

Dhaka seeks 3-month pause on new tariffs

Yunus writes to Trump; govt offers zero tariff facility for another 100 US products

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has requested US President Donald Trump to postpone the imposition of 37 percent reciprocal tariff on Bangladeshi exports by three months.

In a letter sent to Trump yesterday, Yunus made the appeal to allow the interim government time to implement its plan to significantly increase imports from the US, the chief adviser's office said in a statement.

This additional time is necessary for the smooth implementation of this initiative in consultation with US officials, according to the statement.

- 1 Yunus outlines plan to cut trade gap by increasing imports from US
- 2 Planned steps also include removal of tariff, non-tariff barriers
- 3 Govt working on 50% reduction of tariff on US turbines, semiconductors, medical equipment

In another letter to the US Trade Representative (USTR), Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin said Bangladesh was considering an option to extend the zero tariff facility to 100 US products on top of the 190 already enjoying it.

In his letter to Trump, Yunus outlined a series of steps the government is taking to reduce the trade imbalance between Bangladesh and the US, including the removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers.

"We are working on 50 percent reduction of tariff on top US export items such as gas turbines, semiconductors and medical equipment," Yunus wrote. "We are also removing an array of non-tariff barriers to US exports."

He added, "We are eliminating certain testing

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Waving Palestinian flags, students and people demonstrate near BRAC University in the capital's Badda area yesterday, as part of a nationwide protest against the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Nation rallies against Gaza atrocities

Across Bangladesh, people take to streets in solidarity with Palestinians

STAR REPORT

Protests swept across the country yesterday as students, teachers, professionals, and activists from all walks of life took to the streets in a nationwide show of solidarity with the people of Gaza, condemning Israel's ongoing military onslaught in Palestine and calling it a genocide.

From the capital to the hills, demonstrators formed human chains, staged sit-ins, and held processions demanding the international community take steps to put an immediate end to the bloodshed in the besieged territory.

The wave of protests followed a global call for strikes under the banner "The World Stops for Gaza," urging educational institutions, offices, and businesses to suspend operations as a sign of protest.

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Govt issues stern warning to vandals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday issued a stern warning to individuals involved in acts of vandalism and looting at various business outlets, including restaurants and shoe stores, during the nationwide protest against Israeli aggression in Gaza.

It also ordered the police to arrest those responsible for the vandalism in multiple districts, including Sylhet, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Gazipur, and Bogura.

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Govt goes big to woo global investors

Four-day investment summit kicks off in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The four-day Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 kicked off yesterday with the view to shining a spotlight on the country's evolving investment landscape to global investors.

As part of the summit, a 60-member delegation from 25 countries was shown the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) and National Special Economic Zone to showcase the manufacturing facilities in the country.

Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation, which manages KEPZ, said that as a private organisation, it can move very quickly.

"We are accountable only to our management, not constrained by multiple layers of bureaucracy. This makes our operations more efficient," he said.

Bangladesh can outperform regional competitors in attracting and retaining foreign investment, says Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation, which manages KEPZ.

He also cited a successful partnership with a global storage company, where Youngone built facilities at its own cost to accommodate the investor, in an example of proactive investment facilitation that built long-term business ties.

Looking ahead, Sung emphasised the need for joint efforts between the government, financial institutions, and private enterprises to expand value-added exports, especially in the apparel sector.

He expressed confidence that Bangladesh could outperform regional competitors in attracting and retaining foreign investment.

After visiting the EPZs in Chattogram, Yasser Amit, chairman and chief executive officer of E'Vision Group and ImatrixUSA Inc, expressed strong interest in investing in renewable energy and semiconductors in Bangladesh.

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The flow of the Kashipur river is being disrupted since a bamboo bridge was built between Kashipur and Madhya Narsingpur in Narayanganj six years ago. Local influential people constructed the bridge and they take Tk 3 from each pedestrian for crossing the river. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TRUMP TARIFF SHOCK

Bangladeshi banks among most exposed in Asia-Pacific

Moody's blames the country's heavy dependence on RMG exports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's banks are among the most vulnerable in Asia-Pacific to a sweeping hike in US import tariffs, Moody's Ratings said, warning that the country's heavy dependence on garment exports and fragile financial buffers have left its banking sector exposed to rising credit stress.

In a report released yesterday, Moody's said banks in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand will be hit the hardest in the region.

"The higher tariffs are more negative, on a relative basis, for banks in Vietnam (Ba2 stable), Thailand (Baa1 stable) and Bangladesh (B2 negative) because of their economies' higher reliance on exports to the US compared with other economies in the region," Moody's said.

"In these three countries, a moderation in exports to the US will

hurt economic growth, straining loan growth for banks and hurting loan quality," the agency said.

"For Bangladesh, higher US tariffs will depress the already weak operating environment for banks amid a slowdown in the country's economic growth."

For Bangladesh, the tariff shock comes amid a slowdown in economic growth and persistent weaknesses in the banking system, including poor asset quality and low capital buffers. US tariffs are now very high for

exports from Vietnam, Thailand and Bangladesh and the first two are more dependent on exports to the US in terms of domestic value added in gross exports. Much higher US tariffs will lower their economic growth, with the resulting strain trickling down to banks," Moody's said.

"For Bangladesh, higher US tariffs will depress the already weak operating environment for banks amid a slowdown in the country's economic growth."

The US has raised average tariffs on Bangladeshi goods to 37 percent, more than tripling the previous rate of 11 percent. The blow will fall squarely on the country's garment sector, which accounts for over 85 percent of total exports and is already grappling with supply chain disruptions and labour issues following last year's political and social unrest.

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UCB

"The legacy of a great leader is not written in monuments, but in the hearts and lives of those touched by his vision."



On the 32nd anniversary of the passing of our visionary Founder, Late Humayun Zahir, we pause to honor the enduring legacy of his unwavering commitment, dedication and foresight in shaping United Commercial Bank PLC into the trusted institution it is today.

Our Founder's passion for financial inclusion, integrity and service continues to guide our mission and values. As we look to the future, we do so with deep gratitude for the foundation he laid and the principles he instilled.

In memory of Late Humayun Zahir, we are proud to continue the journey he started, striving for greater heights of service, trust and growth.

You will be remembered always with deepest respect and love.



People gather at Shibbari Mor in Khulna, right, Raju Bhaskariya at Dhaka University, top left, and Chouhatta in Sylhet city, bottom left, to express solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza as the nation erupts in protests against Israeli brutalities yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh's relief team treats 619 in Myanmar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rescue, medical, and humanitarian relief operations led by the Bangladesh Armed Forces in Myanmar after the devastating earthquake have entered their second week.



The special team, deployed under the directive of the Bangladesh government, remains actively engaged in supporting the quake-affected population.

The Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate disclosed the updates in separate press releases yesterday.

At the request of Myanmar's deputy prime minister, the Bangladeshi rescue team launched operations at the collapsed building of the

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FROM PAGE 1

requirements, rationalising packaging, labelling and certification requirements and undertaking trade facilitation measures such as simplifying customs procedures and standards."

These measures, Yunus emphasised, are aimed at creating a more open and predictable trade environment that supports increased US exports to Bangladesh.

The letter did not explain the reason behind choosing a three-month timeframe for the deferral request. Different international media outlets reported that Vietnam has also sought a three-month deferral of the reciprocal tariff on Vietnamese goods.

Trump has remained defiant since unleashing the blitz of levies on stunned countries around the world on April 2, insisting that his policies "will never change" even as markets went into a tailspin.

His staggered deadlines have left space for some countries to negotiate, even as he insisted he would stand firm and his administration warned against any retaliation, the AFP reported.

In a post on Truth Social yesterday, Trump threatened to terminate talks with China concerning their requested meetings with the US if China did not withdraw its retaliatory tariffs.

He, however, added that negotiations with other countries, which have also requested meetings, will "begin taking place immediately".

More than 50 countries have sought

talks with Trump to negotiate relief from the punitive tariffs on exports to the US, the White House said Sunday, as trade partners braced for fallout, the AFP said.

Yunus, in his letter to Trump, said that Bangladesh was the first to take "such a proactive initiative", mentioning the visit of his High Representative Khalilur Rahman to Washington, DC, in February, which indicates Bangladesh's intent to substantially increase imports from the US.

The chief adviser also said his government executed the necessary steps to launch Starlink, a US-based satellite internet provider owned by billionaire Elon Musk, in Bangladesh.

"This momentum ushers a new era for US businesses in Bangladesh across a number of advanced tech sectors including civil aviation and defence. We will complete the ongoing and planned actions within the next quarter."

The chief adviser said that Bangladesh, having the lowest tariff on most US exports in South Asia, commits to a zero tariff on American agricultural commodities, as well as on scrap metals.

A key focus of the government's action on the tariff issue is to significantly increase imports of US farm products, including cotton, wheat, corn and soybean, Yunus said.

The government was also finalising a dedicated bonded warehousing facility in Bangladesh where US cotton

will have duty-free access, he added.

Yunus also said Bangladesh is the first country to enter into a multi-year agreement to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the US, and has been exploring further collaboration since Trump lifted the freeze on LNG export permits.

Commerce Adviser Bashir Uddin, in his letter to the USTR, said the Yunus government was planning a long-term LNG deal with the US.

He mentioned that Bangladesh has a 6.10 percent weighted average tariff on US products, where raw cotton and steel scrap face 0 percent and 1 percent tariff, respectively.

He said the government had already held meetings with the trade wing of the US Embassy in Bangladesh to identify trade barriers and "agreed a number of measures to resolve".

The government also initiated reforms to enhance mutually beneficial trade, he said. The reform initiative includes import policy order, simplification of customs procedure, enforcement of intellectual property rights, and protection of trademarks and patent rights.

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Π

HEALTH SECTOR ACC seeks work order details for Salman's entities

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has requested information from health authorities regarding any work orders issued over the past 16 years to entities owned by Salman F Rahman, a former adviser to the prime minister on private industry and investment.

It sought the information "for proper investigation" into various allegations against Salman, including misappropriation and money laundering, during the tenure of the Awami League government.

Although the ACC sent a letter to the health ministry on March 16 requesting the information by March 25, the Directorate General of Health Services -- the principal agency under the ministry -- only forwarded the request to its subordinate bodies yesterday.

Last month, the ACC launched an investigation into an alleged Tk 22,000 crore corruption scheme involving Salman and former health minister Zahid Maleque over the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines.

DGHS instructed them to provide information within two days, according to a letter sent by Mohammad Nasir Uddin, its acting director (administration).

Last month, ACC launched an investigation into an alleged Tk 22,000 crore corruption scheme involving Salman and former health minister Zahid Maleque over the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines.

According to the complaint, a syndicate led by Salman, who is also the vice chairman of Beximco Group, misappropriated Tk 22,000 crore over vaccine procurement.

On March 19, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd issued a rejoinder to various media outlets, including The Daily Star, rejecting the allegations as "misleading and baseless".

Salman, a former AL lawmaker, was arrested following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government amid a student-led uprising related to a murder case. He is currently in jail and facing multiple cases linked to the uprising.

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PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Two women carry pitchers of water back to their homes near the Kewachhara tea garden in Sylhet. The families of tea workers have been suffering due to an acute shortage of safe drinking water as the water in the tube well contains excessive levels of iron. Thus, female workers have no choice but to travel half-a-kilometre and collect water from a stream or spring.

STATE REFORM PROCESS Commission plans national survey

Expects consensus on reforms by mid-July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties represent the people. But there are many outside these parties whose voices matter too. We want to bring them into the process

Prof Ali Riaz

collect opinions from citizens beyond political parties. Alongside this, we will conduct a broader survey to gather views from all segments of society," said Prof Ali Riaz, vice-chairman of the commission, during a meeting with the AB Party at the National Parliament yesterday.

He said building a

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Police foil ex-BDR members' march

UNB, Dhaka

Several members of the former Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) were reportedly injured in a clash with police when the protesters were heading towards the Secretariat demanding reinstatement to their jobs.

Around 1:00pm, the dismissed BDR members gathered at Shikha Bhaban intersection and tried to march to the Secretariat holding banners and placards that read their demands.

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DISPERSING CROWD Constable awarded for non-violent approach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Constable Riyad Hossain has been awarded the President Police Medal (PPM-Service) for his non-violent approach in dispersing protesters in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat recently.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a circular in this regard recently.

In recognition of innovative and intelligent policing strategies that maintained public order in 2025 while

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1 dead, 44 hurt in Bagerhat building fire



PHOTO: UNB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A woman died and 44 others were injured as a fire broke out in the five-storey Maisha Plaza in Bagerhat's Chitalmari upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Anita Roy, 40, a house help, died from smoke inhalation. The body has been kept at a hospital, said Shahadat Hossain, officer in charge of Chitalmari Police Station.

The fire started on the ground floor around 8:30am and spread rapidly.

Md Abu Bakar Zaman, assistant director of fire service in Khulna, said eight firefighting units from Chitalmari, Bagerhat, Gopalganj, and Khulna brought the fire under control around noon.

The fire likely originated from an electric short circuit in a showroom on the ground floor, he added.

Of the injured, four were in critical condition and transferred to Khulna Medical College Hospital, while the rest received treatment at Chitalmari Upazila Health Complex, said Dr Mukti Biswas, resident medical officer of the health complex.

The building, owned by a Brunei expatriate, housed showrooms on ground and first floors, branches of several banks and an insurance company on second floor, a clinic on third, and residential flats on upper floors.

Ahmed Kamrul Hasan, deputy commissioner of Bagerhat, visited the spot.

Woman found dead in Faridpur, husband held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered the body of a woman from her home in Dhormohati Dakshinpara village under Boalmari upazila in Faridpur on Sunday.

The deceased was Riya Begum, 24, wife of Mahfuzur Rahman of the village.

Police arrested Mahfuzur, 30, in this connection.

According to police and family sources, the couple had been living in Narayanganj for the past six months, where Mahfuzur works for a pharmaceutical company.

They returned to their village home to celebrate Eid. At the end of the Eid holidays, Mahfuzur informed Riya that he would return to Narayanganj alone and leave her at the village home. This led to a quarrel on Sunday afternoon.

Later that day, Riya's body was found hanging from a ceiling beam in their house.

Md Hasan, Riya's maternal uncle, claimed that her death was not a suicide.

Mahmudul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Boalmari Police Station, said the body was sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy yesterday.

"Based on a complaint lodged by the victim's father, her husband has been arrested and sent to jail through court," the OC added.

3 years on, 4 key bridges remain incomplete

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Despite the passage of official deadlines, construction of four key bridges on the Kalihati-Borachona and Dhalapara roads in Tangail remains incomplete, leaving thousands of residents to suffer daily.

The unfinished infrastructures -- meant to improve road connectivity and ease local transportation woes -- have instead become symbols of neglect and mismanagement.

Locals, commuters, and transport workers are blaming both the contractors and the authorities for the delays, expressing frustration over what they see as a lack of accountability and poor quality control.

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, four separate contracts were awarded to build bridges at a combined cost of nearly Tk 25 crore. The projects were located in Kalihati's Bettoba (Tk 8.6 crore), Haripur (Tk 9.24 crore), and Rajafair (Tk 2.68 crore), as well as Ghatail's Khakuriya (Tk 4.21 crore).

The most glaring delay is seen in the Khakuriya Bridge in Ghatail's Deopara area, which remains incomplete nearly three years after the initial deadline.

Local residents from over 40 villages have been forced to rely on a deteriorated diversion road, enduring daily hardship.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) awarded the contract to Dhaka-based SE Sadia & Samia (JV) in September 2021, with the project supposed to be completed by March 2022.

Locals allege the firm subcontracted the work to a local contractor, who



PHOTO: STAR



only worked for a few months before abandoning the site.

"The contractor hasn't visited in months. People and vehicles are suffering as they struggle to use the damaged diversion road," said Liton Miah, a local resident.

Drivers of CNG auto-rickshaws, battery-run three-wheelers, and small trucks echoed similar frustrations.

Ghatail Upazila Engineer Fazlur Rahman admitted the delay was due to the contractor's negligence but said

efforts are underway to resume and complete the project soon.

Meanwhile, a concrete bridge over the Jhenai river in Kalihati's Bettoba area -- meant to replace a partially damaged Bailey bridge -- also remains unfinished. The 90.06-metre-long PSC girder bridge was funded by the World Bank and the government with a Tk 8.06 crore budget. Construction was expected to be completed by February 2023.

"Thousands of people are suffering

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efforts are underway to resume and complete the project soon.

Lawyer killed in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A lawyer of Moulvibazar District Judge's Court was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in the district town on Sunday night.

The deceased, Sujan Mia, 38, was a resident of Purba Hilalpur village in the municipality area.

Locals said some 5-6 miscreants stabbed him in front of a building near the District Judge's Court at around 11:30pm and left the scene immediately.

Confirming the incident, Minhazur Rahman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Moulvibazar Sadar Model Police Station, said the reason behind his murder could not be known yet.

The body has been sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. An investigation into the incident is underway and legal action will be taken accordingly, the OC said.

SAM Habibullah, a lawyer of Moulvibazar District Bar Association, said, "We demand identification and arrest of the killers immediately."

Siblings found dead in Naogaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police have recovered the bodies of two siblings from their residence in Porsha upazila of Naogaon district yesterday.

The deceased are Nur Mohammad, 55, and his sister Rezia Begum, 58, of Purbobari village under Tetulia union in the upazila.

According to local sources, neighbours noticed a bad odour coming from the house yesterday morning, and informed the police.

Upon arrival, law enforcers from Porsha Police Station recovered the siblings' decomposed bodies. The bodies were sent to Naogaon General Hospital for autopsy.

The exact cause of death will be known after the autopsy, said Mahbub Alam, a sub-inspector of the police station.

১)	সহকারী একটি	১	১৬০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১০)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে কেবল প্রক্রিয়া করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
২)	উ-সহকারী পরিদর্শক (৩৮)	৩	১৬০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১০)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৩)	ডাকটরস্মান	৫	১৬০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১০)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৪)	ফোরমান	৮	১১০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১০)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৫)	প্রটেক্স সহকারী	১	১০০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১৪)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৬)	সার্ট মুদ্রাকরিক কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর	১	১০,০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১৪)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৭)	সার্ভেক্স	১১	১৭০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১৫)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৮)	পরিদর্শক (শৈক্ষণ্য)	১০	১৭০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১৫)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
৯)	টেলার	৬	১৭০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১৫)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১০)	যানবাহন পরিদর্শক	৬	১৭০০-০৬৪০/- (প্রতি-১৫)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১১)	ওয়ার্ড সেক্রেটারি	২৩	১৩০০-০২৪০/- (প্রতি-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১২)	ড্রেকী অফিসার	১০	১৩০০-০২৪০/- (প্রতি-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১৩)	সহকারী কোর্টীয়াক	১	১৩০০-০২৪০/- (প্রতি-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১৪)	পোদ্দার	১	১৩০০-০২৪০/- (প্রতি-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১৫)	সল্পতি	৮	১৩০০-০২৪০/- (প্রতি-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১৬)	নথি সহকারী	১	১৩০০-০২৪০/- (প্রতি-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১৭)	নথি রক্ষক	২	১৩০০-০২৪০/- (প্রতি-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্থানে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপে হাতে কাটক করে কেবল বাস্তি এবং কেবল বাস্তি করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
১৮)	নকলনবাহি	১	১৩০০-	



Ashfaque Nipun



Shakib Khan



Chanchal Chowdhury



Siam Ahmed



Farzana Wahid Shayan



Jaya Ahsan



Nasir Uddin Khan

PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

Israel's assault on Palestine shows no signs of stopping, with relentless bombings targeting the blockaded city of Gaza. The atmosphere is heavy with the cries of the injured and the sight of countless bodies. The devastating conditions have shocked the world.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladeshi celebrities have also expressed their solidarity, praying for the people of Palestine.

Sharing photos of two areas reduced to rubble by Israeli attacks, actress Jaya Ahsan wrote on Facebook:

"Israel has been carrying out a cruel and heartless genocide in Gaza. They seem determined to wipe Palestine off the map. I know Israel won't care about global protests—but what about the rest of the world? The powerful leaders of the world? Will this endless killing of children, women, and mass murder continue right before everyone's eyes? Let the veil be lifted from the hearts of humanity. Let the Palestinians have the chance to live like human beings."

Megastar Shakib Khan wrote, "Gaza is not just a geographical name—it has become a symbol of the oppressed! I stand with them, in love, solidarity, and the hope for peace."

Actor Siam Ahmed wrote, "As I write this post, has Gaza already been wiped off the map? Can any of us escape responsibility for the ruins of Palestine? ...Right after Eid, they were plunged into hell—will the world not take responsibility for that? These world leaders, Islamic scholars, Nobel laureates, ordinary people—can



Puja Chery



Abdun Noor Shajal



Elita Karim



Sadia Ayman

any of us truly avoid this burden of guilt?"

Singer Farzana Wahid Shayan has once again written a song protesting the Israeli aggression on Palestine. She shared the lyrics on Facebook, which say:

"Gaza will never end—let us all become Gaza from today. Let that journey begin now, let the whole world become Palestine..."

Nasir Uddin Khan wrote, "Whenever I think of the helpless and oppressed people—at home or abroad—I imagine myself and my family in their place, and I feel constant fear. No matter how much I try to find a ray of hope, I know

this broken world will never truly find peace. Still, I hold on to hope in my heart—that one day, the long struggle of the Palestinian people, which I've witnessed since childhood, will succeed."

Puja Chery wrote, "When will this devastation end, Lord? Even innocent children aren't spared by these monsters. Please, Lord, bring an end to such evil. Free Palestine. Free the children of Gaza."

Chanchal Chowdhury shared two pictures—one of a child sitting alone in the rubble of destroyed homes, and another showing people burning in the continuous bombardment

and explosions in Gaza. He wrote, "Endangered civilisation... Endangered humanity."

Actor Abdun Noor Shajal wrote, "Where is humanity? Can these really be the actions of human beings? Please support Gaza."

Shahnaz Khushi wrote, "In the name of acquiring knowledge for civilisation, humanity has caused the most harm to itself! Ah, life!"

Noted director Ashfaque Nipun wrote: "Two videos. In one, a child in Gaza is crying out, comforting another child. In the other, a child sits amidst the rubble in Gaza, tears in their eyes, eating something while crying again. May the

curse of these two children's suffering bring an end to the wrongdoers! May the final consequences of oppression be witnessed by these two children, along with millions of other oppressed people of Palestine."

Popular singer Elita Karim wrote, "Prayers for Gaza. Maybe we will meet in the afterlife and then we can talk about why we could do nothing but watch you get slaughtered."

Sadia Ayman wrote, "The way innocent people, especially children, are being brutally killed every day in Gaza is a stain on humanity and a disgrace to Muslims. Beneath the rubble lie thousands of dreams, cries, and wails. Such cruelty is unimaginable in any civilised society. Oh Allah, protect the people of Gaza. Grant them patience, instill peace and humanity in the hearts of the enemies, and bring an end to all oppression. Ameen."

Singer Asif Akbar wrote, "Farewell Rafah—Gaza's heavenly martyrs. May the followers of the greatest religion and their vile rulers remain in the burning hell of this earth in joy..."

Singer Imran Mahmudul wrote, "Dear Palestine and Gaza, We, a helpless Muslim nation, could do nothing. We only watched as the people of this sacred land suffered. As a Muslim nation, we are ashamed".

NEWS

Polls code of conduct almost finalised: EC

FROM PAGE 12

Asked about the changes, the official said he could not provide details without the draft being approved first.

However, he mentioned that the use of posters by candidates campaigning in the next national election would be banned.

He said the decision was in line with the Election Reform Commission's proposal.

"We have incorporated almost all the proposals of the Election Reform Commission into the draft."

Asked whether political parties were engaged while preparing the draft, the EC said, "We will sit with stakeholders on a later date. The situation will guide us on what needs to be done."

Currently, there is a code of conduct for political parties and candidates. However, the EC has taken the initiative to revise it and formulate a new code of conduct.

Bangladesh's relief team

FROM PAGE 2

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Naypyidaw. Over the last two days, they have recovered crucial official documents and other valuable items from the debris.

The rescue team comprises members from the Bangladesh Army's Corps of Engineers, along with personnel from the navy, air force, and Fire Service and Civil Defence. Initial assessments by the engineering team confirmed that the building sustained severe structural damage due to the 7.7 magnitude earthquake, causing parts of it to collapse entirely.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Medical Assistance Team continued providing healthcare services in Naypyidaw. On Sunday, medical teams operated in three hospitals—the 50-bed Zabuthiri Township Hospital, the 100-bed Hospital, and the 1,000-bed General Hospital.

So far, Bangladeshi medical teams have treated 619 patients, including 162 yesterday, four of whom underwent complex surgeries.

The humanitarian mission will continue in coordination with Myanmar's local administration and relevant authorities, the ISPR said. Myanmar's local media has put

Govt issues stern

FROM PAGE 1

"We have video footage of the attackers. They are being identified and will be arrested immediately. Police teams are currently working on this," said the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, quoting Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam.

The statement also quoted BIDA Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun as saying, "The government does not impede any lawful protests. However, we will not tolerate any criminal acts under the guise of protest."

Ashik also said, "A lot of these businesses were local investors, some of them were foreigners who

believed in Bangladesh. They all offered employment opportunities to the youth."

"Those who have committed these heinous acts of vandalism are true enemies of job creation, economic growth, and stability."

BATA RESPONDS

Global footwear company Bata, one of the affected businesses, in a statement yesterday, said claims suggesting that Bata is an Israeli-owned company or has political affiliations in the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict were inaccurate.

It said Bata is a privately held, family-owned company founded in the Czech Republic with no political ties to the conflict.

"It is deeply regrettable that some of our retail locations in Bangladesh have recently been subjected to vandalism, apparently triggered by these false narratives," it said.

"We firmly condemn all forms of violence," it added.

A second batch of assistance was sent to Naypyidaw on April 1. This included 15 more tonnes of relief supplies, a medical team equipped with emergency medicines, and a specialised rescue team with advanced equipment, according to the ISPR.

The 55 member support team, led by Colonel Md Shamim Iftekhar of the Bangladesh Army, includes 34 rescue personnel (from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Fire Service) and a 21-member medical team, comprising military doctors and civilian medical specialists.

130 pro-AL lawyers sued

FROM PAGE 12

The complainant brought charges against all accused of entering the rooms of pro-BNP lawyers Omar Faruq Faruqi, Moazzem Hossain and Abdul Khaleque Milon on August 4 last year. The accused stole important valuables from the three rooms located in the building of the Dhaka Bar Association and stealing valuables.

The case records say former DBA general secretary Jobayer; senior vice-president Shahana; cultural secretary Tuny; treasurers Hasibur and Shamim, also former public prosecutor of the Cyber Tribunal;

former senior assistant general secretaries Matiar, Fahim and Salah; and former assistant general secretary Tipu stole cheque books from the rooms.

Shawn, a former DBA general secretary, stole Tk 1 lakh, Sanzida stole Tk 1.3 lakh and Ramjan, a former DBA executive committee member, stole Tk 4 lakh, said the complainant.

All 144 accused, equipped with pistols, iron rods and bamboo sticks, hurt the complainant and 20 other witnesses with the intent to kill them, leaving them seriously injured, according to the case documents.

Following the incidents, the

victims received primary treatment from the clinic located inside the bar association and various hospitals.

However, the complainant did not mention in the case statement whether they were admitted to any hospital or clinic even though the charges mentioned are grievous. In addition, he did not mention anything about blasting crude bombs.

Meanwhile, 61 landed in jail on Sunday after their bail prayers were rejected.

On Sunday, the court also granted former DBA president Abu Sayeed Sagar and 18 female lawyers bail in the case.

37 more Gazans killed

FROM PAGE 12

On Sunday, Lebanon said an Israeli strike killed two people in south Lebanon's Zibqin, as the Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah operatives in the area.

The strikes come after US envoy Morgan Ortagus said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that Hezbollah and other armed groups should be disarmed "as soon as possible" and that Lebanese troops were expected to do the job.

Ortagus spoke to Lebanese broadcaster LBCI at the end of a three-day visit to Beirut, where she met with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, Speaker of Parliament Nabil Berri and other officials and political representatives.

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli forces on Gaza killed more than 50,000 Palestinians.

In Cairo, Emmanuel Macron met

his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

"We are firmly opposed to the displacement of populations and to any annexation of both Gaza and the West Bank," Macron said after the meeting.

"This would be a violation of international law and a serious threat to the security of the entire region, including Israel," he said.

Macron said Palestinian Islamist group Hamas should have no part in governing the Gaza Strip and reiterated his support for a reconstruction plan for the war-ravaged territory endorsed by the Arab League.

In January, Trump floated a proposal to move Gazans out of the territory, suggesting that Egypt or Jordan could take them in.

Both countries, along with other Arab allies, governments around the world and the Palestinians themselves, have flatly rejected the notion.

Trump later appeared to backtrack on the proposal, saying he was "not forcing" his widely condemned plan.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in Washington yesterday to meet Trump, whom he will likely ask for a reprieve from US tariffs while seeking further backing on Iran and Gaza.

Netanyahu becomes the first foreign leader to meet Trump in the US capital since the "Liberation Day" tariffs announcement sent global markets crashing.

He was also due to discuss the war in Gaza, following the collapse of a short-lived truce that the United States had helped broker.

Efforts to restore the truce have failed, with nearly 1,400 people killed in renewed Israeli air and ground operations, according to Gaza's health ministry.

Robbers loot valuables

FROM PAGE 12

others in. "They seemed to be aged between 15 and 40, but all had their faces covered. Residents couldn't recognise anyone," he said, citing the victims.

The robbers first stormed the flat of Mahbub and the flat of Saifullah.

They tied up both families and took

away their belongings. They then moved to the fourth floor and robbed the flats of Mannan and Humayun.

The OC added that following an emergency call, police reached the spot and took the injured to the hospital.

Law enforcers are trying to collect CCTV footage from the surrounding area to identify the criminals.

Ezaz Khan, general secretary of the Green Model Town Society, said, "The residents came to my house after failing to reach me over the phone. I then called the police."

He added that officials from the police, DB, CID, and PBI visited the spot for investigation.

The filing of a case is underway, police said.

INTERNATIONAL

'Everything gets mowed down' Israeli troops describe clearance of 'kill zone' on Gaza's edge

REUTERS

Israeli troops flattened farmland and cleared entire residential districts in Gaza to open a "kill zone" around the enclave, according to a report published yesterday that quoted soldiers testifying about the harsh methods used in the operation.

The report, from the Israeli rights group Breaking the Silence, cited soldiers who served in Gaza during the creation of the buffer zone, which was extended to between 800-1,500 metres inside the enclave by December 2024 and which has since been expanded further by Israeli troops.

Israel says the buffer zone encircling Gaza is needed to prevent a repeat of the October 7, 2023 attack by thousands of Hamas-led fighters who poured across the previous 300 metre-deep buffer zone to assault a string of Israeli communities around the Gaza Strip.

"The borderline is a kill zone, a lower area, a lowland," the report quotes a captain in the Armored Corps as saying. "We have a commanding view of it, and they do too."

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.

The testimony came from soldiers who were serving in Gaza at the end of 2023, soon after Israeli troops entered the enclave, until early 2024.

In the early expansion of the zone, soldiers said troops using bulldozers and heavy excavators along with thousands of mines and explosives destroyed around 3,500 buildings as well as agricultural and industrial areas that could have been vital in postwar reconstruction. Around 35 percent of the farmland in Gaza, much of which is around the edges of the territory, was destroyed, according to a separate report by the Israeli rights group Gisha.

"Essentially, everything gets mowed down, everything," the report quoted one reserve soldier serving in the Armored Corps as saying. "Every building and every structure." Another soldier said the area looked "like Hiroshima".

One soldier from a combat engineering unit described the sense of shock he felt when he saw the destruction already wrought by the initial bombardment of the northern area of the Gaza Strip when his unit was first sent in to begin its clearance operation.

"It was surreal, even before we destroyed the houses when we went in. It was surreal, like you were in a movie," he said.



French President Emmanuel Macron shakes hands with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi during an agreement signing ceremony in Cairo yesterday. Macron said that he strongly opposed any displacement of Palestinians or annexation in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

PHOTO: REUTERS

China calls US tariffs 'bullying'

Trump tells Americans 'not to be stupid'

AGENCIES

Threats and pressure are not the right way to deal with China, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday after describing US President Donald Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" as bullying.

The tariffs are "typical unilateralism and protectionism, and economic bullying", spokesperson Lin Jian told a regular press conference.

Last week, Trump introduced an additional 34% tariff on Chinese goods as part of steep levies imposed on most US trade partners, bringing the total duties on China this year to 54%.

China retaliated with a series of countermeasures.

"The abuse of tariffs by the United States is tantamount to depriving countries, especially those in the Global

South, of their right to development," Lin said.

Stock markets and oil prices collapsed further yesterday for markets as Trump stood firm over his tariffs despite recession fears.

Hopes that the US president would rethink his policy in light of the turmoil were dashed Sunday when he said he would not make a deal with other countries unless trade deficits were solved.

"Sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something," he said of the ructions that have wiped trillions of dollars off company valuations, which impacts the retirement savings of a large number of Americans.

Yesterday, Trump told Americans "Don't be Weak! Don't be Stupid... Be Strong, Courageous, and Patient, and GREATNESS will be the result!"

Gunmen kill 52 people in Nigeria

REUTERS, Lagos

Gunmen have killed at least 52 people and displaced nearly 2,000 others over several days of attacks in Nigeria's northern Plateau state, which has a history of violence between farmers and cattle herders, the national emergency agency said.

The reason for the attacks in six villages in Plateau's Bokkos district last week was not immediately known but it is the worst outbreak of violence since December 2023, when more than 100 people were killed in the same district.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said the scale of the violence became clearer at the weekend as 52 people were confirmed dead while 22 others were taken to hospital.



West lifting certain sanctions.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday said that Trump was not "going to fall into the trap of endless negotiations" with Russia, while French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday urged Moscow to stop using "stalling tactics".

Russia has kept up its strikes on Ukraine unabated since Trump took office, despite the US president's promise to bring peace within "24 hours" once settled back into the White House.

A Russian missile strike on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's home city of Kryvyi Rih on Friday evening killed 20 people, nine of them children, according to local authorities.

The Kremlin on Monday denied firing on civilian infrastructure.

In a visit to Cairo, Macron urged Russia to accept the US push for a ceasefire.

"For almost a month now, Russia has not only refused to accept the ceasefire, but has also stepped up its bombardment of civilians, with tragic casualties again a few days ago in Ukraine," he said.

"It is urgent that Russia stops with the pretences and stalling tactics and accepts the unconditional ceasefire," Macron added.

Both sides reported a new wave of overnight attacks.

BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, DHAKA



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Admission into Postgraduate Programs Semester: October 2024

Date: 06 April 2025

Applications are invited for admission into the following postgraduate programs for **October 2024 Semester**. An applicant must complete the online Application Form and upload the supporting documents (as described below) using the postgraduate admission section of the BUET website (<http://pgadmission.buet.ac.bd>) within the period from **09.04.2025 to 21.04.2025** (Until 11:59 p.m.). **Last date of application fee submission is 20.04.2025**.

A) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Offered by the Departments/ Institutes:

Ph.D. in Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Physics, Urban and Regional Planning, Water Resources Engineering, Nanomaterials and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Institute of Information and Communication Technology.

B) Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Degree offered by the Departments:

M.Phil. in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

C) Master's Degree Offered by the Departments/ Institutes:

- (i) M.Sc.Engg./M.Engg. in Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering(Environmental), Civil Engineering (Geotechnical), Civil Engineering (Structural), Civil Engineering (Transportation), Environmental Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Advanced Engineering Management, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Water Resources Engineering, Glass and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Humanitarian Engineering, Nuclear Power Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Information Security, Disaster Risk Reduction Engineering.
- (ii) M.Sc. in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Materials Science, Glass and Ceramic Science, Climate Modeling and Risk Management, Disaster Risk Reduction Science.
- (iii) MURP in Urban and Regional Planning by Course and Thesis
- (iv) M.Sc. in Water Resources Development
- (v) M.Sc. in Management of Technology

D) Post Graduate Diploma Offered by Institute:

- (i) Postgraduate Diploma in Business IT

Important Information

- During the submission of the online application through the postgraduate admission section of the website of BUET, the following supporting documents must be uploaded within the period of **09.04.2025 to 21.04.2025** (Until 11:59 p.m.) and **last date of application fee submission is 20.04.2025**.
 - 1. Attach copies of certificates of all public examinations.
 - 2. Attach copies of transcripts/ grade-sheets/ mark-sheets of all public examinations.
 - 3. Attach copies of testimonial/ character certificate from the institution last attended.
 - 4. Letter of consent, in prescribed form, from the employer for applicants in employment.
- After submission application, Pay 500/- (Five Hundred only) take online as Application Fee. The applicant has to bear the online charges to pay the application fee (Tk.500/-).
- Prospectus containing detailed qualification requirements for admission into different programs and information regarding the submission of application is available at the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.
- Applicants in employment whether part-time or full-time must apply through their employers for both part-time and full-time enrollments.
- Selection of candidates for admission into a postgraduate program is performed by respective department/ institute. The selection procedure may vary from one department to another. Candidates are advised to contact the respective department/ institute for information regarding the selection procedure.
- A few Teaching Assistantships/ Fellowships may be awarded to suitable full-time students.
- Degrees obtained from institutions other than BUET will be subjected to equivalence by appropriate authority of BUET before a candidate is finally selected for admission to a degree/diploma program.
- Last date for submission of the application is 21.04.2025. (Until 11:59 p.m.), last date of application fee submission is 20.04.2025, and classes will commence from 24.05.2025.**
- The schedule regarding postgraduate admission may change due to any situation. Updated information will be available on the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.

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Russia seeks 'answers' before Ukraine truce

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said that it supported the idea of a truce in Ukraine but had many "questions" about how it would work, pushing back at US and European suggestions that it was playing for time.

US President Donald Trump has voiced growing frustration at the lack of progress towards a ceasefire in the three-year-long conflict, despite his administration holding talks with both Ukrainian and Russian officials.

The US leader in March said that he was "pissed off" with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and on Sunday told reporters: "We'd like them to stop. I don't like the bombing. The bombing goes on and on."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday told reporters that "Putin does support the idea that a ceasefire is needed, but before that a whole range of questions have to be answered."

"These questions are hanging in the air, so far no one has given an answer to them," he added, blaming the lack of progress on "the Kyiv regime's uncontrollability".

Putin rejected a joint US-Ukrainian proposal for an unconditional and full ceasefire in March, while the Kremlin has made a US proposed truce in the Black Sea dependent on the

West lifting certain sanctions.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday said that Trump was not "going to fall into the trap of endless negotiations" with Russia, while French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday urged Moscow to stop using "stalling tactics".

Russia has kept up its strikes on Ukraine unabated since Trump took office, despite the US president's promise to bring peace within "24 hours" once settled back into the White House.

A Russian missile strike on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's home city of Kryvyi Rih on Friday evening killed 20 people, nine of them children, according to local authorities.

The Kremlin on Monday denied firing on civilian infrastructure.

In a visit to Cairo, Macron urged Russia to accept the US push for a ceasefire.

"For almost a month now, Russia has not only refused to accept the ceasefire, but has also stepped up its bombardment of civilians, with tragic casualties again a few days ago in Ukraine," he said.

"It is urgent that Russia stops with the pretences and stalling tactics and accepts the unconditional ceasefire," Macron added.

Both sides reported a new wave of overnight attacks.

Some US RMG

FROM PAGE 12
said his US buyers have not yet demanded discounts, and the work orders his company got will continue, but new work orders may slow down.

He added that nearly 30 percent work orders from the US retailers and brands may drop as the buyers will prefer shifting work orders to Egypt, Jordan, and India as those countries are levied lower tariffs than that of Bangladesh.

Syed M Tanvir, managing director of Pacific Jeans, said his business is continuing as usual.

He is optimistic that Bangladesh will perform better in exporting cotton fabric made garments as Bangladesh is very strong in this area.

China and Vietnam are facing more duty than Bangladesh in the US markets.

Moreover, Bangladesh has improved the quality, compliance and the capacity a lot over the years.

"I really hope Bangladesh can convince the US to drop the tariffs to 10 percent. If your tariff stays at 37 percent and other countries stay as now, Bangladesh will lose considerable knit and shirt business to India, and some denim / bottoms will be lost to Pakistan, Egypt and

China," he said. "We hope the brands will make their decisions with due consideration for the situation of their suppliers and the over 4 million workers in the apparel industry. We trust they will not abandon anyone," he added.

China and Vietnam are facing more duty than Bangladesh in the US markets.

Moreover, Bangladesh has improved the quality, compliance and the capacity a lot over the years.

"Be Strong, Courageous, and Patient, and GREATNESS will be the result!"

Trump scrapped any meetings with China over its retaliation, but said the United States was ready to open talks with all countries willing to negotiate.

A 10 percent "baseline" tariff on US imports from around the world took effect Saturday, but a



Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed companies for following works:

SL	Name of the Works	Available Tender Schedule		Submission & Opening Date
		From	To	
01	Purchasing of Red Hat Operating Systems and MSSQL Server 2022 Enterprise License	08.04.2025	17.04.2025	24.04.2025
02	Purchasing Data Loss Prevention Solution	08.04.2025	17.04.2025	24.04.2025
03	Procurement of 300KVA ~ 375KVA Generator for MDB Data Centre & Banani Head office annex*	10.04.2025	17.04.2025	24.04.2025

Interested companies may collect tender schedule/s by submitting an application addressing the undersigned from General Services Division during office hour (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM) on payment of Tk. 3,000.00 for SL # 01 & Tk. 2,000.00 for SL # 02 & 03 in the form of payment order (non-refundable) favoring "Midland Bank PLC." for the above mentioned schedules. Each tender must be submitted in the sealed envelope mentioning the name of work on top of the envelope within 3:30 PM on the above mentioned submission date and only technical documents will be opened at 4:00 PM on the same date.

MDB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

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Zahid Plaza (7th Floor), 30 North Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212

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Re-e-Tender Notice (OTM)				
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Proper steps needed to handle US tariffs

Bold diplomacy, united efforts can help avert the crisis

We welcome the government's initiative to send two letters to the US administration—one to President Donald Trump and another to the US government's lead trade negotiation office—in response to its new "reciprocal" tariff regime imposed on all its trading partners. According to a report by this daily, the letters will outline policy measures to reduce bilateral trade imbalances that triggered the levying of a 37 percent tariff on imports from Bangladesh. This comes amid fears that the new policy, effective from April 9, may strike a blow to our export-based economy, particularly the garments sector, for which the US is the single largest market. As the world rushes to the negotiating table to deal with this economic setback, we must do the same to protect our industries and retain our competitiveness.

While talking to *The Daily Star* following a high-level meeting at the finance ministry, government officials and industry leaders appeared optimistic that if proper measures are taken, Bangladesh may not only weather this storm but also turn the challenge into an opportunity to diversify exports, streamline trade practices, and strengthen its position in the US market. This confidence comes partly from the fact that most regional trade rivals of Bangladesh face a heavier blow. In 2024, Bangladesh shipped \$7.4 billion worth of garments to the US, making it the third-largest apparel supplier after China and Vietnam. Now, under the new US policy, China's total apparel tariff could reach 65.5 percent, while Vietnam's may rise to 57.5 percent. However, there remains doubt about whether the 37 percent tariff imposed on Bangladesh will replace existing duties or be added on top of them. If it is an additional tariff, the total duty on our garments could rise to 48.5 percent—up from the current average of 11.56 percent. We, therefore, must prepare for the worst-case scenario, although we will not know for sure until April 9.

Our response must be swift, strategic, and with the broader interests of the nation, including workers, in mind. One strategy that could prove effective is requesting a delay in the implementation of the new tariffs. Vietnam has reportedly already sought at least 45 days of relief from the US to allow room for negotiation and adjustment, even offering to reduce all tariffs on US imports to zero. Bangladesh should not shy away from making similar moves to adjust trade balances. While the commerce adviser has said that a deferral is unlikely at this stage, persistence may lead to rewards. Even a limited extension could give our exporters time to reorganise and adjust pricing strategies.

In this regard, we may also consider engaging experienced US-based lobbyists to support our case. Experts have also stressed the importance of expanding US imports of goods and services, broadening our export base beyond RMG, expanding exports to other markets beyond the US, and removing all tariff and non-tariff barriers to encourage greater bilateral trade.

Endless loss of lives on the roads

Govt must make greater efforts to ensure road safety

We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives in road crashes during the Eid ul-Fitr holidays. According to data from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), during the eight-day vacation from March 28 to April 4, a total of 132 people lost their lives and 208 were injured in road accidents across the country. Unfortunately, such crashes and fatalities during Eid vacations have become a recurring feature over the years.

While the government deserves some appreciation for its efforts to make Eid journeys smooth and hassle-free for home-bound people this year, clearly, not enough was done to prevent road crashes. While ad-hoc measures cannot fully prevent road crashes during mass movements, we believe some steps could have been taken to secure accident-prone areas on the highways. For instance, the Chhota Jangal area on the Chattogram Cox's Bazar highway—reportedly the most accident-prone spot along this route—witnessed three major crashes, which could have been averted had preemptive measures been taken. Similarly, there are numerous known spots on our highways where road accidents frequently occur. Implementing safety measures in these areas during Eid could have helped save precious lives.

It is heartbreaking to think of the family that was traveling to Cox's Bazar to celebrate Eid but tragically lost their lives—all five of them—in a devastating accident on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway. Or think of the family of the police constable who was on his way to visit his pregnant wife but never made it. Such tragedies must not be normalised. The authorities and transport leaders must take effective measures to prevent this annual scenario.

Previously, we saw how the Awami League regime consistently neglected the issue of road safety and bowed down to pressure from transport owners and workers. While numerous infrastructural development projects were undertaken during its tenure to enhance road connectivity nationwide, road safety was regrettably sidelined. Thus, over the past 15 years, public transport became one of the most corrupt and unregulated sectors, with the anarchy on our roads increasing significantly.

We hope the interim government will take decisive steps to regulate this sector and enforce the RTA 2018 without succumbing to any external pressures. Establishing a dedicated commission to implement much-needed reforms in the sector should be a priority. Without a comprehensive overhaul of the entire system, achieving road safety will remain an unattainable goal.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Violence erupts in Rwanda, foreshadowing genocide



On this day in 1994, violence fuels the launch of what would become the worst episode of genocide since World War II: the massacre of an estimated 500,000 to 1 million innocent civilian Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

EDITORIAL

The golden rule in recovering stolen assets



Selim Jahan
is former director of the Human Development Report Office under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and lead author of the Human Development Report.

SEIM JAHAN

In 1972, when Bob Woodward was investigating the Watergate scandal, he was not getting any leads. He got a breakthrough from a secret informant with the pseudonym "Deep Throat," saying "Follow the money." In 2005, the identity of "Deep Throat" was revealed—it was Mark Felt, an FBI special agent. Mark passed away in 2008, but his advice to Bob Woodward became a golden rule in uncovering major crimes involving huge amounts of money.

Mark Felt's rule is still relevant to the question of laundered money from Bangladesh and its recovery. In this respect, "time is of the essence"—because the more time passes, the more difficult it becomes to "follow the money." Any laundered money travels very fast, particularly in this digital age. It moves to various destinations and takes different forms—both tangible and intangible. So, after a while, the colour of the money gradually fades, and it simply becomes very difficult to track and identify laundered money.

One critical question is: how big is the amount of money laundered from Bangladesh? Estimates vary. However, the White Paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy indicates that Tk 28 lakh crore was laundered between 2009 and 2023—equivalent to \$234 billion. This is just an indicative figure, based on various sources and assumptions. The ultimate point is that the sheer scale of laundered money from Bangladesh is simply huge. After it left the country, the money was used to buy homes or other tangible assets in Dubai, UAE, UK, Malaysia, and so on.

The million-dollar question is: how can Bangladesh recover the laundered money that has crossed its borders? Let us make it clear at the very outset that the recovery process is both complex and time-consuming. The complexity arises on both financial and legal fronts. The process often starts with identifying unusual and suspicious transactions, which can be done through anti-money laundering protocols. Authorities trace the funds through financial records, such as bank accounts, wire transfers, and export-import invoices, which requires

forensic financial investigation to uncover how money was laundered. The detection and investigation of laundered money require both bilateral and international cooperation. For example, governments use Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties to request assistance from foreign governments in gathering evidence, freezing accounts, or tracing assets. With cooperation from foreign countries, the laundered money can be temporarily frozen to prevent further movement. International anti crime organisations like Interpol can be involved in the investigation. International investigation firms



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

are sometimes engaged in evidence gathering and investigations.

Next comes the legal action. Legal action is initiated against those involved in money laundering, both in the country of origin and the country of destination. The legal action involves charges of money laundering, fraud, or other related crimes. Along with criminal charges, civil lawsuits may also be initiated. But two issues are critical in this respect. First, three basic points need to be established: one, in the country of origin, wealth was accumulated illicitly; two, wealth was taken out of the country illegally; and three, the wealth entered the country of destination illegally. Second, before

For example, the destination country may only be interested in whether the money has entered its borders legally, irrespective of where and how it was accumulated and how it left the originating country. This reflects that the destination country might be more interested in incoming resources. This may impede the recovery process.

Additionally, if the funds were settled in tax havens or offshore banking, the recovery process becomes more complex. Similarly, complexities may arise if the laundered money is turned into tangible assets such as houses. It has been found on many occasions that legal firms engaged by money-laundering victim countries to

initiating legal actions abroad, those involved in money laundering must be convicted in the courts of the country of origin. Sometimes, international law firms are appointed for legal actions abroad. If the laundered money is found to be illegal, confiscation orders are served by courts to seize the funds in the destination country. The confiscated laundered money is then returned to the originating country through legal agreements and treaties.

The process of convicting those involved in money laundering and recovering the laundered money critically hinges on collaboration between the country of origin and the country of destination. In that context, the existence of mutual treaties and agreements between those countries is a prerequisite. There must be compatible legal frameworks between the two parties. Different legal frameworks, weak enforcement of anti-money laundering protocols, and strict banking secrecy laws in the destination country may make the recovery process difficult. Furthermore, the goodwill of the destination country is also key.

Angola is often cited as a positive example, where \$5 billion was recovered through various means. It represents part of the billions of dollars laundered by the son of a past president of the country, Jose Eduardo dos Santos. In fact, about \$3 billion of the \$5 billion was willingly returned by a friend of the president's son. In Nigeria, during the rule of Sani Abacha, an estimated \$5 billion was looted and laundered abroad. After extensive legal proceedings and cooperation between Swiss authorities, the World Bank, and the Nigerian government, \$500 million was recovered in 2004.

In 2020, a further \$300 million was agreed to be repatriated from the US. Other recoveries were made in various countries, including the UK and Liechtenstein, bringing the total recovered to \$1.3 billion. In Malaysia, 1Malaysia Development Berhad was involved in laundering \$4.5 billion through complex schemes. In 2020, the US Department of Justice reached a settlement with Goldman Sachs, which agreed to pay \$2.5 billion directly to Malaysia for its role in the scandal. US authorities also recovered over \$1 billion in assets tied to 1Malaysia Development Berhad.

Money laundering is a sensitive issue. Recovery is neither costless nor easy. It will take time. People should surely be informed about the progress as well as the problems of the recovery process, but they should not be given any false notions about the timing or the extent of the recovery. Whatever success Bangladesh has in recovering the laundered money, the issue needs to be pursued, irrespective of time and cost, because it has a moral dimension. When the culprits are brought to justice, it will send a strong signal to everyone that nobody can get away with looting national wealth.

The draft Renewable Energy Policy 2025 needs revision

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Atikuzzaman Shaeed and Mehadi Hasan Shamim are working at the "CPD Power and Energy Studies" of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

KHONDAKER GOLAM MOAZZEM, ATIKUZZAMAN SHAZEED and MEHADI HASAN SHAMIM

The long awaited draft of the new Renewable Energy Policy (REP) 2025 was published in February, inviting suggestions and advice for refinement. It promises generation of 20 percent (6,145 MW) of electricity from renewables by 2030 and 30 percent (17,470 MW) by 2041. However, this estimation is based on the overstated electricity demand forecast from the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP). As per a demand projection by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 20 percent renewable electricity in 2030 is 5,600 MW and 30 percent is 10,500 MW. Thus, the target of the draft policy is ambitious on the surface.

In 2008, Bangladesh set a modest target: 10 percent electricity from renewable sources by 2020. That deadline came and went. Even in 2025, the country barely achieved around five percent of renewable capacity. Now, the draft policy expects us to believe that in just six years, we will quadruple that share. China, a global leader in renewables, has set a target of achieving 25 percent non-fossil fuel by 2030. This raises the

question: does Bangladesh—with the same resources, infrastructure, or investment as China—truly believe it can aim for a similar target?

The glaring flaw of the draft policy is the omission of a fossil fuel phasing-out strategy. The UK agreed on a coal phase out by 2024. In Germany, a law schedules a coal phase out by 2038 at the latest. On the other hand, Bangladesh government continues to promote conventional fossil fuel sources, and without a phase-out strategy, the renewable energy target seems like a mere political statement.

The draft policy lacks synchronisation. While its goals are set based on the estimations from the IEPMP, it should be noted that IEPMP emphasised natural gas, LNG, and nuclear power rather than renewable sources. Besides, the draft policy talks about increasing the "green energy" share in the energy mix but promotes many renewable sources that are not green. The policy assigns the Sustainable Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) the responsibilities for overseeing, developing and implementing renewable programmes, but it provides the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission the licensing authority, thus creating a bureaucratic maze.

The policy uses indecisive language with regard to several incentives. For instance, "the government may consider waivers for EVs," "stamp duty may be exempted," and "production-linked incentives may be provided." This lack of clarity creates uncertainty for stakeholders and could hinder investment and industry participation.

If Bangladesh wants to transition to a sustainable energy future, REP 2025 must undergo critical revisions. First, it must re-evaluate and set targets based on proper estimations. Secondly, strong and well-thought financing mechanisms and incentives for foreign direct investments must be introduced. Besides, it should include a phase-out strategy. Additionally, to accelerate the industrial renewable energy integration, it should also create financial incentives for off-grid solar adoption in manufacturing zones. To improve coordination, it is recommended SREDA be assigned full licensing authority over renewable energy projects. In terms of providing incentives, it must remove ambiguous wording and use more definitive language, such as "shall" or "will" to clearly establish the government's commitments. It has to actively and judiciously promote grid modernisation and improvement of renewable energy storage capacity.

The draft REP 2025 does not have enough necessary structural support, financial backing, and clear implementation strategies to attain the envisioned targets. Without critical revisions, the draft policy risks being another well-intentioned but ineffective document.

The draft policy lacks synchronisation. While its goals are set based on the estimations from the IEPMP, it should be noted that IEPMP emphasised natural gas, LNG, and nuclear power rather than renewable sources. Besides, the draft policy talks about increasing the 'green energy' share in the energy mix but promotes many renewable sources that are not green.

weighing the economy down?

There are several other areas where the policy requires improvements. In Bangladesh, industries are ascribed for the majority of electricity demand. Although the draft policy has encouraged rooftop utility-scale solar projects, it does not provide any measures for solar adoption for heavy manufacturing industries. Besides,

How to avoid a summer of political discontent



Jyoti Rahman
is a writer and an economist.

JYOTI RAHMAN

Bangladeshis have just observed the first Eid after the despot Sheikh Hasina fled the country. She had left behind a blood-soaked nation where all institutions and organs of the state were systematically ravaged. The chief adviser has rightly compared the state of affairs in August 2024 to a war zone.

From that beginning, the people of Bangladesh have worked hard to restore stability. From New York to Beijing, Professor Yunus has received felicitations and enthusiasm, not accorded to any Bangladeshi leader in years, if not decades. Meanwhile, for the first time in living memory, this has been a Ramadan where many staples have been affordable for most people.

This has been a happy Eid-ul-Fitr for the people of free Bangladesh. However, the Eid revelry has been followed by a return to grim reality.

First came the news report in *The New York Times* about the risk of extremism against the backdrop of the country's political vacuum. There is nothing factually wrong with the report. Indeed, there is a political vacuum. And there are people who cherish the opportunity to peddle their extremism in this vacuum. Furthermore, the potential for instability, misinformation and disinformation remains, pitting the interim government, pro-democracy political parties, and armed forces against each other in the current political interregnum. There is only one way out of this morass: a concrete timetable on elections.

The bad news printed in New York was followed by worse news from Washington, DC, in the form of the shock caused by the tariffs

imposed by the Trump administration. While it is too soon to fathom, let alone analyse the full ramifications of these announcements, the uncertainty is already weighing on the major economies of the US and China. Against this oncoming global economic headwind, domestic political certainty can be a major cushion. If nothing else, a government that has the qualifier "interim" before it is not conducive to investment. Again, this calls for an expedient democratic transition.

Of course, before we can have elections, we need to reach a political consensus on how we can avoid the rise of another despot, or at the least, make another despot a less likely possibility. This is the rationale for the reform process that was initiated in October 2024.

Sheikh Hasina was a tyrant. Without absolving her manifold misdeeds in any way whatsoever, it is important to stress that the political system we had between 1991 (when the 12th amendment to the constitution was adopted) and 2011 (when the 15th amendment came into effect) was extremely vulnerable to despotism. In this system, all powers were concentrated in the person, and indeed the persona, of the prime minister. With Hasina, we saw absolute power bringing absolute irresponsibility.

This extreme concentration of power made losing an election an extremely costly exercise. Meanwhile, our first past-the-post electoral system made it quite likely (in the sense that it had happened twice in four elections) for the winning party or coalition to amass two-thirds majority with less than half the vote and amend the constitution. That is precisely what allowed Hasina to amend the

constitution in 2011, paving the way for three rigged elections.

It would be a gross dereliction of duty by our political leaders if they fail to reach a consensus on a reform package that could reduce the risks of another would-be Hasina.

Fortunately, such a reform package is within the realm of possibility, centred around an upper house of the parliament. All

41 percent of votes in the election and 207 seats (their record in 1979). The government is formed on the basis of the lower house numbers, and since BNP enjoys an absolute majority, it can run a strong government to implement its policies and programmes, and pass budgets and most legislations. It can also pass a constitutional amendment bill in the lower house through its two-thirds majority.

Historically, BNP has been the party of democratisation, through the fifth amendment restoring multi-party democracy, the 12th amendment restoring parliamentary system, and the 13th amendment codifying the caretaker system. To the extent that BNP has no track record of imposing one-party rule, it has no reason to seek a power that has been abused repeatedly by political parties that are less democratic. Rather, agreeing to a "proportionally represented upper house" will be very much consistent with the party's reformist, democratising credentials.

One can further discuss whether such an upper house could have vetting powers over appointments to the judiciary or constitutional bodies. Indeed, that is precisely the kind of discussion that is needed between the senior leaders of all major democratic parties.

However, if BNP agrees in principle to a "proportionally represented upper house," there is no reason to delay the election beyond the end of the year. Professor Yunus has repeatedly said that no reform will be imposed on anyone. Therefore, election is the appropriate mechanism to decide on various other recommendations by Prof Riaz and members of other commissions where disagreement exists. Meanwhile, recommendations such as those on the judiciary, which major parties agree upon, can be implemented through ordinance or regulation.

Some political parties want local government elections held under the interim government, but justifiably, BNP has expressed reservations lest it delays the national election. But even this can be resolved by holding parliamentary, city council, municipality and upazila elections simultaneously (perhaps over several days).

There is no reason to drag the reform process into the monsoon of 2025. Rather, election dates could be announced within weeks if our leaders show sufficient maturity. An election campaign is the best way to celebrate the first anniversary of the Monsoon Revolution.

The alternative may be one long, torrid summer of discontent.



FILE VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

major political parties agree with the concept, but they differ on how the upper house members would be elected. The largest party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), wants the upper house numbers to be proportional to the seats won in the lower house, though they have also said that they are open to discussing the matter. Professor Ali Riaz and his team proposed that the upper house members would be elected proportionate to the votes received by the parties in the lower house.

To put that in concrete terms, suppose in a future election BNP were to win

Suppose passing the constitutional amendment in the upper house also requires a two-thirds majority; in that case, under BNP's preferred method, they would have 69 of 100 upper house seats, whereas under the alternative, they would have 41. This difference is crucial—the first method will leave us at the mercy of a future would-be despot, whereas the second one can significantly reduce the risks of brute majoritarian despotism.

The point here is not that a future BNP government will amend the constitution and usher in despotism. In fact, quite the opposite.

GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Bangladeshi youth's solidarity with Palestine will be remembered



Yousef SY Ramadan
is the ambassador of Palestine to Bangladesh.

YOUSEF SY RAMADAN

Everywhere in the world, excited children gathered for Eid and so did the children of Gaza. But the latter, unlike anyone, had to celebrate with bombs raining down on them. At least 85 people were killed on Eid in Gaza, marking one of the deadliest days since Israel began their massacre again. Speaking to the Middle East Eye, Ahmad al-Qahwali who lost his relatives on Eid to Israeli airstrikes, said, "Instead of taking the children to celebrate Eid, we took them to the hospital's morgue—some of them were brought in as pieces." What did Gazans do to deserve such devastation during Eid ul-Fitr?

Two holy months of Ramadan in Gaza—last year and this year—have now passed amidst genocide. Still people fasted, and still, people were excited. They mourn and they celebrate at the same time. Gazans have accepted life with indescribable grief. But Gaza will remain a witness to the failure of humanity to rise up against the gravest injustice we have ever seen in recent history. After seven decades of oppression and occupation, Gazans are being wiped out systematically and brutally for a year and a half.

In despair, we ask: how will Palestinians ever heal from the wound that the Israeli government has instilled in our soul, watching their children being peppered with shrapnel? And how will children losing their families in front of their eyes ever recover from the trauma? And most importantly, how will humanity recover from this period of freefalling morality? The world has watched the flesh and open wounds of Gazans on smartphones, while Israeli extremist ministers have openly said, "A good Palestinian is a dead Palestinian."

On Eid, sadness envelops Gaza—its streets, the remains of its ruins and memories, and the rest of its men,

Zionism that embraces violence and justifies mass murder.

But now, with Donald Trump's declaration of economic war, many wonder if the superpower would be isolated and eventually, the world order would change. But the optimism for Gaza—that any change in the near future will lead to a cessation of suffering—remains slim. The people

genuinity of the Palestinian cause to achieve freedom to live life with human decency. And Bangladeshi students have shown that genuinity with their bravery. We must mention Umama Fatema, spokesperson for Students Against Discriminations (SAD), who rejected the US State Department's "International Women of Courage" award for the July

uprising, stating, "The collective recognition of women activists is highly honourable for us. However, this award has been used to directly endorse Israel's brutal attack on Palestine in October 2023. By refusing acknowledgement of the Palestinian war for independence, the award has justified Israel's assault in a way that questions its neutrality. While

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After a brief respite of ceasefire, Israel's Netanyahu resumed his murderous campaign, realising his extremist coalition will collapse if the bloodshed truly ends. What's particularly disturbing is that Netanyahu's own view about Palestinians is just one among many extremist Zionists who truly believe that human beings deserve to be killed in the most vicious ways possible—their bodies broken into pieces.

of Gaza live life, waiting for the next worse action by Israel. In this context, though, students across the world, in the US and in Bangladesh, have protested, reflecting true, genuine support for the people of Palestine.

On April 7, 2025, students from various universities in Bangladesh marched in response to a global strike, "The World Stops For Gaza." The same day, Israeli airstrikes continued killing dozens of people and targeting a tent in Khan Younis that was being used by several journalists. Footage showed a journalist being engulfed by flames, and burned alive. Such horror happens regularly and the outrage towards it has been treated with repeated repression and censorship from the powers that be.

We appreciate students and people's remarkable and sustained solidarity with Palestine, when many have started turning the other way. Protesting against powerful occupation forces, shows the

genuinity of the Palestinian cause to achieve freedom to live life with human decency. And Bangladeshi students have shown that genuinity with their bravery. We must mention Umama Fatema, spokesperson for Students Against Discriminations (SAD), who rejected the US State Department's "International Women of Courage" award for the July

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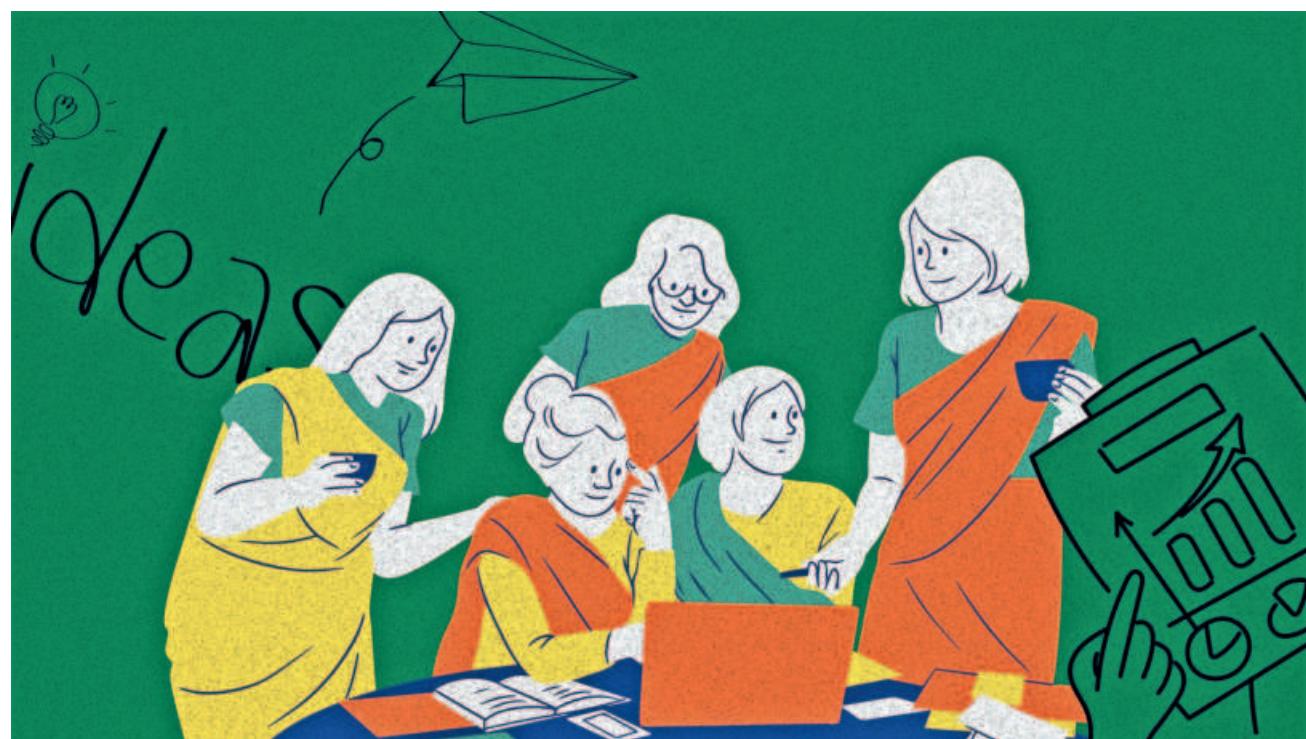


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

The ultimate guide to acing business competitions

This is the foundation of any business competition. Many teams make the mistake of jumping straight into solutions without fully diagnosing the issue. A structured approach works best—reading the problem statement carefully, identifying the key challenge, and breaking it down using frameworks like SWOT analysis, Porter's Five Forces, or PESTEL analysis.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Business competitions are among the most rewarding experiences a BBA student can have. Participating in these competitions provides exposure to real corporate problems often presented by leading companies. These cases are based on actual business challenges, which means that participants must apply theories in practical, high pressure scenarios. They teach you how to analyse business problems, develop viable solutions, and present ideas persuasively—all within a tight deadline.

Beyond skills, these competitions also help you build a good network. Some of my closest professional relationships started in competition rooms, with mentors, and even competitors. The exposure to industry leaders, who often serve as judges, is a golden opportunity to make an impression that could lead to internships or job offers. More importantly, business competitions give you the confidence to navigate high-stakes situations. Whether it is pitching an idea to a CEO, debating financial feasibility, or handling unexpected questions, the experiences from these competitions prepare you for the intensity of corporate boardrooms.

Having won BizMaestros and HSBC Business Case Competition, along with several local competitions, I have firsthand experience in how these competitions can shape one's approach to business challenges and accelerate professional growth. This guide explores how to ace business cases as a BBA student.

Choosing the right team

The skills developed through business competitions go beyond technical knowledge. They help improve teamwork, communication, and leadership—qualities that are crucial in any professional setting. Since most competitions require team participation, selecting the right team is one of the most important decisions. The ideal team consists of a balance of skills—someone with strong analytical skills, someone who excels in storytelling and presentation, and someone who is highly organised and manages time effectively. A well-rounded team ensures that all aspects of the competition, from research to execution, are handled efficiently. A common mistake is forming teams based purely on friendships, but in high stakes competitions,

complementing skill sets matter more than personal relationships.

Understanding the problem

This is the foundation of any business competition. Many teams make the mistake of jumping straight into solutions without fully diagnosing the issue. A structured approach works best—reading the problem statement carefully, identifying the key challenge, and breaking it down using frameworks like SWOT analysis, Porter's Five Forces, or PESTEL analysis. This ensures that the solution is aligned with the actual business need rather than being generic or superficial. The best solutions are always those that are not only innovative but also feasible in terms of execution and impact. Judges appreciate ideas that are well-researched, realistic, and backed by data rather than vague or overly ambitious suggestions.

Formulating a strategy

Once the problem is clearly defined, the next step is crafting a structured and compelling strategy. A winning presentation typically follows a logical sequence: introduction, problem analysis, proposed solution, implementation plan, financial justification, and expected impact. The introduction should set the stage with a strong hook—either a powerful statistic, a thought-provoking question, or an engaging story. The problem analysis should clearly define the issue using data and business insights, avoiding unnecessary jargon. The proposed solution should be actionable, innovative, and backed by solid reasoning. The implementation plan should cover how the solution will be executed, including key steps, timeline, and resource allocation. Many teams overlook financial justification, but including a cost-benefit analysis strengthens the case. The conclusion should tie everything together and emphasise the long-term impact of the proposed solution.

Mastering presentation skills

Even the best strategy can fall flat if it is not presented effectively. Presentation skills play a critical role in determining the outcome of the competition. Judges do not just evaluate the content but also how confidently and persuasively it is delivered. A professional, engaging, and visually appealing presentation can set a team apart from competitors who

may have equally strong ideas but fail to communicate them effectively. The key to a strong presentation is simplicity—slides should be clean, with minimal text and impactful visuals that enhance rather than distract. Cluttered slides with too much information can overwhelm the audience. Effective presenters maintain eye contact, use confident body language, and modulate their voice to emphasise key points rather than reading directly from slides. Rehearsing multiple times before the final presentation is crucial, ensuring that the team is well-coordinated, transitions smoothly between speakers, and maintains consistent energy.

Navigating Q&A

One of the most unpredictable yet crucial segments of any business competition is the Q&A round. A well-handled Q&A session can reinforce the strength of a presentation, while a poorly handled one can weaken an otherwise strong case. Judges use this session to test the depth of understanding and the feasibility of the proposed solution. The best way to prepare for Q&A is to anticipate possible questions and develop structured responses in advance. Teams should critically analyse their own proposal, identify its potential weaknesses, and prepare counterarguments. If a judge challenges an aspect of the solution, it is important to respond confidently with supporting evidence rather than becoming defensive. If a team does not know the answer to a specific question, acknowledging it honestly while redirecting the conversation to related insights is a smarter approach than attempting to bluff through it.

Managing time effectively

Time management is often one of the biggest challenges in business competitions, especially when cases have short preparation windows. Teams that fail to allocate time effectively often find themselves rushing to complete slides at the last minute, leading to poorly structured presentations. The most successful teams break down their work into specific phases—time for brainstorming, research, slide preparation, and rehearsals—ensuring that each stage receives adequate attention. Strict internal deadlines help prevent last-minute panic. It is also crucial to avoid overcomplicating solutions. Many teams fall into the trap of trying to do too much, proposing overly complex solutions that lack focus. Simple, clear, and impactful solutions tend to be more persuasive than complicated strategies that are difficult to execute.

Thinking outside the box

Finally, what truly differentiates winning teams is their ability to think outside the box. Judges are often exposed to similar ideas across multiple teams, so the challenge is not just to provide a viable solution but to present it in a way that is memorable and unique. Creativity in problem-solving, storytelling, and presentation design can make a significant difference. Some of the most successful teams use innovative storytelling techniques, turning their business case into a compelling narrative rather than a dry, data-heavy presentation. Others differentiate themselves by using interactive elements, such as live demos or audience engagement techniques, to make their presentation more dynamic.

Winning business competitions takes strategic preparation, teamwork, and proper execution. The teams that succeed are those that approach the competition with a winning mindset—staying confident but not overconfident, learning from feedback and failures, and constantly improving their approach. For me, these competitions were never just about taking home trophies. They provided invaluable lessons that extended far beyond the competition room. Every competition, win or lose, was an opportunity to grow, refine skills, and build a network that became instrumental in future career opportunities.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT



BRAC

Manager/Deputy Manager, Educational Content Development, Quality and Training, BRAC Education Programme

Deadline: April 10

Eligibility:

• Graduation and post graduation in Education Management/Curriculum, with working experience in education management.

Minimum experience: 3-5 years

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh



Deputy Manager, Instrumentation & Control

Deadline: April 15

Eligibility:

• Graduate in Electrical and Electronic Engineering preferably from any reputed public university, with prior experience in a relevant field in any process or heavy industry.

Minimum experience: 5 years

Foodpanda



Specialist, Strategic Account Management

Deadline: N/A

Eligibility:

• Prior experience in the following area(s): Key Account, Relationship Management, Corporate Sales, Marketing, and Telemarketing.

Minimum experience: 3-4 years

EXIM Bank



Management Trainee Officer

Deadline: April 30

Eligibility:

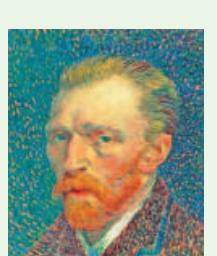
• Master's degree with a 4-year Bachelor's degree in any discipline from any reputed university.

Minimum experience: N/A

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”



10 biggest tech acquisitions of the decade

NEXT STEP DESK

The tech world has seen some jaw-dropping deals over the past decade, with companies shelling out billions to dominate markets, expand their ecosystems, and stay ahead of the competition. The latest headline grabber? Alphabet's potential \$32 billion acquisition of cybersecurity firm Wiz marks Google's parent company's biggest deal ever. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Here's a look at the ten largest tech deals that have reshaped the industry in the last decade.

1. Walt Disney snags Twenty-First Century Fox for \$71 billion (March 2019)

In a move that shook the entertainment industry, Disney acquired Twenty-First Century Fox, gaining control of iconic franchises like X-Men and Avatar. The deal also bolstered Disney's streaming service, Disney+, as it took on Netflix.

2. Broadcom's \$69 billion VMware takeover (November 2023)

Broadcom's acquisition of cloud computing company VMware aimed to strengthen its position in cloud infrastructure and software. The deal, completed in November

2023, marked one of the largest tech mergers in history.

3. Microsoft's \$69 billion Activision Blizzard gamble (October 2023)

Microsoft's purchase of gaming giant Activision Blizzard was a bold bet on the future of gaming and the metaverse. The deal gave Microsoft control of blockbuster franchises like 'Call of Duty' and 'World of Warcraft'.

4. Dell Technologies' \$67 billion EMC Corp deal (September 2016)

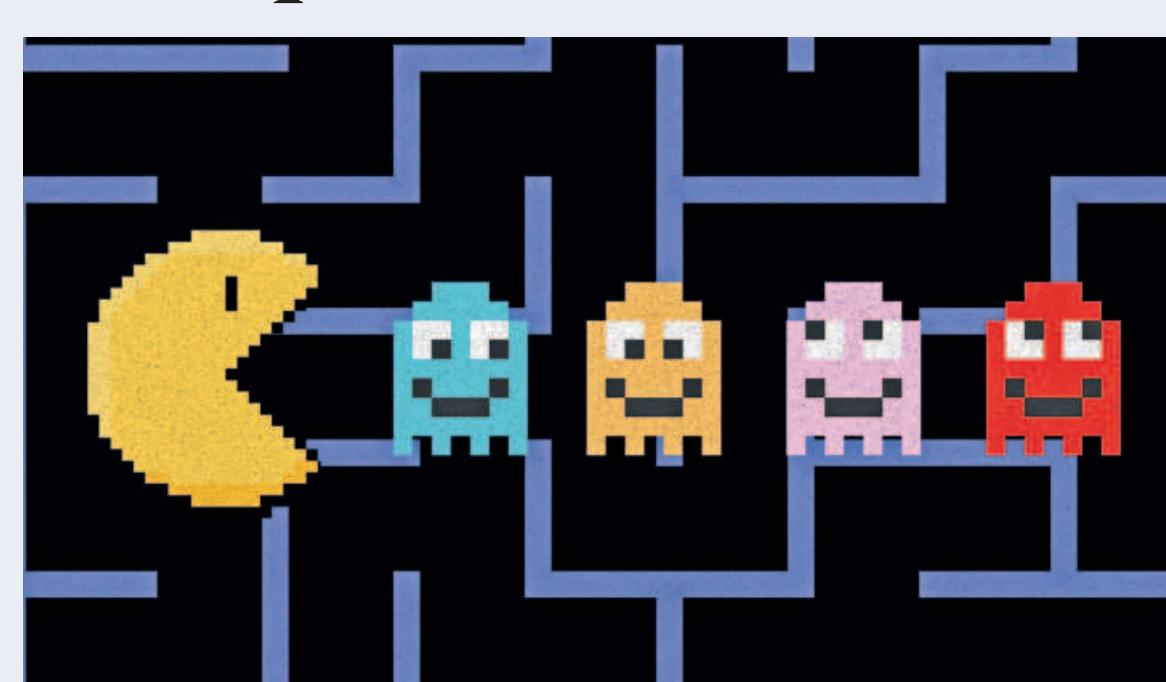
Dell's acquisition of EMC Corp created a tech powerhouse, combining Dell's hardware expertise with EMC's data storage solutions. The deal remains one of the largest in tech history.

5. Elon Musk's \$44 billion Twitter takeover (October 2022)

Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter (now X) was as controversial as it was expensive. The deal sparked debates about free speech, platform moderation, and the future of social media. X remains a popular platform—for more reasons than one.

6. Broadcom's \$37 billion Avago Technologies merger (February 2016)

Broadcom's merger with semiconductor supplier



Avago Technologies created a semiconductor giant, positioning the company as a key player in the global chip industry.

7. IBM's \$34 billion Red Hat acquisition (July 2019)

IBM's purchase of software company Red Hat was a strategic move to dominate the hybrid cloud

market. The deal highlighted IBM's shift from legacy hardware to cloud-based solutions.

8. Cisco's \$28 billion Splunk deal (March 2024)

Cisco's acquisition of Splunk, a data analytics and cybersecurity firm, aimed to enhance its capabilities in AI-driven security

and observability.

9. Salesforce's \$27.7 billion Slack buy (July 2021)

Salesforce's purchase of communication platform Slack was a bid to compete with Microsoft Teams in the workplace collaboration space. The deal integrated Slack into

Salesforce's customer relationship management ecosystem.

10. Microsoft buying LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion (December 2016)

Microsoft's acquisition of LinkedIn transformed the professional networking platform into a hub for enterprise tools and services.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

In April 2020, T-Mobile US buying Sprint for \$23 billion meant that the company was by then the third-largest wireless carrier in the US.

Meta Platforms buying WhatsApp for \$22 billion in October 2014 solidified the Facebook parent's dominance in global messaging.

Why these deals matter

These mega deals reflect the tech industry's relentless pursuit of innovation and market dominance. From cloud computing and cybersecurity to entertainment and gaming, companies are betting big on the future. Alphabet's Wiz acquisition could be the latest example of how tech giants are willing to spend billions to stay ahead.

As the tech landscape continues to evolve, one thing is clear: the race for supremacy is far from over, and the price tags are only getting bigger.

Tanzid hammers hundred, Nasir settles in after ban



SPORTS REPORTER

Just a day after admitting the need to show more responsibility in converting starts into bigger scores, Bangladesh opener Tanzeed Hasan Tamim lived up to his words.

The left-hander smashed a blistering 59-ball 103 -- his first List A century in two years -- to power Legends of Rupganj to a thumping ten-wicket victory over Partex Sporting at BKSP Ground 3 in Savar yesterday.

Tanzeed's exploits helped his side chase down Partex's 129 all out in just 18.3 overs in the 50-over fixture.

The 24-year-old -- who had not found that elusive three-figure mark in List A in 46 innings, but found starts in international cricket, most recently in the Champions Trophy -- struck a boundary off Md Rakib to bring up his ton and the winning runs.

Rupganj bowlers had set the game up for Tanzeed's carnage.



Pacers Shoriful Islam and Rejaur Rahman bagged two each, while Mahedi Hasan picked four for 34. The outcome meant they are fifth in the standings, still in line for qualifying for the Super Six with five wins.

Meanwhile, at BKSP Ground 4, Agrani Bank stunned Brothers Union with a four-wicket win, courtesy of Taibur Rahman's four-

fer and 35 with the bat.

Asked to bat, Brothers batters managed starts. Mizanur Rahman managed 44, while Aich Mollah notched 33 before veteran Alok Kapali's 57-ball 58 helped them to 238 for nine.

Agrani's chase had a similar look to Brothers' innings, but Taibur and Shuvagata Hom (45 not out off 35) helped avert a

collapse after three quick wickets, ensuring they remain fourth in the standings.

Elsewhere, in Mirpur, the focus was very much on Nasir Hossain, who returned to domestic action a day after his two-year ban for breaching ICC's Anti-Corruption Code was lifted.

Nasir appeared for Rupganj Tigers in their fixture against Gazi Group and helped his side upset the third-placed team with an eight-wicket victory, with 16.3 overs to spare.

Electing to bowl, Rupganj operated with Nasir from the start, and the 33-year-old off-spinner conceded 31 runs in the 10-over spell, returning with a wicket, while five others chipped in with wickets to bundle Gazi out for 159 in 42.1 overs.

In reply, Rupganj openers Abdul Majid and Amit Majumder both struck fifties to lay the platform for a smooth chase, before Nasir fell for nine after coming to the middle in the 30th over.

Kohli second-fastest to reach 13k mark in T20

AGENCIES

Virat Kohli etched his name in the history books once again as he became the second-fastest batter to reach 13,000 runs in T20 cricket during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2025 clash against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium yesterday.

The 36-year-old reached the milestone when he scored his 17th run in the match -- becoming the first Indian and only the fifth player overall to cross the 13,000-run mark in T20s -- before reaching fifty off 29 balls with a six off Vignesh Puthur.

Kohli achieved the feat in his 386th innings, placing him second on the all-time list behind West Indies great Chris Gayle, who reached the milestone in 381 innings.

Kohli surpassed England's Alex Hales by a staggering 90 innings to clinch the second spot.

Since his T20 debut in 2007 for Delhi, Kohli has been a force in the format. Over 8,000 of his T20 runs have come in the IPL, where he also leads among Indians in centuries, with nine to his name -- eight of them in the IPL alone.

With this latest landmark, Kohli further cements his legacy as one of the greatest batters in the shortest format of the game.

Lifting of saliva ban rewards IPL bowlers

AFP, Ahmedabad

The return of saliva on the ball in the Indian Premier League is helping bowlers generate reverse swing, with Gujarat Titans' Mohammed Siraj among those reaping the benefits.

Siraj starred with figures of 4-17 in Gujarat's third straight victory in the T20 tournament when they thrashed Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets on Sunday.

The paceman beamed when asked if bowlers were enjoying the end of the saliva ban, saying, "100 percent".

"If the ball tails a bit, it is a wicket," Siraj said, after being named player of the match.

"When there is no saliva, the ball comes onto the bat easily. This rule makes it much better for the bowlers, with lbw and bowled now a chance (for the bowlers)."

The ban on saliva imposed during the Covid pandemic was lifted ahead of the 18th edition of the IPL last month.

The use of saliva to shine one side of the old ball and keep the other rough helps fast bowlers get the leather ball to swing late.

Punjab Kings pace spearhead Arshdeep Singh got the ball to reverse in his team's opener last month as he claimed two key wickets in a win.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer said left-arm quick Arshdeep "came in and said the ball is actually reversing a bit so the saliva on the ball is helping the bowlers".

The art of reverse swing was pioneered by former Pakistan fast bowlers Sarfraz Nawaz and Imran Khan to aid bowling on batting-friendly Asian pitches.

The IPL barred the practice after it was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as a precautionary measure during the pandemic.

India pace spearhead Mohammed Shami appealed last month to allow the use of saliva in the game's 50-over format during the team's Champions Trophy triumph in Dubai.



Faltering Real face Arsenal

Real Wednesday's high-voltage Champions League quarterfinals lineup will feature defending champions Real Madrid taking on Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium. In the other fixture, Bayern Munich will host Inter Milan. The Arsenal-Real contest pits together two sides who are second in their respective domestic league. At the same time, it is a clash of league-leaders as Bundesliga toppers Bayern will brace for the arrival of Serie A leaders Inter in the other fixture.

➤ Arsenal won their only previous tie with Real Madrid, back in 2006 -- a goalless draw at Highbury following a 1-0 win in Spain in the last 16 of the competition.

➤ The Gunners last progressed into the semifinals of the competition in 2009, while Real have been crowned kings of Europe six times since then.

➤ Real Madrid have won 11 of their previous 22 knockout games against English opposition in the UEFA Champions League.

➤ Real haven't lost the first leg in any of their last eight knockout-stage ties in the Champions League, winning five of them. They are unbeaten in four when on the road for the opening game of a tie, with only two defeats in their previous 13 such matches.

➤ Los Blancos have beaten 111 different teams in the European Cup/Champions League, but Arsenal are not yet one of them.

➤ Inter have kept a clean sheet in

eight of their 10 matches in the UEFA Champions League this season and have conceded only two goals in that period in the competition.

➤ Bayern are unbeaten across their last 22 home matches in the Champions League (W17 D5). The last time they lost was when they faced PSG in the quarters in April 2021.

➤ Bayern have won five of the nine encounters between these two sides in European competition, with three wins for Inter and one draw.

Brook named new England white-ball captain

REUTERS

England batter Harry Brook has been appointed the country's white-ball captain after Jos Buttler stepped down after their group stage exit from the ICC Champions Trophy, the England and Wales Cricket Board said on Monday.

The 34-year-old Buttler had overseen 22 losses in 34 One-Day Internationals since succeeding the retired Eoin Morgan in June 2022 and led England to their second Twenty20 World Cup title that same year. However, the performances have dipped since then with the side failing to retain their T20 and ODI crowns.

Brook, 26, captained England in the ODI series against Australia in September and was vice-captain at the Champions Trophy.

"It's a real honour to be named England's white-ball captain," Brook said in a statement.

"Ever since I was a kid playing cricket at Burley in Wharfedale, I dreamed of representing Yorkshire, playing for England, and maybe one day leading the team."

"I want to thank my family and coaches who've supported me every step of the way. Their belief in me has made all the difference and I wouldn't be in this position without them," Brook said. "There's so much talent in this country, and I'm looking forward to getting started, moving us forward, and working towards winning series, World Cups and major events."

Abahani aim to derail Kings

SPORTS REPORTER

Domestic football returns with a bang today following a seven-week break, as defending champions Bashundhara Kings face off against traditional powerhouses Abahani in the Federation Cup's Qualifier-1 fixture at Shaheed Dharendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla.

In Mymensingh, spirited Brothers Union will also take on giant-killers Rahmatganj MFS in the competition's elimination match at Rofiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium. Both matches will kick off at 2:45pm.

Under the new format of the Federation Cup, the winners of Qualifier-1 will move to the final, while the losing side will face the winners of the elimination match to have a second shot at the final.

Since the emergence of Kings in top flight football, they have knocked down all heavyweights, including Abahani, who have managed to conquer Kings only twice in the last six seasons.

However, this season brought a twist. Abahani, fielding a squad without foreign players, secured their first-ever Bangladesh Premier League win over the Kings.

Local coach AKM Maruf Haque was behind Abahani's triumph. The club have now strengthened their squad with the inclusion of two proven foreign campaigners -- Raphael Augusto and Emeka Ogbu -- and are determined to secure a place in the final after one season.

"Amid tight schedule, we don't want to wait for another match to confirm the final berth; rather, we want to ensure the Federation Cup final



by beating our opponents tomorrow [Tuesday]," Abahani head coach AKM Maruf Haque told The Daily Star from Cumilla yesterday.

Abahani had kept up their training during Ramadan, and the two new foreign recruits also had three weeks to adjust to the local squad. Coach Maruf is optimistic about the inclusion of midfielder Raphael and attacker Emeka.

"We had previously lacked control of the game from midfield and, as a result, failed to create goal-scoring chances. But the inclusion of Raphael and Emeka has mostly resolved those issues," said Maruf, who, however, downplays his significant role in shaping the Abahani squad.

Kings, meanwhile, used the break to bolster their ranks with four foreign players. Three are likely to feature today alongside proven Brazilian Jonathan Fernandes.

However, they face injury setbacks. Miguel Ferreira and Tariq Raihan Kazi will miss the tie due to unavailability and injury, while defender Tapu Barman and new Argentine forward Juan Eduardo Lescano are also nursing knocks.

Despite the injury concerns, Kings are determined to reverse their fortunes in the season's second meeting with Abahani and make it to the final for a second straight year.

"Although Bashundhara Kings are ahead of Abahani in terms of the head-to-head record over the last six to seven years, tomorrow [today] the team who takes their chances will come out successful," Kings assistant coach Mahbub Hossain Roxy told The Daily Star over the phone from Cumilla.



Bangladesh women's team coach Peter Butler consults with his assistants as players in the camp go through a gym session at the BFF Gymnasium yesterday. The English coach came to Dhaka yesterday and oversaw the session, which was not attended by the senior players who had been boycotting training under him since January 29. With four of the seniors already off to Bhutan, the remaining 14 who were part of the boycott, later sat for a meeting with Butler. According to BFF's women's wing chairman Mahfuz Akter Kiron, who arranged the meeting, the Englishman asked the players to join the training on his terms by forgetting past issues, and Kiron claimed that the players agreed to the proposal.

PHOTO: BFF

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Some US RMG buyers want price cuts

Many put work orders on hold

REFAYETULLAH MIRDHA

Some of the US clothing and footwear retailers and brands are demanding a big discount from Bangladeshi suppliers, and are putting the work orders on hold to adjust the new reciprocal tariff measures, exporters said.

In some cases, the buyers are demanding a 10 percent discount from local suppliers on the ready-to-ship goods and are asking the local manufacturers to delay the process of making garments.

The local suppliers are now trying to negotiate prices of garments under the new tariff regime. However, not all the US buyers are demanding the price cuts as many are trying to wait and see.

The suppliers and the brands are doing their homework. For instance, a US buyer in Bangladesh has sought a 10 percent discount on the ready-to-ship goods and suggested bearing 3.3 percent discounts by suppliers, 3.3 percent by fabric suppliers, and 3.3 percent by retailers, said an exporter, wishing not to be named.

It is true that some of the US buyers are demanding discounts from the local suppliers, said Rubana Huq, former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). She, however, declined to mention the names of retailers and brands.

Faruque Hassan, managing director of Giant Group, SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



The wreckage of a bus and a tipper truck after three vehicles collided in Kharkhali Bazar area near Rajshahi city early yesterday. The crash left three people dead.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Back down or face 50% added tariffs Trump threatens China

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to impose an additional 50% tariffs on US imports from China, ratcheting up a trade war even as a dramatic sell-off in global markets gathered pace.

Trump upended the world economy last week with sweeping tariffs that have raised fears of an international recession and triggered criticism even from within his own Republican Party.

In response to Trump's tariffs, Beijing – Washington's major economic rival – unveiled its own 34 percent duties on US goods to come into effect on Thursday.

The US president yesterday chastised China for not heeding "my warning for abusing countries not to retaliate."

He said on social media that if China did not immediately back down, "the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50 percent, effective April 9th."



With the incoming 34 percent rate and new 50 percent threat, the total additional tariffs this year could hit 104 percent, the White House told AFP.

Stock markets and oil prices collapsed further as trading floors across the world were overcome by waves of selling after last week's sharp losses.

Wall Street was wracked by volatility, bouncing into positive territory on hopes of a 90-day pause in tariffs, only to sink lower when those were dashed by the White House.

Hong Kong collapsed by 13.2 percent Monday, its worst day in nearly three decades.

Trillions of dollars have been wiped off combined stock market valuations in recent sessions.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Tureen Afroz arrested at her Uttara home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police late last night arrested Barrister Tureen Afroz, former senior prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Uttara Division) DC Mohidul Islam confirmed this to The Daily Star.

"She was arrested around midnight from her home in Uttara Sector 3," he said.

Tureen Afroz was arrested in connection to a case filed over the attempting murder of Md Jabbar, 21, who sustained bullet wounds in the Uttara West area on August 4, last year.

The case was filed on March 27 this year.

Tureen Afroz was removed from the ICT after allegedly meeting accused war criminal Mohammad Wahidul Haque.

She prosecuted cases against executed war criminals Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, and Ghulam Azam, who died in jail.

37 more Gazans killed in Israeli strikes

Journalist among the dead; France opposes any displacement, annexation in Gaza, West Bank

AGENCIES

At least 37 people, including a journalist, were killed by Israeli strikes on Gaza yesterday as French President Emmanuel Macron said that he strongly opposes any displacement of Palestinians or annexation in Gaza and the Israeli occupied West Bank.

Twenty-two of those killed were in the central and southern regions of the Strip, the sources said. At least 44 Palestinians were killed on Sunday.

In Khan Yunis, an Israeli air strike hit a tent used by local media, killing two, including a Palestinian journalist, and wounding nine others.

Footage showed people trying to douse flames in the tent inside the compound of the Nasser Hospital during the early hours of yesterday.

Images appearing to show a journalist in flames and another person trying to rescue him were widely shared.

The Israeli military said in a statement it struck Hassan Aslih, whom they described as a "terrorist, who operates under the guise of a journalist" and a member of Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade.

Aslih, a well-known Palestinian journalist in Gaza, with hundreds of thousands of

followers on social media platforms, was critically wounded in the strike, medics said.

Ismail al-Thawabta, director of the Hamas-run Gaza government media office, said Israel's accusations against Aslih were "false", adding that Aslih had no political affiliation.

A second Palestinian was also killed in the attack, Gaza medics said.

Faqawi's death raised the number of journalists killed by Israel's campaign in Gaza to more than 210 since October 2023, according to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces yesterday shot and killed a Palestinian-American boy.

An Israeli strike on southern Lebanon killed one person yesterday, according to the health

ministry, with Israel's military saying it had "eliminated" a Hezbollah commander in the latest raid despite a truce.

The Lebanese health ministry said in a statement that an "Israeli enemy" strike on the town of Taybeh, near the border, "led to the death of one citizen".

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said the strike hit "in front of a motorcycle repair shop" in the town, in south Lebanon's Marjayoun district.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Polls code of conduct almost finalised: EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the proposed law for demarcating parliamentary constituencies is not approved, the national election will proceed under the existing framework, said Election Commissioner Md Anwarul Islam Sarkar.

"There was a printing mistake in the proposed law. The commission has sent amendments to the law ministry. Once we get the approval, we can carry out the delimitation work. If it is not approved, the election will be held based on the existing constituency arrangement."

The Election Commissioner made the remarks at a press briefing at the EC headquarters in the capital's Agargaon yesterday morning.

The briefing followed a meeting of the commission formed on six election-related issues, including the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies and the registration of political parties.

EC Anwar told reporters that the draft of the electoral code of conduct for the next national election is nearly complete.

"Once the draft is finalised, we will place it before the commission. If the commission approves, it will be published."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

130 pro-AL lawyers sued sans specific charges

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A pro-BNP lawyer sued 144 pro-Awami League lawyers for illegally gathering, trespassing, theft, causing bodily harm, attempted murder, vandalism and exploding crude bombs.

Only 12 were sued on specific charges and the complainant did not mention any specific charges against 130, according to the case statement.

The 12 lawyers include Khandaker Golam Kibria Jobayer, Mohamad Anwar Shahadat Shaw, Hasibur Rahman Didar, Kazi Shahnara Yeasmin, Nazrul Islam Shamim, Salma Hai Tuny, Sanzida Khanam, Abu Sayeed Siddiqui Tipu, Matiur Rahman Bhuiyan, Fahim Sharif, AKM Salah Uddin and Ramjan Ali Sarder Rana.

Kazi Md Nazib Ullah Hiru, the AL law affairs secretary, and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, former mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation, have been named as masterminds in the case.

The complainant, Mohammad Ali Babu, also sued 200 to 300 unnamed persons in the case filed with the court on February 6.

Kotwali police registered the case the following day as a first information report as per the court's order.

Among the 144 lawyers, 24 are female, 11 are former presidents of the Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) and five are its former

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Robbers loot valuables in 4 Mugda flats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of masked robbers looted valuables from four flats in a building at Green Model Town Society in the capital's Mugda area early yesterday.

The gang also hurt four residents.

The robbery took place between 3:00am and 4:00am at a building on Road-3 in D-block, said Sajedur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mugda Police Station.

"Around 15 to 17 armed robbers entered the building, kept residents in four flats, and robbed around Tk 1 lakh and nine bhoris of gold ornaments," he said.

The injured were flat owner Humayun and his wife Shahinur Akter, and their neighbours Abdul Mannan and his son Hasan. All were admitted to Mugda Medical College Hospital, and Humayun was stabbed.

Humayun and Mannan live on the fourth floor of the eight-storey building. According to the police, the flat owners – all bank employees – jointly bought the land and constructed the building.

OC Sajedur said the building is in a secluded place. The robbers likely entered the second-floor balcony through a gap before breaking into lower flats and letting



Relatives mourn over the body of 14-year-old Palestinian Omar Muhammad Saadeh Rabee during his funeral in the village of Turmus Ayya, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. A Palestinian official told AFP that Israeli forces shot dead Rabee, while the Israeli military said it had killed a "terrorist" who threw rocks at cars.

PHOTO: AFP

Babar Ali, first Bangladeshi on Annapurna I



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi mountaineer Babar Ali has made history as the first person from the country to summit Mount Annapurna I, which stands at 26,545 feet (8,091 metres).

Babar reached the peak early yesterday, accompanied by his climbing guide, Phurba Angel Sherpa.

The achievement was confirmed by Vertical Dreamers, a Bangladeshi organisation that supports high altitude expeditions.

Originally from Chattogram, Babar's successful ascent marks a significant milestone for Bangladeshi mountaineering.