefully observing these tiny fluctuations in brightness, we can listen to a star's musical rhythm," said Claudia Reyes, from Australian National University.

"These fluctuations are like musical notes, similar to the vibrations of a string or the hum of a drum, that can be translated into frequencies. Each frequency tells us more about the star's size, chemical composition and internal structure."

In the study, researchers looked at a cluster of 27 stars 2,700 light years away, examining the "sounds" they made. They were chosen because they are all siblings: they were born in the same gas cloud, four billion years ago, having similar chemical compositions but different masses.

'AL should be tried for committing genocide'

Says Salahuddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League should be brought to trial on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity over the massacre during the July uprising, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

"We have presented it as a proposal before the people. We want the Awami League to be held accountable for genocide and crimes against humanity. For this, laws can be enacted in accordance with Article 47 of the Constitution or existing law can be amended," he said while talking to reporters after a meeting with representatives of Hefajat-e-Islam at the BNP chairperson's political office in the capital's Gulshan last night.

If the political fate of the Awami League is determined through judicial proceedings, the people of this country



Fishermen on dinghies catch shrimp fry at daybreak on the Shibsra river near the Sundarbans in Dacope, Khulna. They sell every 1,000 young shrimps to farmers for around Tk 900. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Israel 'deliberately' attacked Gaza aid workers

Shows new video footage

AFP, Gaza City

A video recovered from the cellphone of an aid worker killed in Gaza alongside other rescuers shows their final moments, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent, with clearly marked ambulances and emergency lights flashing as heavy gunfire erupts.

The aid worker was among 15 humanitarian personnel killed on March 23 in an attack by Israeli forces, according to the United Nations and the Palestinian Red Crescent.

The Israeli military has said its soldiers "did not randomly attack" any ambulances, insisting they fired on "terrorists" approaching them in "suspicious vehicles".

Military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani said that troops opened fire on vehicles that had no prior clearance from Israeli authorities and had their lights off.

But the footage released by the Red Crescent yesterday appears to contradict the Israeli military's claims, showing ambulances travelling with their headlights on and emergency lights flashing.

The six minute 42 second video, apparently filmed from inside a moving vehicle, captures a red firetruck and ambulances driving through the night amid constant automatic gunfire.

The vehicles stop beside another on the roadside, and two uniformed men exit.

In the video, the voices of two medics are heard -- one saying "the vehicle, the vehicle", and another responding: "It seems to be an accident."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1