



DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2025

SECOND EDITION

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 88

BAISHAKH 3, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHAWWAL 17, 1446 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00

In coffins, from faraway lands

Migrant worker deaths see a disturbing rise

MD ABBAS

Kazi Salauddin, a 44-year-old man from Cumilla, migrated to Saudi Arabia in October 2022, hoping to secure a bright future for his family. But barely a year later, Salauddin, the father of two daughters and a son, died suddenly.

His death certificate, issued by the Saudi authorities, mentioned heart attack as the cause of death. But his family finds this hard to believe as the middle-aged man had no history of heart-related problems or any other ailments.

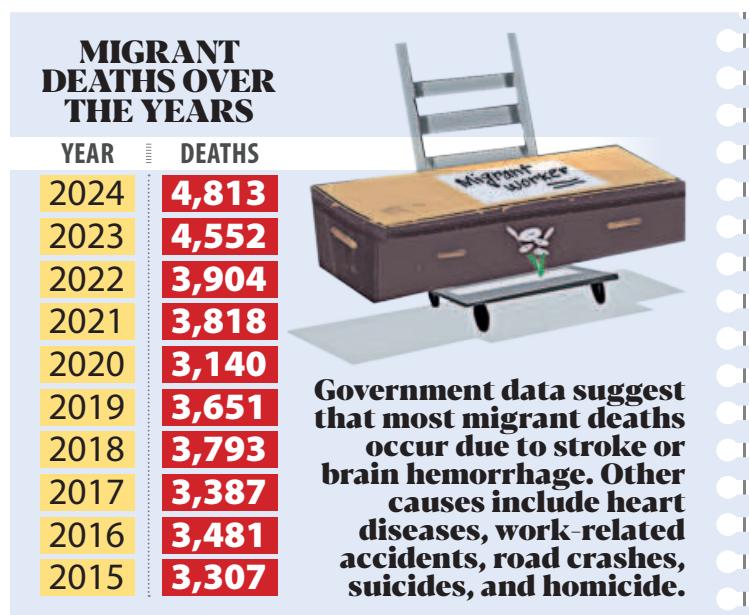
His wife, Yasmin Begum, said she was awaiting an explanation for the sudden death of her husband, whose body was brought home in June last year.

"I want to know why my husband, who was in good health, died suddenly. I went from one office to another of relevant government agencies, but I'm yet to get an answer. If I could know the real cause of his death, it would at least ease my pain a little," she told The Daily Star.

Salauddin was among the 4,813 migrant workers whose bodies were brought home last year, according to data of the Wage Earners' Welfare Board under the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

Statistics show a steady rise in deaths of migrant workers since 2020. The number rose to 4,813 last year from 4,552 in 2023, which was 3,904 in 2022; 3,818 in 2021; and 3,140 in 2020.

On average, 400 bodies arrived each month, equating to about 13 per



day. In January this year, 447 bodies were brought home.

Since 1993, bodies of at least 57,216 migrant workers have been repatriated to Bangladesh. Most deaths occurred in Middle Eastern countries, with Saudi Arabia topping the list, followed by Malaysia, the UAE, Oman and Kuwait.

Of the 4,813 migrant deaths last year, 1,626 occurred in Saudi Arabia that employs around 30 lakh Bangladeshi expatriates. In 2023, at least 1,241 migrant workers died in the Kingdom.

Officials at the Welfare Board acknowledge that many more workers were buried on foreign soil. Some families choose not to bring home the bodies of their loved ones, allowing Bangladeshi embassies to arrange burials abroad.

When a body is repatriated, the Welfare Board provides Tk 35,000 to the family of the deceased worker for burial and transportation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Above the parliament building on Pahela Baishakh, a drone show illuminated the night sky, recreating the iconic moment of Mir Mugdho -- a martyr of the July uprising -- distributing water to fellow protesters, just moments before he was fatally shot. This was part of a dozen motifs that also portrayed the heroism of Abu Sayed and the stirring role of women in the movement.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BNP meets CA today to press for election roadmap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At its meeting with the chief adviser, the BNP will demand a specific roadmap to the election.

The party will submit a written statement to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, which would say that unless a roadmap was announced, the BNP would begin street protests, insiders said after a BNP standing committee meeting last night.

If a roadmap mentioning specific time for the polls is announced, the party will begin preparing for the election, they added.

The party leaders will urge the CA to make sure that reforms are done by June.

The BNP has already outlined a series of peaceful programmes for the next three months. These programmes are likely to be rallies, marches, and processions, beginning at the grassroots.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Soybean, palm oil prices spike

Bottled soybean oil now Tk 14 more per litre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government raised the retail prices of soybean and palm oil yesterday amid concerns that this would raise the cost of living.

The price of each litre of bottled soybean oil is now Tk 189, a Tk 14 increase, and non-bottled soybean and palm oil is Tk 169, a Tk 12 increase.

Inflation increased slightly in March, driven by a rise in non-food prices. However, it had declined in the three previous months.

Overall inflation stood at 9.35 percent in March, up from 9.32 percent in February, according to data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Following a meeting with oil refiners yesterday, Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin admitted that the new oil prices would pose challenges for consumers.

He added that the rise in soybean oil prices was temporary.

The new prices correspond to the international market rates, he said.

According to World Bank data, the price of soybean oil was \$1,101 per tonne in December last year and \$1,040 in January this year in the international market.

Although it slightly increased in February, it fell again in March to \$1,005 per tonne.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



US officials arrive to discuss polls, reforms, tariffs

PORIMOL PALMA

Dhaka and Washington will discuss tariffs, the reforms undertaken by the interim government, democratic transition, and the Rohingya and Myanmar crises as two high officials of the US begin their engagement with Bangladesh officials and political actors today.

This is the first official visit by the US officials under the Trump administration, which is making drastic policy changes in both trade and diplomatic fronts that have caught global economies off guard.

Nicole Chulick, deputy assistant secretary at the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA), arrived in Dhaka yesterday, while Andrew R Herrup, deputy assistant secretary at the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, is scheduled to arrive today. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

US Chargé d'Affaires to Myanmar Susan Stevenson will accompany Herrup during his visit to Bangladesh, highlighting the importance of the Myanmar crisis.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Israel makes new Gaza truce proposal

P7



A teen breaks down in tears as he embraces his mother after returning from Myanmar, where he had been detained along with 19 others while attempting to reach Malaysia. The photo was taken at port city's Circuit House yesterday.

Fitch flags risk to Bangladesh after Trump tariffs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is among several Asia-Pacific economies at risk of credit pressure from escalating US tariffs, Fitch Ratings warned yesterday, as trade tensions continue to rattle global markets.

In a report released from its Hong Kong office, the rating agency said the US tariff hikes will weigh on the credit profiles of many sovereigns in the region, particularly those

with high external debt and limited foreign exchange reserves.

Bangladesh (B+/Stable), along with Vietnam and Sri Lanka, was singled out as having "relatively low external buffers". These countries may come under further strain if export earnings decline and central banks are forced to defend their currencies, according to Fitch.

For these nations, that risk is "credit negative".

"Foreign-exchange reserves could

shrink if authorities intervene to support their currencies in the face of market pressure to depreciate following the tariff increases," Fitch said.

Fitch said those nations' vulnerability stems from their narrow external buffers and the potential impact of a stronger US dollar, which could raise the cost of servicing foreign-currency debt.

While a weaker exchange rate could

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

কলোরেকটাল সার্জারির ৩০ বছর

(১৯৯৫-২০২৫)

পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা, ফিশার, লেজার অপারেশন, ল্যাপারোক্ষিপি, কলোরেকটাল ক্যাপার, কোলনিক পলিপ, কোলনক্ষিপি, কোষ্টকাঠিন্য, আইবিএস, রক্ত আমাশয় চিকিৎসায় নিবেদিত।

ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস হক

এমবিবিএস (এসএসএমসি), এফসিপিএস (সার্জারি), এফসিপিএস (কলোরেকটাল সার্জারি) এফআরসিএস (ইংলান্ড), এফএসিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র), এফএসিএসআরএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র), কনসালট্যান্ট ল্যাপারোক্ষিপি, লেজার ও কলোরেকটাল সার্জন

ডাঃ সাকিব সারওয়াত হক

এমবি�বিএস, এফসিপিএস(সার্জারি), এমআরসিএস (ডিনবরা), কনসালট্যান্ট সার্জন

ডাঃ ফজলুল হক কলোরেকটাল হসপিটাল লি:

১২৬/এ, সাত-মসজিদ রোড, (ঈদগাহ মসজিদের বিপরীতে), ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা।

৫০৬৪৬৭১০৭২০, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৩-৬, ০২ ৮১০২৩১৫৫, ০২ ৮১০২৩১৬৮



CLOCKWISE: Under the shade of the historic banyan tree at Ramna Park, Chhayanaut brought together over 150 performers who captivated the audience with 24 thoughtfully curated pieces on the morning of Pahela Baishakh to celebrate the first day of the Bangla New Year. The Faculty of Fine Arts brought out the Anondo Shobhajatra from Dhaka University campus. A group of women performed a dance during a colourful procession at an event titled "Oligoli Halkhata" at Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park in Gulshan.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED, AMRAN HOSSAIN, PRABIR DAS

Fitch flags risk to Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1
UNKNOWN CAUSES AND LACK OF RESEARCH

help preserve price competitiveness in the US market, it could also magnify debt burdens for countries with sizable external liabilities.

The report comes as part of a broader assessment of Asia Pacific sovereigns, many of which are highly exposed to global trade.

"APAC's high trade openness and exposure to US demand leave it particularly exposed to US tariff risks," Fitch said.

The agency said export-oriented growth models across the region, including in China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand and South Korea, face direct threats from the evolving trade environment.

Although the US imposed a 10 percent tariff on most imports, lower than the 15 percent rate Fitch had assumed in its March Global Economic Outlook, the effective tariff on China exceeded expectations. Meanwhile, temporary exemptions, such as one granted on April 11 for some electronics goods, may offer brief relief to affected economies.

Still, the outlook remains clouded by uncertainty. "Tariff rates remain very volatile," Fitch said, adding that full implementation of the April 2 tariff measures, largely paused on April 9, would significantly increase the economic and credit impact for APAC countries.

Fitch also flagged limited fiscal headroom for many governments in the region. While countries like Singapore, Taiwan and China could deploy fiscal support without endangering their ratings, others like Indonesia and Thailand may face greater pressure due to high debt and modest consolidation since the pandemic.

Fitch warned that prolonged fiscal loosening in response to trade shocks could weaken sovereign ratings over time.

"Sustained large scale fiscal loosening could put downward pressure on some ratings, particularly if it led to a change in fiscal strategy over the medium term," Fitch said.

In coffins, from faraway lands

FROM PAGE 1
UNKNOWN CAUSES AND LACK OF RESEARCH

Temperatures and Climate Change on Migrant Workers in the Gulf Region".

Tasneem said there is no official registry or documentation of heat-related fatalities. Heart failure is often recorded as the cause of death on certificates issued by host countries.

"Scars or injury marks are sometimes found on the corpses. We have repeatedly stressed the need for re-autopsies to determine the actual cause of death."

It's necessary to install a freezer at the airport where bodies can be preserved for performing re-autopsies, she said.

She urged the authorities to keep in mind the best interests of migrant workers while signing Memorandums of Understanding with host countries, ensuring that workers receive all

often engage in risky work."

He further said migrant workers often live in cramped accommodations under harsh weather conditions, with limited access to nutritious food, clean water, and healthcare. Excessive heat and poor living conditions could contribute to their deaths.

"The government must investigate these deaths, identify the actual causes, and take steps to prevent further loss of life."

Shakirul Islam, chairperson of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program, said the government must probe the causes of deaths mentioned on death certificates and ensure appropriate compensations for the families of the deceased.

Migrant workers often endure severe mental stress due to a lack of

NUMBER OF REPATRIATED BODIES					
YEAR	KSA	MALAYSIA	UAE	OMAN	KUWAIT
2022	1,500	738	411	461	235
2021	1,266	801	388	430	241
2020	785	697	374	349	278
2019	1,323	736	429	341	322
2018	1,196	638	307	254	252

necessary supports, including treatment and insurance.

"Only safe migration can bring down the number of deaths abroad," she added.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of the BRAC Migration Programme and Youth Platform, said that stroke and heart attack are the most cited causes on death certificates of migrant workers.

"It's not normal for people aged 32-38 to die suddenly from stroke or heart attack. These workers, who go abroad spending large sums, become so desperate to earn money that they

work and unpaid wages. There should be mandatory health insurance for workers, with embassies ensuring its enforcement, he said.

Asked about the rise in migrant deaths, Shariful Islam, deputy director of the Welfare Board, said it's difficult to investigate the causes of deaths because autopsies are conducted abroad under the host country's legal framework.

"Migrant workers are given a three-day orientation before departure, but most don't follow the instructions," he said, underscoring the need for an extensive awareness campaign.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said over the last two to three years, the cost of living increased.

Although the government has taken several measures, buyers have benefited in very few cases, he said, adding that now, the hike in edible oil prices will further worsen their hardship.

Raising prices at this moment was not the right decision—the government could have explored alternative ways to generate revenue, he added.

Bangladesh's annual demand for edible oil stands at around 24 lakh tonnes, with about 90 percent met through imports, according to the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

"So, we will now have to provide a subsidy of Tk 7 per litre," he said, adding, "The price adjustment was made after extensive discussions with the government."

In the global market, prices have

remained almost steady since January, Taslim added.

market, two edible oil companies have already started production.

Another 6-7 companies are expected to begin production very soon, he said.

Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations at TK Group, a leading importer and commodity processor, told The Daily Star that the price should have been increased by Tk 21 per litre.

চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট রিপোর্ট পাঠান
প্রিয়জনের প্রয়োজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রোমটিক্স গ্রহণ করলেই
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রশংসন

সাথে আরও আরও নিশ্চিত আত্মস্থীয় পুরস্কার

* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য



পুরালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
PUBLI BANK PLC.

AAA Rated Bank

ISO/IEC 27001:2022

ঘরে বসেই
ব্যাংক
অ্যাকাউন্ট
খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংক (PI Banking) -
একটি পুরালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

Π

Illegal fair occupies Dhupkhola playground

HELEMUL ALAM and RAKIB MADBER

A local club in Gandaria has been holding a Baishakhi fair at Dhaka's Dhupkhola playground since April 6 -- without obtaining mandatory permission from the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

The fair, expected to continue until April 17, has taken over the entire field, depriving residents of their only open space for walking, exercise, and sports. Locals say the unauthorised event has disrupted their daily routines and caused noise pollution in the area.

"This is our only open field," said Mohammad Anwar Hossain, a resident. "Now, it's completely taken over by the fair. Children have nowhere to play, and the loud music at night is unbearable."

Teenagers who regularly play football at the field also expressed frustration. "We haven't been able to practise all week. If this field is used for fairs too, where do we go?" said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

UPRISING CASES
'Not sparing any big fish'
Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday dismissed allegations that law enforcers are only arresting grassroots level political activists over the attacks and killings related to the July uprising, sparing influential figures.

"I cannot fully agree with that," he told reporters after a meeting of the Core Committee on Law and Order at the Secretariat.

"We are not sparing any big fish. But they have to come into the net first. Whoever is caught, we are arresting. If someone enters the net and we let them go, then you can question us," he said.

Responding to complaints that police often refuse to file cases, Khuda Baksh Chowdhury,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

DUCSU
EC, voter list to be finalised by May

DU CORRESPONDENT

The process of forming the Election Commission and finalising the voter list for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) election will be completed by May, according to the published roadmap of the election.

The appointment of the chief election commissioner and the formation of the commission will be completed in the first half of May, according to the roadmap sent by the university's Public Relations Office yesterday.

As per the provided schedule, the EC will prepare the voter list in the middle of the month. Then the election commissioners will announce the election schedule with the consent of the vice chancellor.

In this roadmap, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



As another year passed and the Bangla New Year arrived, the country embraced the joyous occasion of Pahela Baishakh. People of all ages and backgrounds came together to celebrate the vibrant festivities. The photos were taken in Khulna, Chattogram, Tangail and Rajshahi on Monday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN, RAJIB RAIHAN, AZAHAU UDDIN, STAR



Banning AL top reform priority
Says Bobby Hajjaj during discussion with consensus commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banning the Awami League is the first and most important reform initiative, said National Democratic Movement (NDM) Chairman Bobby Hajjaj yesterday.

He made the remarks during a discussion with the National Consensus Commission (NCC) at the LD Hall of the National Parliament.

While the NDM expressed support for state reforms under the interim government, it strongly opposed several proposed measures.

"We believe that one of the main duties of this government is to ensure a sustainable future by prosecuting the fascist organisation Awami League," Hajjaj said.

He said the party rejects the proposal to disqualify former prime ministers from running for president, calling it a move to serve "a specific agenda."

He also opposed the proposal to limit a prime minister's tenure to two terms.

"While we support forming a National Constitutional Council, only an elected parliament has the authority to make such a decision," he said.

However, NDM categorically rejected the formation process of the council as outlined in the Constitutional Reform Commission's report, particularly the clause allowing the president to act as chief adviser with unanimous consensus among the council's members.

"We also reject the suggestion to hold local elections before the national election," Hajjaj added.

The party opposed the proposal to nominate

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PAHELA BAISHAKH

Nation celebrates its roots through dance and music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the first light of Monday, Bangladesh stepped into the Bangla year 1432, as people from all walks of life embraced Pahela Baishakh with joy, tradition, and a renewed sense of community.

From Chhayanaut's stirring dawn melodies beneath Rama's ancient banyan tree to a mesmerising drone show over Manik Mia Avenue at dusk, the New Year was marked by vibrant festivities, cultural pride, and peaceful public gatherings across the country.

MORNING MELODIES

In the capital, the day began with Chhayanaut's iconic programme at Ramna Batamul, held under the theme "Amar Mukti Aloy Aloy" (My Freedom Lies in Light), honouring co-founder Sanjida Khatun.

Over 150 artistes performed a seamless sequence of 24 chorals, solos, and poetry recitations. Among them were beloved classics like Nuton Pran Dao, Timir Duar Kholo, and Shono Shono Deshobashi.

ANONDO SHOBHAJATRA

Later in the morning, the Faculty of Fine

Arts at Dhaka University led its annual rally, now renamed "Borsho Boron Anondo Shobhajatra," reverting to its 1989 title in place of the more familiar Mangal Shobhajatra.

While authorities defended the move as a



return to roots, critics -- especially students and alumni -- voiced concern over its political undertone.

This year's procession carried the theme "Symphony of the New Year, End of Fascism," showcasing motifs of peace, resistance, and solidarity with Palestine.

An effigy resembling a monstrous face

-- widely believed to represent ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina -- was set ablaze before but rebuilt in time for the 9:00am march.

"This year featured the largest representation of ethnic communities from both hills and plains, alongside Bangalees," said DU Vice-Chancellor Md Niaz Ahmed Khan.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki added, "We targeted fascism, not politics -- it's a universal evil."

MUSIC, ART, AND WARNINGS

At Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi, cultural platform Shurer Dhara presented a dawn concert featuring works by Tagore, Nazrul, and other Bangalee greats.

Indigenous performers from the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Mymensingh enriched the programme, while folk games and rural crafts created a festive, fair-like setting.

In Gulshan, Shahabuddin Park saw a community-led celebration by the Gulshan Society and social platform "Oligoli Borshoborobon Bondhugan."

Chief guest Prof Anu Muhammad warned of growing cultural intolerance.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

NATIONAL ELECTION

EC sets plans for paper procurement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has outlined a plan for completing the procurement of essential papers and printing work within a four-month window ahead of the upcoming national election.

It plans to acquire an estimated 1,69,629 reams of different types of paper for Tk 35.77 crore as part of preparations for the national election, as well as the local government elections.

Typically, the standard requirements for a national parliamentary election include the printing of 21 different forms, 17 distinct packets, 5 types of identification cards, the code of conduct, posters displaying party symbols, election management manuals, training manuals, guidelines, and a variety of other necessary materials, according to EC officials.

The EC held a preparatory meeting with officials from the Directorate of Printing and Publications yesterday morning at its headquarters in Dhaka to assess the volume of paper needed for printing various materials for the national election, the possible budget, and to verify existing stock and the timeframe needed to complete the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Makeshift tea stalls and roadwork machinery have taken over this footpath, leaving little room for pedestrians. Illegal occupation of footpaths continues to disrupt daily movement in the capital. The photo was taken opposite Dhaka City College in Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Illegal fair occupies

FROM PAGE 3
Sadib, a local youth. Dhupkhola has long served as a community hub for sports and recreation, especially in the densely populated Old Dhaka area where open spaces are rare. The fair features over a hundred stalls and amusement rides, with locals alleging that organisers are collecting fees from stall owners.

The event is being organised by East End Club, a local sports organisation.

"This field belongs to East End Club, so we didn't need city corporation approval," said Abdul Kader, the club's member

secretary and former councillor of Ward 45. He added that the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) provided security clearance, but the DSCC did not respond to their application due to the Eid holidays.

DSCC Chief Estate Officer Kaiser Mohammad Farabi confirmed the fair was unauthorised and said, "We will investigate and take necessary action."

DMP officials clarified that while they provided security, permission to use the land must come from DSCC, and their clearance explicitly mentioned this requirement.

1971 war crimes

FROM PAGE 3
When the tribunal asked for the first investigation report and formal charges, the defence failed to provide them.

Dissatisfied, the three-member tribunal led by Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder said, "Then what is the need for you?"

Justice Md Shoful Alam Mahmood added, "You don't even know the charges against your client."

The tribunal was reconstituted in October 2024 with changes in its judges, prosecutors, and investigation officers.

Banning AL top

FROM PAGE 3
a nonpartisan presidential candidate and the inclusion of pluralism in the constitution.

"We have a different opinion on altering the fundamental principles of the state, particularly regarding nationalism," he added.

He also found the recommendation for political parties to nominate at least 10 percent youth candidates vague and said lowering the minimum age for parliamentary candidates to 21 is "not feasible."

He opposed the suggestion that an MP cannot simultaneously serve as leader of the house, prime minister, and head of a political party.

Hajaj also criticised recommendations by the

Public Administration Reform Commission, including forming citizen committees at district and upazila levels, claiming they were designed to benefit a "newly formed special political party."

At the beginning of the meeting, NCC Vice-Chairman Prof Ali Riaz stressed resolving differences through dialogue to create a national charter.

"Through this charter, the nation can move toward meaningful state reform," he said.

Later in the day, the commission also met with the Bangladesh Revolutionary Communist League and the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

An eight-member delegation, led by Iqbal Karim Zahid of the

Revolutionary Communist League and Mosharafa Mishu of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, joined the discussion.

EC, voter

FROM PAGE 3
progress of the work of three DUCSU-related committees was informed. The DUCSU Constitution Reform Committee has so far held six meetings and finalised reform activities based on the opinions of all.

The revised constitution has already been sent to student organisations and stakeholders. It is now awaiting syndicate approval.

The committee has also finalised the code of conduct, which is awaiting the syndicate's approval as well.

EC sets

FROM PAGE 3
procurement and printing process.

Following the meeting, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told reporters that preparations are being streamlined to ensure that election-related activities do not fall behind schedule.

"The main issue is how much time it takes from paper procurement to printing. They [officials] said it takes about three to four months. So, things will proceed based on a backwards calculation. Once a decision is made regarding the election date or schedule, we will align our preparations accordingly," he said.

Not sparing any

FROM PAGE 3
special assistant to the chief adviser for home affairs, acknowledged it as a long-standing issue.

"Steps are being taken to digitalise the system. We're launching online GD and FIR services in two districts initially. This will help solve the issue permanently," said Khuda Baksh, who was also present at the briefing.

Jahangir Alam added,

"There are still areas where we are falling short. We are identifying our mistakes and working on them."

Clarifying his recent remarks in Sunamganj, where he was quoted as saying people want the current government to

LAND SALE
Very close to Purbachal, Near of Sector-3 & 8 Fit Road, Total 10 percent
Land for SALE.
Mobile: 01950040848

stay for five more years, Jahangir Alam said, "I didn't say that. It was the people who said it. The chief adviser has already stated that elections will be held between December and June."

On the vandalism of a stage during Pahela Baishakh celebrations in Chattogram, he said, "That shouldn't have happened. We'll take steps to prevent such incidents in the future."

PRAYER TIMING

APRIL 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-45 6-24 7-45

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 5-00 6-28 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

At Gulshan avenue, Gulshan-2, plot no 63/2B, 14 storied modern brand new building. Few floors are available for sale. Single unit, open floor. Per floor 4960 sft with 2 car parking space, 2 lift, 2 stair, full backup generator. American organizations are running office operations. Please contact: 01711-52 74 14

FLOOR SPACE FOR SALE
At Gulshan avenue, Gulshan-2, plot no 63/2B, 14 storied modern brand new building. Few floors are available for sale. Single unit, open floor. Per floor 4960 sft with 2 car parking space, 2 lift, 2 stair, full backup generator. American organizations are running office operations. Please contact: 01711-52 74 14

UTTARA BANK PLC.
PURCHASE & PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafide & experienced firms for Construction and other related works of Uttara Bank PLC. Laldighirpar Branch, Sylhet. Please visit www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender for details.

General Manager

Trust Bank PLC.

A Bank for Financial Inclusion
Head Office, Shadhinata Tower, Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Jahangir Gate, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Trust Bank PLC. from bonafide suppliers/vendors/firms for the following tenders:
a. Procurement of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Trust Bank PLC., ATM Booth.
b. Procurement of VRF Air Conditioning System at Trust Bank PLC., Jolishir Branch, Rupganj, Narayanganj.
c. International courier service provider for AD (Authorized Dealer) branches of Trust Bank PLC. for 02 (Two) years (2025-2027).

2. Interested bidders by depositing BDT 2,000 (two thousand) only (non-refundable) into the designated account of Trust Bank PLC. for each tender may collect the Tender Documents, Schedule of Pre-Bid Meeting & Details of Terms & Conditions from Purchase & Procurement Department Head Office (Level-5).

Note: Trust Bank PLC. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders, in part or full.

Purchase & Procurement Department, GSSD

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Jail Super
Sunamganj District Jail.

Memo No. 58.04.9000.159.04.043.2025-1349 (4) Date: 15.04.2025

e-GP Tender Notice (Re-Tender)

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL.No.	Tender ID No.	Description Of Goods	Publishing Date & Time, Closing Date & Time
01	1098570	e-Procure for Dietary Goods (Chicken & Egg) for the period of Jun-Jun 2025 on Package-06	15-April-2025 11:30:00 30-April-2025 11:30:00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fee for down loading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Md Main Uddin Bhuyan
Jail Super
Sunamganj District Jail
■ 0299842700 (Office)
Mobile: 0169970930
jssganj@jprison.gov.bd

Nation celebrates

FROM PAGE 3

"Those who fear women in public, who resist joy, are re-emerging," he said.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam,

Gulshan Society President Omar Sadat, and organiser Navin Murshed also addressed attendees.

HEROES IN THE SKY

As darkness fell, the skies over Manik Mia Avenue lit up with a 14-minute drone display.

Organised by Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy with support from Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Chinese Embassy, 2,600 drones illustrated 12 motifs telling the story of July Uprising.

In Barishal, a student-led rally added colour to the streets, and similar events took place in Khulna, Thakurgaon, Narayanganj, and Bagerhat.

Public universities, including Jahangirnagar and Rajshahi University, joined in the festivities.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, in a message, called Pahela Baishakh "a symbol of social harmony," urging all to celebrate it in keeping with their own traditions and values.

Prof Daniel W Lund joins IUB as pro-VC

CITY DESK



Canadian academic and international business education leader Prof Daniel W Lund joined Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) as the pro-vice chancellor on April 13, said a press release.

Before joining IUB, he served as the founding dean of Graduate Programs and Executive Education at British Management University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

He has held several senior academic leadership positions across universities in Asia, the Middle East, and the South Pacific.

He holds a PhD from Griffith University, Australia, specialising in Higher Education Organizational Effectiveness and Management of Diversity.

পরিচালক (প. ড. ও পৰ্ত) এৰ কাৰ্যালয়

যশোৱ বিজ্ঞান ও প্ৰযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, যশোৱ

ফোনঃ ০২-৪২১৪২১৬৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৪২১৪২১৬৬

Date: 13/04/2025

Invitation of OTM (e-GP) Tender

Tender ID	Name of work	Publishing date & time	Last selling & opening date & time
1097926	Purchase of Lab Equipment for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) Department of Jashore University of Science & Technology (JUST)	13-Apr-2025 20:00	29-Apr-2025 13:00 30-Apr-2025 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and hard copy will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System ([https://www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) and Help Desk Phone No. 16575.

Pro. Dr. Md. Moklesur Rahman

Director (Planning, Development and Works) (Additional Charge)

Jashore University of Science and Technology, Jashore-7408

GD-879

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the District Controller of Stores (Shipping)
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram – 4202.
Phone: +88-031-659410, email: dcosship@railway.gov.bd

No: 54.01.1543.463.07.009.24.

Dated: 15/04/2025.

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is inviting in the national e-GP system portal in Bangladesh (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Goods mentioned in the table below:

SL No	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of Goods	Tender Publication Date and Time	Tender Document last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time
01	ID: 1097570 Gd-Ship-2024-01	Procurement of Full set computer and other items.	15-April-2025 11:00 AM	06-May-2025 10.15 AM	06-May-2025 12.00 PM	06-May-2025 12.00 PM
02	ID: 1096560 Gd-Ship-2024-04	Procurement of Dress Regulation for Staffs	15-April-2025 11:00 AM	06-May-2025 10.15 AM	06-May-2025 12.15 PM	06-May-2025 12.15 PM
03	ID: 1098322 Gd-Ship-2024-10	Procurement of Toner for Computer Printer	15-April-2025 11:00 AM	06-May-2025 10.15 AM	06-May-2025 12.30 PM	06-May-2025 12.30 PM

এস (২৫) (৩৯৩)

GD-891

SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Court extends probe deadline for 118th time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended the deadline for submitting the probe report on the 2012 murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Rumi to May 21. This marks the 118th extension of the deadline, according to case records.



Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate MA Azharul Islam set the new date after Investigation Officer Md Azizul Haque, also an additional superintendent of police at the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), failed to submit the report, said a court police.

Meanwhile, investigators have so far spoken to over 70 people, said a PBI official, requesting anonymity.

The agency also interrogated six individuals: sacked army official Ziaul Ahsan, former police officer Mashirul Rahman, ex-justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, former navy officer Mohammad Sohail, and accused Humayun Kabir and Palash Rudra Paul.

Sagar, news editor at Mastranga TV, and Rumi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed on February 11, 2012, at their rented apartment in Dhaka's West Rajabazar.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

Women carry pitchers after collecting water from a deep tube well in Chatogram's Sagarika area recently.
Residents have been relying on such sources due to persistent salinity problems in the main water supply. This issue typically resurfaces at the start of the dry season each year and cannot be resolved by boiling the water.

CHATTOGRAM MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL 3 years without MRI service

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chatogram

9,000-20,000 at private facilities.

In 2017, the health ministry allocated Tk 9.84 crore to replace an older MRI machine that had stopped working in 2014. The new machine was installed in the cardiology building and inaugurated in October 2017, but delays due to film shortages meant it became fully operational only in January 2018.

A technical glitch in October 2020 halted service for seven months. The machine continued to break down and finally stopped functioning on May 16, 2022.

Its warranty expired in August 2020. When the machine broke down again, the supplier, Meditel Private Limited, demanded Tk 1 crore annually for a comprehensive maintenance contract.

CMCH offered Tk 65 lakh, resulting in a deadlock that left the

machine unrepaired for nearly three years.

"Around 12 patients from my ward need MRI tests daily," said Prof Pradip Kumar Kayasthagir of the Neuro Medicine Ward.

CMCH Director Brig Gen Taslim Uddin said the issue was raised with the health adviser, who instructed officials to begin repairs. A total of Tk 3.5 crore has since been allocated.

Engineers from the National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop and Training Centre, along with Meditel specialists, have been working on the repairs for over two months.

Jayanta Kumar Mukhopadhyay, chief technical manager of NEMMW & TC, said the repairs are nearly complete, and the machine is expected to be operational within 15 days.

Additional SP, civil service official held over July killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Saiful Islam, former senior assistant commissioner (executive magistrate) of Narsingdi, and Anirban Chowdhury, additional superintendent of Rangamati police (traffic), were sent to jail on Monday after their arrests over crimes against humanity committed in Narsingdi during the July uprising.

The two were produced before the International Crimes Tribunal following their arrests. The tribunal ordered their imprisonment.

ICT prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim confirmed that arrest warrants had earlier been issued for both of them in connection with the police shooting in Narsingdi on July 18, which killed two students - Tahmid Bhuiyan, a class-10 student, and Imon Ahmed, a college student.

This marks the first time a Bangladesh civil service (admin cadre) officer has been arrested in a case related to crimes against humanity.

The prosecution alleged that the then executive magistrate Saiful and additional SP Anirban ordered the shootings.

During the July movement, at least 18 people were killed and at least 435 injured in Narsingdi alone.

On Monday, Anirban, a police cadre of the 30th BCS, was taken into custody for interrogation by the Office of the Superintendent of Police in Rangamati.

বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন
সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়
সিলেট
www.ecs.gov.bd

স্থারক নং-১২৭.০৭.৯১০০.০০০.০০১.২৫-২৬

তারিখ: ১৩/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রি.

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত জীপি গাড়িটি বৈষম্য বিহোবী আন্দোলনে ভয়াভৃত নিলাম/স্ক্যাপ আকারে সর্বোচ্চ দরে বিক্রয় করা হবে। সর্বোচ্চ নিলামকারীরেকে তাঙ্কনিক ট্রেজারি চালানের মাধ্যমে মূল পরিশোধপূর্বক সরবরাহ করা হবে। আগ্রহী নিলামকারীদেরকে সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিস, সিলেট এ (২য় তলা) বক্স নং ২০১ হতে আগ্রহী ৩০/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রি. সুপ্রু ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অফিস চালাকালীন সময়ে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) নগদ ৫০০/- (পেটশন্ট টাকা) দিয়ে নিলাম ফরম ভর্য করতে হবে। নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারীকে ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার টাকা) জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য) নিলাম ডাকার পূর্বে অবশ্যই নিলামকারীর কার্যালয়ে জমা দিতে হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, সিলেট মেট্রো-এ-১১-০২৮৬ নং জীপি গাড়িটি নিলামে বিক্রি করার পরে পুরো রেজিস্ট্রেশন কিংবা মালিকানা দাবী করা যাবে না।

মোহাম্মদ মুঞ্জুল আলম
সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার, সিলেট

ও
সভাপতি
দরপত্র নিলাম কমিটি
ফোন: ০২৯৯৭০৩৫৯৮
ইমেইল- sdeosylhet@gmail.com

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Sarishabari, District: Jamalpur.
www.iged.gov.bd

Memo No:46.02.3985.000.14.001.25-222

Date : 15/04/2025

e-Tender Notice No: 03/2024-2025 Limit Tendering Method(LTM)

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following packages below.

Sl No	Tender ID No	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender document last selling Date & Time	Tender Proposal Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening (Date and Time)	7	1096138	Package No RSADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.01	01 no ward Hellenchabari main road to Uzzal Master house road under Kamrabad Up. (d) Improvement of road by HBB at 02 no ward Kutubuddin house to kanu house road under Kamrabad Up. (c) Palisading work on 03 no ward Matir Master house to Sultan house road, under 07 no Kamrabad Up. (f) Construction of boundary Wall at 06 no ward at barbariya paschim para hafza madrasa graveyard under Kamrabad up. (g) Construction of U-drain (Size: 625mmx600mm-02 nos) at Shukoir firm access road (New earth road) at different ch. under Kamrabad Up. (h) Earth Filling work of degree pachbari battola markaj mosjid under Kamrabad Up. (i) Repairing work of degree pachbari Moddhopara obetdai madrasha under Kamrabad UP. (j) Maintenance of Char barobara Maddhapara Eidgah math under Kamrabad UP Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM
2	1096133	Package No RSADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.02	a) Palisading work on Bilbalia Atai' Saheb House Road under Mohadan Up. b) Repairing work on Sengua Cherag Ali Road Box Culvert under Mohadan Up. c) RCC Road work on Karogram Moddhopara Moslem Fakir House to East Side Hatem Ali House under Mohadan Up. d) CC Casting work on Bonogram Eidgah Field under Mohadan Up. e) Boundary Wall Work on Kaghuria Kali Mondir under Mohadan Up. f) Supplying Furniture Sanakoir Ideal College under Mohadan Up. g) Repairing work on Shamer para Firoza Majid High School under Mohadan Up. h) Repairing work on Bonogram HTML Dakhil Madrasa under Mohadan Up. i) Supplying Couple Brench on Sengua Sheikh Khalilur Rahman Vocational Institute under Mohadan Up Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	8	1096139	Package No RSADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.02	(a) Improvement of road by HBB at mazaliyi bilpar pucca road Junu mondol house mor to west side Hanif master house road under Doile Up. (b) Improvement of road by HBB at Chaparkuna Taher house road to Chand mia' house road under Doile Up. (c) Improvement of road by HBB at Gobindopur ratan house to east side Shahajan master house bridge road under Doile Up. (d) Improvement of Shaheen shamim bazar central mosjid under Doile Up. (e) Improvement of Chaparkuna Gopal bigraha Kali mandir under Doile UP. (f) Construction of Ozukhana at halbari beparai para Jame mosjid under Doile UP. (g) Improvement of Shoshbaral purpobpara Jame mosjid under Doile UP Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur. (a) Improvement of road by HBB at 07 no ward Rouhi paschim kather bridge to west side road under Satpua Up. (b) Improvement of road by HBB at 09 no ward Nandina Sarkar bari mosjid pucca road to east side road under Satpua Up. (c) Improvement of road by HBB at 06 no ward Uttar chinya Patal Bou bazar to Mukandil fakir house road under Satpua Up. (d) Improvement of Adra Hazi bari Madrasa under Satpua Up. (e) Maintenance work on Char Sarishabari High School Building under Satpua UP Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur. (a) Improvement of Road by HBB on Mohishabdurhuria Village Shopon House to Onward Mizan Master House via Mannan Engineer House under Vatara UP. b) Improvement of Road by HBB on in front of Mohadan Union Parishad Store to BC Road under Mohadan UP. c) Construction of Varmy Compost Chamber under One Union Sarishabari Upazila. d) Tree Planting work on Different Primary School field under Sarishabari Upazila. e) Supplying School Bag under Primary Level Students Sarishabari Upazila. f) Setting Goal Post with Net on School Field under Sarishabari Upazila. g) Supplying Wheel Chair for Autistic Child under Sarishabari Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM
3	1096134	Package No RSADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.03	a) Boundary Wall Work on Upazia Woman Affair's Land under Vatara, Kamrabad & Pogoldigha Up. b) Supplying First Aid Box under High School Level all School Sarishabari, Jamalpur. c) Supplying Sanitary Napkin under Girl's High School Sarishabari, Jamalpur. d) Supplying Floor Mat Under Primary Level School Sarishabari, Jamalpur. e) Construction of RCC Ghatala on Shimla Bazar Puja Bisharjan Pond Sarishabari, Jamalpur. f) Repairing work on Sarishabari Upazila Mosque Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	9	1096141	Package No ADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.01	(a) Improvement of Road by HBB on Mohishabdurhuria Village Shopon House to Onward Mizan Master House via Mannan Engineer House under Vatara UP. b) Improvement of Road by HBB on in front of Mohadan Union Parishad Store to BC Road under Mohadan UP. c) Construction of Varmy Compost Chamber under One Union Sarishabari Upazila. d) Tree Planting work on Different Primary School field under Sarishabari Upazila. e) Supplying School Bag under Primary Level Students Sarishabari Upazila. f) Setting Goal Post with Net on School Field under Sarishabari Upazila. g) Supplying Wheel Chair for Autistic Child under Sarishabari Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM
4	1096135	Package No RSADP/Sari 2023-2024/ W.04	(a) Improvement work of Bagara Village Entaz Ali House to Mojammel Headmaster House By RCC Road Under Pingna Up. (b) Improvement of Pingna Central Gavayard By Earth filling work Under Pingna Up. (c) Improvement work of Pingna Central Jame-Mosque By Earth filling work Under Pingna Up. (d) Improvement work of Pingna Chitulia Para Amtola to Polton Par By HBB Under Pingna Up. (e) Detailed Estimate of Boundary Wall at Pingna Sub-Health Centre Under Pingna Up Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	10	1096142	Package No ADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.02	(a) Improvement work of Bashuria Abdul High House to Hobi Kholipa House By HBB Under Pingna Up. (b) Improvement work of Saincharpa Sahapara BC Road to South Side Puja Mondop By HBB Under Pogoldigha UP. (c) Improvement work of Dakatimena Govt Primary School Field By Palisading & Earth Work under Pingna Up. (d) Improvement work of Toroniatia Eastpara bottola More to Abdur Rahman House By HBB Under Aouna Up Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM
5	1096136	Package No RSADP/Sari 2023-2024/ W.05	(a) Improvement work of Ponchasi Abdul Mozid House to Hanif Uddin House By HBB Under Auna Up. (b) Improvement work of Kaliakupur Mojamal House Bricks Road to Sukku House By HBB Under Auna Up. (c) Improvement work of Dowloipur Anisur Rahman House BC Road to Menderber Rashid House By HBB Under Auna Up. (d) Detailed Estimate of Floor Tiles at Gobindo Ngor West Para Baitul Manur Jame-Mosque Under Pogoldigha Union. (e) Detailed Estimate of U-Drain at Takuria to Brahmjanj Bazar Road East Side of Nurul Islam House Under Pogoldigha Union. (f) Maintenance work of Boyra Israfil Ahmad High school Building Under Pogoldigha. (g) Improvement work of Monarpura Belater More to Korim Sarkar House Via Saiful Shop By HBB Under Pogoldigha Up. (h) Improvement work of Kaliakupur Uttrpara Shepon House to Tazzammel Master House By HBB Under Aouna Up Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	11	1096144	Package No ADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.03	(a) Improvement of road by HBB at 01 no ward Shisua Baghmar Primary School to East Side Road under Satpua Up. (b) Improvement of road by HBB at Bhabanipur Bazar Basir House to West Side Kabir Member House Under Doail Up. (c) Maintenance work of Major Nahid House Horkhali Village Under Doail Up. (d) Improvement of road by HBB at Char Jamira Nayim Uddin House to Mintu Member House Road under Satpua Up. (e) Improvement of road by HBB at chur Sarishabari Giyas House to Azu Mondol House Road under Satpua Up Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur.	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM
6	1096137	Package No RSADP/Sari 2024-2025/ W.06	(a) Improvement of Shadhinbari eidgah math, under 07 no Kamrabad Up. (b) Palisading work on Shimla bazar Kamrabad up road Ch. 1750m, under 07 no Kamrabad Up. (c) Improvement of road by HBB at	29-04-2025 16:00 PM	30-04-2025 13:00 PM	30-							



Veteran actress Gulshan Ara Ahmed passes away after suffering heart attack

Veteran actress Gulshan Ara Ahmed, known for her work in numerous television dramas, passed away yesterday at 6:40am. She was 59 years old and is survived by her husband, a son, and a daughter.

Prior to her demise, she was admitted to the ICU and placed on life support following a heart attack. The news of her passing was shared by director Kajal Arefin Ome in a heartfelt social media post.

Ome wrote, "Our beloved Gulshan Ara Ahmed *apa* left us this morning at 6:40."

He also recalled her memorable performances, saying, "In *Bachelor Point*, she portrayed Kabilia's mother and the chairman of Noakhali. We will miss you dearly, *apa*."

Gulshan Ara Ahmed was buried next to her mother's grave in Brahmanbaria after Asr prayers yesterday.

Star Cineplex's steep ticket price hike sparks public outcry

Star Cineplex has recently significantly increased its ticket prices without prior notice, leading to widespread criticism from the public and the film industry.

Previously, ticket prices ranged from Tk 350 to 1,500. Now, they have surged to between Tk 400 and Tk 1,800, depending on the showtime and seating class. Matinee shows, which were once more affordable, have seen hikes of Tk 50 to 150, while evening and weekend shows have increased by Tk 200 to 300. The most expensive royal seats now cost Tk 1,800, a steep rise from the earlier Tk 1,500.

The sudden price hike drew backlash online, with noted director Dipankar Dipon writing on Facebook that a movie outing for two now costs nearly Tk 2,000—including tickets, snacks, and transport—an amount burdensome for lower-middle-income families.

Saraf Ahmed Zibon, director of the Eid release *Chokkor 302*, starring Mosharraf Karim, voiced



disappointment over limited showtimes and high-ticket prices, which he fears may drive away students and middle-income groups. "We need systemic changes to support young filmmakers and the Bangladeshi film industry," he emphasised.

In response to the backlash, Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, senior

manager of Media and Marketing at Star Cineplex, acknowledged the price adjustments. He explained that the changes were made to align with current circumstances and that the highest priced tickets are for VIP seats. "We have increased prices slightly to ensure a better experience for our audience," he stated.



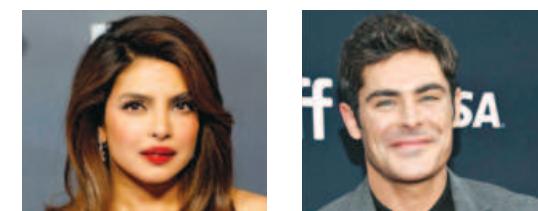
Green Day alters lyrics at Coachella to show solidarity with Palestine

At this year's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California, Green Day delivered a powerful and politically charged set, spotlighting the Israel-Palestine conflict.

While singing *Jesus of Suburbia*, Billie Joe Armstrong altered a lyric to, "Runnin' away from pain like the kids from Palestine," sparking widespread attention online.

Back in 2016 the band, known for blending activism with music, previously take a swipe at US President Donald Trump and MAGA supporters.

Armstrong opened with *American Idiot*, declaring, "I'm not part of the MAGA agenda," and introduced *Holiday* as an "anti-war" anthem. Their set featured hits like *Basket Case*, *Wake Me Up When September Ends*, and *Minority*.



Priyanka Chopra to reunite with Zac Efron in new comedy flick

Priyanka Chopra is reuniting with *Baywatch* co-star Zac Efron for an upcoming Hollywood comedy directed by Nicholas Stoller (known for *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*).

Produced by Amazon MGM Studios, the film remains untitled, with plot details mostly under wraps, however, Chopra confirmed her role via Instagram.

The cast also includes Will Ferrell, Michael Peña, Regina Hall, Jimmy Tatro, and Billy Eichner.

Formerly titled *Judgment Day*, the upcoming film follows a young ex-convict (Efron) who takes over a courtroom TV show, blaming the judge (Ferrell) for ruining his life. Chopra and Peña's roles are yet to be revealed.

Katy Perry roars into space on an all-woman flight



Pop icon Katy Perry took a brief journey to the edge of space last Monday, joining an all-female crew aboard one of Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin rockets.

The *Firework* and *California Gurls* singer soared more than 60 miles (100 kilometres) above Earth in a spacecraft operated by the Amazon founder's space company.

She was accompanied by five other women, including Bezos's fiancée Lauren Sanchez. The mission launched from West Texas shortly after 8:30am (1330 GMT) and returned safely around 10 minutes later.

The flight crossed the Karman line, the internationally recognised boundary of outer space.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Karaoke Night

The Attention Network hosts Karaoke Night every Thursday, offering a lively evening of music, games, and community. Guests can sing, and enjoy life-sized games, a PS4 corner, and board games in a welcoming, judgment-free space.

Open to individuals and groups alike—it will prove to be an energetic night of fun and connectivity.

DATE: THURSDAY | APRIL 17
TIME: 6PM-9PM
VENUE: DHAKA TRADE CENTRE, KAWRAN BAZAR

NEWS

Arrest warrant issued against Joy too

FROM PAGE 12

Rajuk officials, had six plots allotted to herself, her son Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, younger sister Sheikha Rizwana Siddiq and two former Rajuk officials, accusing them of being involved in the illegal transfer of a luxury flat in the capital's Gulshan area by abusing official power and accepting undue privileges from real estate developer Eastern Housing Limited.

The case was lodged yesterday by ACC Deputy Director Monirul Islam at the commission's Dhaka Integrated District Office. The two others named in the case are Shah Md Khasruzzaman and Sardar Mosharraf Hossain, both former assistant legal advisors at Rajuk.

ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain said the accused are charged with criminal conspiracy, breach of trust, and misuse of power to unlawfully gain possession of a flat without any financial transaction.

The flat in question—Flat No.B/201, House No. 5A and 5B (old), now 113 and 11B (new), Road 71, Gulshan-2—was allegedly handed over to Siddiq as an

illicit benefit and was later registered in her name.

According to the first information report (FIR), Tulip received the flat free of cost as a form of illegal benefit. This allegation is backed by a letter from Eastern Housing stating Siddiq was given the flat without payment. Additionally, a separate letter from the company to Dhaka City Corporation dated May 19, 2001—during Hasina's tenure—confirms that Siddiq had occupied the flat since then and had been paying holding tax.

TULIP'S RESPONSE

Tulip Siddiq said on Monday an arrest warrant issued against her in Bangladesh over allegations she illegally received a plot of land are a "politically motivated smear".

"It's a completely politically motivated smear campaign, trying to harass me. There is no evidence that I've done anything wrong," Siddiq told reporters.

"No one from the Bangladeshi authorities has contacted me. The entire time, they've done trial by media."

Rezaul Karim Mallik is not related to the issue involving Meghna.

He said, "The transfer of the DB chief has no connection with the Meghna Alam issue. This is a routine process. Officials come and go as part of regular duty rotation."

On Sunday, the High Court issued a rule asking the government authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why the arrest of Meghna under the Special Powers Act 1974 should not be declared illegal.

The court also questioned the legality of her 30-day detention under the act.

Kuet students break

FROM PAGE 12

banner of 'general students' over the banning of student politics on campus. At least 40 people were injured in the violence.

On Monday night, Kuet's syndicate held an emergency meeting and decided to reopen the residential halls on May 2 and resume academic activities on May 4. It also decided to suspend 37 students for their alleged involvement in the clashes on February 18 and 19.

The students began breaking the locks around 2:00pm yesterday, starting with Fazlul Haque Hall, followed by Amar Ekushey Hall, Dr M A Rashid Hall, and two others.

By the time this report was filed at around 8:30pm, around 250 students were staying in those dormitories.

The students have been staging a sit-in protest since Sunday, demanding the immediate reopening of the halls.

Yesterday, around 1:00pm, the students brought out a procession and requested teachers to unlock the halls. However, the teachers did not respond.

Following this, the students issued a call for the VC's resignation.

The announcement was made at a press briefing held at the Kuet Student Welfare Centre around 1:45pm, where a student representative read out a written statement.

The statement read: "As the VC has failed to ensure the safety of Kuet students, refused to take responsibility for his failure, disconnected internet and water supply, forced students out of the halls, encouraged filing of cases against protesting students, and expelled demonstrating students, we are shifting from our previous six point demand to a single point demand. The removal of the VC is now our only demand."

Kuet's Public Relations Officer Shaheduzzaman Sheikh told The Daily Star that the decision to suspend the 37 students was based on findings from a probe committee.

Regarding the breaking of locks, Kuet VC Mohammad Mashud told journalists, "Breaking into the halls is an illegal act. I will place the matter before the syndicate, which will decide the next course of action."

Following the February 18 clash, students began boycotting classes and launched a movement with a six-point demand that included the resignation of the VC, Pro VC, and the Director of Student Welfare, as well as a complete ban on student politics.

On February 23, students submitted their six-point demand in writing to the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. Later, on February 25, the Kuet syndicate decided to indefinitely suspend academic and administrative activities and ordered students to vacate

the dormitories.

A three member committee was subsequently formed by the university administration to investigate the incident.

On April 10, a local resident filed a case with a court in Khulna against 22 named Kuet students and 15-20 unnamed individuals in connection with the February 18 violence.

DU, BUET, RUET STUDENTS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY

At Dhaka University, students yesterday expressed their solidarity with the students of Kuet. Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS) held a press conference at around 2:00pm at the Madhur Canteen and demanded the resignation of Kuet VC within 24 hours.

Another section of students under the banner of "Dhaka University Stands with Kuet" held a protest programme at around 4:00pm at the Raju Memorial Sculpture with similar demands.

At Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), students formed a human chain in protest of the recent actions taken by the Kuet administration.

During the protest held at the Central Shaheed Minar on the Buet campus yesterday afternoon, students demanded the immediate withdrawal of the case against Kuet students, accountability from the administration, and punishment of those responsible for the violence.

At Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet), students formed a human chain yesterday afternoon protesting the recent events at Kuet.

The demonstration took place at 5:30pm in front of the Ruet Shaheed Minar, where students lacked slogans expressing solidarity with Kuet students and demanding justice.

[Our Correspondents from Khulna, Rajshahi and DU contributed to the report]

Join hands

FROM PAGE 12

"Let us forget the past year's sorrow and pain and move forward with a new conviction and new enthusiasm," he said.

Urging all to play an active role in protecting the country's culture and heritage and spreading those across the world, the chief adviser said that on this day, the country's people get the opportunity to showcase their tradition to the world in a festive atmosphere.

"Pahela Baishakh is the festival of our lives, the universal festival of Bangladesh. Wherever the Bangladeshi are in the world, today is a day of joy for all of us," he said.

At Baisakhi fairs across the country, Prof Yunus said entrepreneurs can showcase their creativity by making traditional shital pati, clay pots, pans, toys, hand fans, etc., marking this occasion.

He said various ethnic groups in the hills and plain lands are also celebrating Chaitra Sankranti and Bangla Nababarsha on a large scale this time.

The chief adviser hoped that the Bangla new year would usher in good days and joy for everyone.

Govt settling

FROM PAGE 12
Statistics (BBS).

Usually, the budget size increases every year, but the upcoming budget will be smaller than the previous year's original budget.

The budget size would be about Tk 7,90,000 crore, which is slightly less than the original budget for this fiscal year: Tk 7,97,000 crore.

The smaller budget is in line with the prescription of economists and the International Monetary Fund with a view to narrowing the budget deficit.

If the deficit increases due to low revenue collection as a result of the ongoing economic slowdown, the government would need to borrow from local banks, which can fuel inflation.

A 6.5 percent inflation target is achievable if the budget deficit remains below Tk 220,000 crore next fiscal year, Hussain said.

Finance ministry officials believe the budget deficit in the next fiscal year would be close to this amount.

Out of the total allocation, the size of the annual development programme would be Tk 2,30,000 crore.

In the original budget for this fiscal year, the allocation for ADP was Tk 2,65,000 crore, which was later revised down to Tk 2,16,000 crore.

There is nothing illegal about it'

FROM PAGE 12

Khuda Baksh said that the government would respond to the HC as required.

Asked about Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul's comment that the arrest process was not appropriate, the special assistant said, "We don't know the context in which the adviser made that statement. The question should be asked to him. He hasn't informed us of his reasoning. Responding based solely on your [the journalist's] question would lack context and may not be accurate."

Meghna, the winner of Miss Earth Bangladesh 2020, was picked up by

detectives from her flat in Dhaka's Bashundhara R/A on Wednesday evening. Law enforcers produced her before a Dhaka court around 10:30pm the next day, and the court ordered that she be detained for 30 days. Meghna was sent to Kashimpur jail.

On Saturday, the chief of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch, which detained her, was removed from his post.

However, home adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, who was also present at the briefing, said that the transfer of DB chief

is not related to the issue involving Meghna.

He said, "The transfer of the DB chief has no connection with the Meghna Alam issue. This is a routine process. Officials come and go as part of regular duty rotation."

On Sunday, the High Court issued a rule asking the government authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why the arrest of Meghna under the Special Powers Act 1974 should not be declared illegal.

The court also questioned the legality of her 30-day detention under the act.

Regarding the breaking of locks, Kuet VC Mohammad Mashud told journalists, "Breaking into the halls is an illegal act. I will place the matter before the syndicate, which will decide the next course of action."

Following the February 18 clash, students began boycotting classes and launched a movement with a six-point demand that included the resignation of the VC, Pro VC, and the Director of Student Welfare, as well as a complete ban on student politics.

On February 23, students submitted their six-point demand in writing to the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. Later, on February 25, the Kuet syndicate decided to indefinitely suspend academic and administrative activities and ordered students to vacate

Shares worth Tk 17,000cr frozen

FROM PAGE 12

Controversial business conglomerate S Alam Group has been found to be involved in the highest number of irregularities and instances of money laundering, said a taskforce

Trump threatens to strip Harvard of tax-exempt status

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to strip Harvard of its tax-exempt status after the elite US university refused to accept far-reaching policy changes ordered by the White House.

Trump had already moved to freeze \$2.2 billion of federal funds on Monday in retaliation for the top university's defiance of the administration's push to bring campuses to heel.

Trump said Harvard "should lose its Tax Exempt Status and be Taxed as a Political Entity" if it does not submit to his demands for the college to change the way it runs itself, including selection of students and authority for professors.

Tax-exempt status is "totally contingent on acting in the PUBLIC INTEREST," he added in the post on his Truth Social network.



People gather to protest against the conflict in Sudan, on the day of the two-year anniversary of the conflict, as the London Sudan conference takes place, in London, Britain yesterday. Sudan's civil war has displaced 13 million people, the United Nations said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel makes new Gaza truce proposal

Hamas likely to respond within 48 hrs; Maldives ban Israelis to protest offensive

AGENCIES

Mediators Egypt and Qatar have presented a new Israeli proposal for a Gaza ceasefire to Hamas, Egyptian state-affiliated Al Qahira News TV said.

A senior Hamas official told AFP yesterday that the Palestinian movement will "most likely" respond to the ceasefire proposal it received through mediators within 48 hours.

The group reiterated its core demand that a ceasefire deal must end the offensive in Gaza and achieve a full Israeli pull-out from the strip.

Earlier, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters that the proposal did not meet the Palestinian group's demand that Israel commit to a complete halt of hostilities.

In the proposal, Israel also for the first time called for the disarmament of Hamas in the next phase of negotiations, which the group will not agree to, Abu Zuhri said.

UN chief 'deeply alarmed' by Israeli strike on Gaza hospital

"Handing over the resistance's weapons is a million red lines and is not subject to consideration, let alone discussion", Abu Zuhri said.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is "deeply alarmed" at Sunday's strike by Israeli forces on the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, his spokesperson said yesterday.

"Under international humanitarian law, wounded and sick, medical personnel and medical facilities, including hospitals, must be respected and protected," the UN chief's spokesperson said.

In a separate development, The Maldives announced yesterday it was banning the entry of Israelis from the luxury tourist archipelago in "resolute solidarity" with the Palestinian people.

President Mohamed Muizzu ratified the legislation shortly after it was approved by parliament yesterday.

The ban will be implemented with immediate effect, a spokesman for Muizzu's office told AFP.

Bomb blast kills 3 cops in Pakistan

16 others hurt

AFP, Quetta

An explosion targeting a police bus in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province killed at least three officers and wounded 16 others yesterday.

The bus was carrying around 40 police officers when it was hit by the blast in Mastung district, around 40 kilometres south of the provincial capital Quetta, local administration official Raja Muhammad Akram told AFP.

"It was a roadside IED (improvised explosive device) blast that resulted in the deaths of three policemen while wounding 16 others," Akram said.

Pakistan has been battling a separatist insurgency in Balochistan for decades, where militants target state forces, foreign nationals, and non-nationals in the mineral-rich southwestern province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

Ukraine pounds Kursk with dozens of drones

Says Russia; Kremlin claims no clear outline for US-Russia deal on Ukraine

REUTERS

an 85-year-old woman died."

Kyiv forces hit Russia's Kursk region that borders Ukraine with dozens of drones, killing an elderly woman, injuring nine people and sparking fires in several buildings in the region's administrative centre, Russian authorities said yesterday.

The

Russian

defence

ministry

, which

releases

data

only

on

how

many

Ukraine

launches

, said

109

drone

s

were

downed

over

the

Kursk

region

overnight

Kursk has been subjected to a massive enemy attack overnight," the Kursk region administration said in a post on Telegram messaging app. "Unfortunately,

The region's administration posted photos of a multi-storey apartment building with blown out windows and fire damage to the facade.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said yesterday that there is no clear outline for a US-Russia deal on Ukraine for now, but that there is political will to move in the direction of an agreement.

Iran-US talks going well but may lead nowhere Says Khamenei

AFP, Tehran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday he was satisfied with talks with arch foe the United States but warned they could ultimately prove fruitless.

Tehran and Washington are due to meet again in Muscat on Saturday, a week after top officials held the highest-level talks since the landmark 2015 nuclear accord collapsed.

US President Donald Trump, who pulled out of the deal during his first term, revived his "maximum pressure" sanctions campaign after returning to office in January.

In March, he sent a letter to Khamenei urging talks and warning of possible military action if Iran refused. Saturday's talks were "well carried out in the first steps", Khamenei said, quoted by state television. "Of course, we are very pessimistic about the other side, but we are optimistic about our own capabilities."

But he added that "the negotiations may or may not yield results".

NATIONAL HERALD CASE

Sonia, Rahul Gandhi named in ED chargesheet

NDTV ONLINE

India's Enforcement Directorate (ED) yesterday filed a chargesheet against Congress MPs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and Sam Pitroda, the party's overseas unit chief, in the National Herald money laundering case.

A special court fixed April 25 as the hearing date.

"The present prosecution complaint shall next be taken up for consideration, on the aspect of cognisance... when Special Counsel for the ED and the Investigating Officer shall also ensure production of the case diaries for perusal by the court," Special Judge Vishal Gogte said.

This is the first time a chargesheet has been filed against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.



ADMISSION SUMMER 2025

Last Date for Application

22 April 2025

Admission Test

25 April 2025

SCHOLARSHIP/WAIVER

UP TO 100%

In person class only on Fridays for Master's programs.

Single day accommodation facility



SCAN
To know about the programs, scholarship/waiver, prospectus & location

Faculty of HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor's Programs:

- English
- Journalism, Media and Communication
- Law (LL.B. Hons.)

Master's Programs:

- Development Studies
- English (Major in ELT & Literature)
- Journalism, Media and Communication
- Law (LL.M.)

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Memo No. 27.12.1586.190.07.001.25-550

e-Tender Notice (LTM)

e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement following works:

Description of work	Package No.	e-Tender ID	Tender publication (e-GP web portal) date and time	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Last date and time for tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
Construction of 13.27 Km 33/11/0.4 KV Electrical Overhead Distribution Line at Zone 2A in National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) Development Project.	BEZA-2A-L-2024-25-01	1097488	16 April, 2025; 08:00pm	04 May, 2025; 04:00pm	05 May, 2025; 09:45am	05 May, 2025; 10:00am
Construction of 16.15 Km 33/11/0.4 KV Electrical Overhead Distribution Line at Zone 2A in National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) Development Project.	BEZA-2A-L-2024-25-02	1097489	16 April, 2025; 08:00pm	04 May, 2025; 04:00pm	05 May, 2025; 10:45am	05 May, 2025; 11:00am
Construction of 12.96 Km 33/11/0.4 KV Electrical Overhead Distribution Line at Zone 2B in National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) Development Project.	BEZA-2B-L-2024-25-03	1097490	16 April, 2025; 08:00pm	04 May, 2025; 04:00pm	05 May, 2025; 11:45am	05 May, 2025; 12:00pm
Construction of 11.89 Km 33/11/0.4 KV Electrical Overhead Distribution Line at Zone 2B in National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) Development Project.	BEZA-2B-L-2024-25-04	1097491	16 April, 2025; 08:00pm	04 May, 2025; 04:00pm	05 May, 2025; 12:45pm	05 May, 2025; 1:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chattogram
Telephone No. 02333398006
E-mail: sebrebctg@yahoo.com

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Chattogram Zone, Fouzderhat, Chatt

A potent display of unity amid diversity

This year's Pahela Baishakh celebrations held special meaning

Music, fairs, and colourful processions—the celebrations welcoming the Bangla New Year 1432 were truly a sight to behold. On Monday, people came out in droves to participate in what is typically the largest festival observed in the country, particularly in Dhaka. This year's festivities carried special significance, being the first after the fall of a dictatorship that had pushed the people to the edge for more than a decade.

Misgivings abounded ahead of the celebrations, though, especially after two motifs created for the Borsho Boron Anondo Shobhajatra were burnt down on the Dhaka University campus just two days prior. There was also controversy surrounding the renaming of the traditional morning procession in the capital. Fortunately, the unease that had been thus stirred did not overshadow or mar the festivities eventually. In the end, a greater sense of unity and togetherness prevailed.

What truly set this Pahela Baishakh festival apart was the scale of public participation: members of around 28 different ethnic minority communities, along with people from all walks of life, joined in the processions and festivities. From eight-year olds to octogenarians, everyone came out to proudly stake their claim to a shared heritage and cultural identity. The message of peace, inclusivity, and diversity was loud and clear. This, we must acknowledge, was made possible by the government's commendable efforts in ensuring that the celebrations proceeded smoothly and safely.

That is not to say the festivities were entirely without blemish. The suspension of celebrations at Chattogram's DC Hill, for example, was quite distressing. It followed an attack by a group of miscreants, identified as members of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangsta (Jasas) and its like-minded organisations, who opposed the programme and vandalised the venue. This is an issue that BNP should address with due seriousness.

Apart from that, beyond the music and joy, festivals like this should also prompt reflection. Ours is a heritage built on resilience, communal harmony, and compassion, but we must also confront the uncomfortable truth that intolerance, exclusion, and discrimination have increasingly taken root in our society. Monday's celebrations marked a step towards resisting those influences and reaffirming our collective desire for a truly equal and inclusive society. Moving forward, we must strive to be free from prejudice and inequality in all spheres of life. Our social, political, and economic systems must become truly inclusive and diverse, and the discrimination still faced by marginalised communities must be eradicated. Only then can we build a society that truly reflects the spirit of Pahela Baishakh.

Brick kilns destroying Ctg farmlands

Why aren't the authorities taking strict measures?

It is alarming to learn of farmers in Chattogram's Fatikchhari and Hathazari upazilas who are facing losses due to crop damage caused by toxic smoke from nearby brick kilns. Reportedly, crops are being covered in dust from the smoke, and as a result, many farmers are failing to even recover their production costs. For some, crop yields have declined by more than half since the kilns began operating near their croplands. Some are reportedly even considering abandoning their profession.

Crops grown near brick kilns do not develop as expected and must be washed before being sold. Toxic fumes from the kilns also raise significant food safety concerns. Currently, according to data from the Department of Environment (DoE), over 90 brick kilns are operating across the two upazilas. Under the Brick Production and Kiln Installation (Regulation) Act, establishing brick kilns on or within a one-kilometre radius of agricultural land is prohibited. Many kilns in these areas, however, have been set up in direct violation of the law. Moreover, most of the kilns use firewood as fuel—another breach of existing regulations that contributes significantly to harmful emissions, exacerbating the damage to nearby croplands.

This trend—which many other regions also suffer from—remains a norm despite recent efforts by the interim government. For example, according to a previous report citing officials from the DoE and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Rangpur, some 984 brick kilns are operating on farmlands in eight districts of the division. The persistence of this problem shows how difficult it is to address it without proper support from political parties, considering the involvement of local politicians and political muscles in the operation of brick kilns.

While the government needs to address these broader problems associated with brick kilns, it is important to take their damaging effect on farmlands more seriously. The costs inflicted on farmers may drive them out of business entirely, affecting our food security. And the damage being done to the productivity of farmlands could take significant time and resources to reverse. As such, we urge the government to take stock of brick kilns operating close to farmlands across various regions—including Chattogram—and shut or relocate them before they cause any further harm.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Harriet Quimby's flight across the English Channel

On this day in 1912, American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel, guiding her French Blériot monoplane through heavy overcast from Dover, England, to Hardelot, France.

EDITORIAL

How to mitigate the impact of Trump's reciprocal tariffs



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun
is executive director at the Centre for Policy
Dialogue (CPD).
Views expressed in this article are the author's
own.

FAHMIDA KATUN

The United States government's decision on reciprocal tariffs has sent shockwaves through financial markets and reverberated through economies worldwide. On April 2, the US introduced a sweeping tariff policy, imposing a baseline 10 percent reciprocal tariff on all imports and even higher country-specific tariffs. Bangladesh faced a crippling 37 percent tariff on its exports to the US. This new tariff regime not only sparked a global market crash but also ignited diplomatic and economic turmoil. Of course, a 90-day pause in the tariff decisions was placed within a week.

The market reaction was just one factor among several influencing the temporary change of decision on the tariffs. Growing political concern, both within the US and among international trading partners, has also been an issue. Many industry leaders and governments voiced unease over the economic uncertainty caused by these new tariffs. Concurrently, diplomatic negotiations took place, especially with countries that had avoided retaliatory measures. These combined factors led to the temporary suspension of tariffs on April 9 for more than 75 countries, while maintaining—and in some cases strengthening—the measures specifically directed towards China.

The US decision to impose a 145 percent tariff was met with a retaliatory 125 percent tariff from China on American goods. This tit-for-tat dynamic suggests that what was once a strategic economic rivalry has now spiralled into a trade war with far-reaching global consequences, where collateral damage is inevitable. For smaller export-dependent economies like Bangladesh, which are plugged into global supply chains through their economic activities, the repercussions

are significant.

Bangladesh's trade in goods with the US is about \$10.6 billion. In 2024, our total goods exports to the US were \$8.4 billion, and imports from the US amounted to \$2.2 billion. The additional 37 percent reciprocal tariff, if put into effect, presents a threat to Bangladesh's exports, especially its RMG sector, which is its economic lifeblood. RMG exports account for more than 85 percent of the country's exports to the US. Though a Least Developed Country (LDC), Bangladesh has not been allowed duty-free, quota-free (DFQF) market access for its RMG

economy but also an important source of employment. Therefore, the consequences of these tariffs for the RMG industry cannot be ignored. A reduction in orders from US retailers due to higher prices could force factories to cut back on production. In a labour-intensive industry, this will lead to job losses. Such a reduction could also have social ramifications—from rising unemployment and poverty to increased pressure on public services and social safety nets.

Beyond the direct impact on exporters and workers, high tariffs also threaten to disrupt Bangladesh's macroeconomic stability. Lower export earnings could lead to a widening trade deficit and reduced foreign exchange reserves. Additionally, the anticipated decline in US demand could push Bangladeshi manufacturers to slash profit margins and invest less in innovation, skills, and sustainability measures.

Following the US tariff announcement, the Bangladesh



RMG exports, the engine of Bangladesh's external economy, account for more than 85 percent of its exports to the US.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

to the US since 2013. The country has already been paying a 15 percent tariff for its RMG products to enter the US market.

The new tariff regime will make Bangladeshi goods significantly more expensive in the US. As a result, US buyers may opt for suppliers from countries not subjected to the same tariff burdens—and Bangladesh risks losing market share in one of its most critical export destinations. The price shock could be absorbed by US buyers and Bangladeshi exporters to shield consumers from high prices.

But whether, and by how much, the increased cost will be shared by exporters and importers is uncertain.

The RMG sector is not only the engine of Bangladesh's external

government wrote a letter to the US president on April 7 requesting the US to postpone the implementation of the tariffs for three months. Bangladesh has signalled a willingness to import more US products, including agricultural commodities like cotton, wheat, and soybeans, in an attempt to reduce the existing trade deficit.

One of the unfinished tasks has been developing a robust export sector in Bangladesh through diversification of both export products and markets. Dependency on a single export product is a weak trade strategy, as it is subject to vulnerability from both domestic and external shocks. Product diversification also includes the expansion of items within the RMG industry. Beyond RMG, leather

products and pharmaceuticals also have a higher export potential. Diversification of markets will also help buffer against trade shocks to some extent. Moreover, Bangladesh must continue to invest in enhancing the quality and value of its products through improved designs, sustainability certifications, and compliance with international labour and environmental standards to maintain its competitive edge.

Since powerful countries have consistently undermined the rule-based multilateral trading system over the years, the objective of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to promote open and fair trade globally by reducing or eliminating tariffs has been facing challenges. Therefore, WTO member states have resorted to plurilateral and bilateral trade agreements. Bangladesh is lagging behind in this regard. We should negotiate free trade agreements (FTAs) with our trading partners to prepare a robust trade sector. Countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia, which also export RMG products, have moved far ahead in this regard, enhancing their market access and export competitiveness.

Bangladesh should aggressively pursue FTAs that will offer tariff-free or reduced-tariff access to other markets. Strengthening its presence in regional trade blocs like BIMSTEC and deepening engagement with ASEAN economies could open new pathways for trade growth and regional integration. To achieve these objectives, the government must also align domestic policies with international standards, particularly concerning labour rights and environmental regulations. A thorough review of its tariff structures is also important. This is especially so as the country will graduate from LDC status in November 2026—when it will no longer enjoy non-reciprocity of tariff measures with its trading partners.

As part of trade policy reform, Bangladesh should demonstrate its commitment to fair trade by reducing non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and improving customs facilitation. Capacity-building across industries—via training programmes, technology adoption, and quality assurance mechanisms—will be essential to elevate the country's exports beyond price sensitivity.

The 90-day window is, therefore, an opportunity for Bangladesh to prove its diplomatic agility, economic foresight, and institutional capacity to respond to external shocks. Of course, it will take a long time to implement trade reforms. But if worked on systematically, Bangladesh can turn this challenge into a catalyst for transformation. It can leverage this critical moment for sustainable growth that is less dependent on preferential access and more rooted in innovation, diversification, quality, and productivity.

Lessons from neighbours on RTI use

Shamsul Bari and Ruhi Naz
are chairman and deputy director (RTI),
respectively, of Research Initiatives, Bangladesh
(RIB). They can be reached at rib@ctech bd.com.

SHAMSUL BARI and RUHI NAZ

Since the interim government took office following the July-August uprising in 2024, this column has mainly aimed to draw the attention of our youth to the enormous potential of the Right to Information Act (RTI), 2009 as an instrument to realise their dream of just and equitable governance. However, with the departure of the three information commissioners, the Information Commission of Bangladesh (ICB) virtually became a defunct body. While we await the revival of the commission, we can learn how our neighbours in the region benefit from the law.

A perennial concern of RTI users worldwide is the definition of "public authority." Public institutions like to avoid being included in this definition so they can refuse to respond to RTI requests. Even the Indian Supreme Court once argued that it fell outside the Indian Right to Information Act, 2005, but had to change its stance due to relentless RTI activism. Our Supreme Court, too, appears to consider itself to be outside the scope of the law as it has not named a designated officer as mandated by our RTI Act 16 years after its adoption.

Last month, the Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka ruled that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka

(ICASL) fell within the country's Right to Information Act, 2016. This meant that professional bodies performing public functions must respect citizens' right to access information.

The case arose when an RTI applicant sought information from ICASL about an alleged fraud and misappropriation of Rs 20.7 million. ICASL refused, arguing it was not a "public authority" under the law. The applicant complained to Sri Lanka's RTI commission, which ruled that ICASL must disclose the information requested. ICASL challenged the ruling in the Court of Appeal, which upheld the commission's position. The court opined that ICASL, a statutory body with self-regulatory functions, performs duties that directly impact public interest. The statute of the body granted it authority over the accounting profession, making it accountable under the RTI framework. The judgment emphasised that any institution performing a public function must comply with Sri Lanka's RTI law, even if independently managed. This is likely to have far-reaching consequences for professional bodies and regulatory institutions in Sri Lanka. The same should apply in Bangladesh if our citizens take an interest in probing the law.

Our next story highlights the demand for complete transparency in government decisions regarding internet shutdowns, surveillance, and censorship, an issue that gained prominence during the July-August uprising. It also emphasises the importance of developing legal

strategies that use court rulings to further the objectives of the RTI Act.

Internet shutdowns in India—though legally permissible—must adhere to the procedures and safeguards outlined in law and the guidelines established by the Supreme Court. For instance, under the Temporary Suspension of Telecommunication Services Rules, a review committee must be constituted if an authority imposes an internet shutdown. If this committee believes that the suspension order does not comply with the provisions of the law, it can order it to be set aside. However, the findings of review committees across the country are not publicly shared.

In this context, in May 2024, the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), a local civil society body, submitted an RTI request to the Home Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which reportedly holds the world record for the most frequent internet shutdowns. It sought information about the review committee's findings regarding internet shutdowns in the state. The response was that the information was available on the department's website. Not satisfied, IFF filed an appeal with the First Appellate Authority, which ordered disclosure of the information on suspensions since February 2024. Since IFF intends to seek disclosure of all review committee orders on internet shutdowns in the state since 2020, it decided to appeal to the State Information Commission—the Second Appellate Authority.

Media reports indicate that IFF's appeal to the Second Appellate Authority is based on Indian Supreme Court order dated February 23, 2024, in a case filed by the Foundation for Media Professionals, another civil society body, against the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. In that order, the court held that the union and state governments must publish the state's review committee orders overseeing internet shutdowns. In compliance, the central government announced in the same month that it would publish the review committee's orders assessing internet shutdowns in Jammu and Kashmir as public information without providing the reasons for such shutdowns.

The First Appellate Authority of the state had interpreted the above to apply to internet suspensions following the central government's February 2024 announcement. The IFF appeal challenges the assumption that the Supreme Court had set a temporal limit in its ruling.

Whatever the outcome, the dogged determination of the Jammu and Kashmir civil society to pursue the matter relentlessly is admirable. Without such determination, the RTI Act cannot effectively advance public interest in a democracy. We need such determination among our citizens. We hope that the renewed energy of our youth, displayed during and after last year's uprising, will be harnessed to unlock the immense potential of the RTI Act, not least to tackle arbitrary internet suspensions.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Harriet Quimby's flight across the English Channel

On this day in 1912, American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel, guiding her French Blériot monoplane through heavy overcast from Dover, England, to Hardelot, France.

MARCH FOR GAZA IN BANGLADESH

A vital chapter in the fight for justice



Nada Yousef Ramadan
is pursuing MA in Diplomacy at the
American University in the Emirates.

NADA YOUSEF RAMADAN

The March for Gaza, held on April 12, 2025, saw 100,000 protesters painting the streets of Dhaka with the colours of the Palestinian flag and the spirit of freedom. The word "freedom," is synonymous with the fight and struggle for Palestine. I think of Palestine as a land where freedom is not merely spoken of, but lived, longed for, and bled for. My father, the Palestinian ambassador to Bangladesh, always told me, "You cannot value freedom unless you fight for it." As I write this, human beings in Gaza continue to face the wrath of Israel's indiscriminate bombings, and human beings in the West Bank continue to see their lives uprooted by the Israeli settlers. Fighting for justice while struggling with injustice is embedded in the ancestry of every Palestinian family: we've seen oppression at our doorsteps; our fathers and mothers have seen it, just like our grandfathers and grandmothers had, too.

In every olive tree that still grows through the rubble, in every child who dares to dream beneath drones and debris, and under occupation, and in every soul that chooses dignity over despair—there is resistance. The Palestinian people do not simply value freedom; they carry it in their bones, they breathe it, ache for it, and pass it on like a sacred inheritance, even when the world tries to strip it from their hands, no thief can steal that from them.

On March 23, 2025, the world witnessed yet another tragedy as Israeli forces targeted Palestinian aid workers in Gaza. Among the victims were paramedics, ambulance drivers, medics, firefighters, and first responders who were all actively engaged in providing life-saving assistance amidst the ongoing

genocide. Their sacrifices, made in the service of saving lives, were met with an unjust and devastating attack. Meanwhile, the brutality continued as Israeli forces opened fire on a group of children in the occupied West Bank, killing a 14-year-old Palestinian-American boy and wounding at least two others.

As a Palestinian woman living through the heavy heartache of the ongoing struggle, it's hard to put into words what it feels like to see the world around us—so far, yet so close—rallying for our freedom and dignity. The love and solidarity from the people of Bangladesh mean more than they will ever know.

In Palestine and in the heart of Gaza, where the echoes of violence and struggle are an everyday reality, it is often hard to imagine the world outside of our borders sharing in our pain. Yet, today, as I reflect on the recent protests in Dhaka and other major cities in Bangladesh, I find myself overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude. The solidarity shown by the people of Bangladesh for Palestine is not just heartwarming; it is a testament to the power of human empathy and the unbreakable bonds that unite us all in the pursuit of justice.

It is no secret that power dynamics in the world—driven by the US—back the Israeli apartheid state and enable the system of oppression that the Netanyahu-led Israeli government is unleashing onto Palestinians.

And in an intertwined, globalised world where the lives of domestic people and the sustenance of a government depend on global power dynamics, it's often easier for nations and their citizens to stay silent.

but have also demonstrated that the struggle for Palestinian freedom is not one we fight alone. In a world where geopolitical divides often overshadow the voices of the oppressed, the people of Bangladesh have answered our cries for justice with unwavering support.

As a Palestinian woman living through the heavy heartache of the ongoing struggle, it's hard to put into words what it feels like to see the world around us—so far, yet so close—rallying for our freedom and dignity. The love and solidarity from the people of Bangladesh mean more than they will ever know.

end to the bloodshed that has torn apart our land and our lives. They showed up not out of obligation, but because their hearts understand our pain. They are not our family by blood, but they are our family by the most beautiful bond of human compassion.

For us, Palestinians, it's more than just a protest—it's a symbol of the collective power of humanity. Their involvement is a reminder that our fight is not confined to the streets of Gaza or the frontlines of conflict; it lives in every voice that rises for justice, no matter where in the world it echoes. The protest serves as a powerful reminder that love and solidarity are not bound by geography. The people of Bangladesh have not only acknowledged our suffering; they have chosen to stand with us, amplifying our voices in a world that often seems to turn a deaf ear.

The people of Bangladesh fought for their freedom in 1971 and then again in 2024 to free themselves from a despot. The bond between Bangladesh and Palestine is one tied with a shared struggle to resist oppression of any form and to live with dignity. The most remarkable aspect of the current Palestinian solidarity in Bangladesh is that the nation and its citizens are choosing to march for the Palestinian cause while dealing with their fair share of instability that comes from rebuilding a nation after a revolution. The people of Bangladesh have lifted us in their prayers, their protests, and their undying hope for peace. They are not just spectators of our pain; they are part of our story, a vital chapter in the ongoing fight for justice.

To the people of Bangladesh: your support gives us Palestinians strength in our darkest hours. It reminds us that no matter how distant our struggles may seem, there are compassionate souls who will rise to support what is right. Your actions give us hope that the world can be a better place—a place where justice prevails and where the oppressed are never forgotten. Bangladesh, you've shown us that the spirit of solidarity can bridge oceans and that even in the darkest of times, there are people willing to rise and speak for what is right.



On April 12, 2025, at least 100,000 protesters painted the streets of Dhaka with the colours of the Palestinian flag and the spirit of freedom, chanting for an end to the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

But Bangladesh and Bangladeshi have consistently remained on the right side of history at a time when doing what is right brings forth more pain than gains.

The streets of Dhaka, bustling with thousands of passionate voices, have become a beacon of hope for the Palestinian people. These protests, organised by students, workers, and activists, have not only raised awareness about the dire situation in Gaza

rallying for our freedom and dignity. The love and solidarity from the people of Bangladesh mean more than they will ever know.

In a world where news cycles often turn cold and distant, it's hard to believe that anyone could feel the pain of our plight as deeply as we do. But then, I read about the streets of Dhaka, where thousands of people, young and old, gathered to shout our name, to hold our flag high, and to chant for an

Trade, trust and transit between Bangladesh and India



Ashish Banik
is deputy director of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute.

ASHISH BANIK

India's withdrawal of the transhipment facility for Bangladesh—which allowed Bangladeshi exports to reach third countries through India—could potentially cause a significant setback in bilateral relations between the neighbouring nations. Launched in 2020, the facility had allowed Bangladeshi goods, particularly RMG, to move through Indian land to reach their global destinations, thereby enhancing trade efficiency and saving costs.

Undoubtedly, the abrupt withdrawal of this facility, without a phase-down period, undermines the progress made in bilateral trade facilitation over the past few decades. The experience also highlights the exposed nature of South Asian regional cooperation and the need for resilient, mutually reinforcing and beneficial trade arrangements that can withstand political and economic shocks. In fact, South Asia has already been ranked as the least economically integrated region in the world, with intra-regional trade constituting only 5 percent of the region's total trade volume, compared to ASEAN's 25 percent, North America's 40-50 percent, and the European Union's 60-65 percent. The low degree of integration has been caused by a legacy of perceived political tensions, divergent perceptions on bilateral and mutual security affairs, absence of infrastructure, and non-tariff barriers, which have been stifling regional trade potential for the past couple of decades.

The recent withdrawal by India also does

not help alleviate diplomatic tensions that have been brewing between Bangladesh and India for some time. In the aftermath of the unexpected political shift in Bangladesh on August 5, 2024—which saw the fall of the Awami League-led government through a student-led democratic uprising—the bilateral relationship entered a new phase of uncertainty. A notable manifestation of this transition was the visible rise in acrimonious rhetoric, a proliferation of misinformation from the Indian media, and an uptick in nationalistic posturing from various quarters in both countries. However, the strategic imperatives and the socio-economic interdependences that underpin the relationship between the neighbours continue to provide a strong justification for recalibrating bilateral engagement through dialogue, diplomacy, and pragmatic cooperation.

Bangladesh-India's deep historical linkages—particularly the role India played during the 1971 Liberation War—serve as a strong basis for sustained cooperation, especially in areas such as cultural exchange, people-to-people connectivity, and trade. The geographical contiguity and ethnic ties across the borders further cement the relationship, facilitating an exceptional level of social interaction uncommon elsewhere in South Asia. Additionally, the two countries share a wide range of mutual interests in domains including disaster management, basin-wide river management, forest conservation,

water-sharing issues, and the call for the extradition of Sheikh Hasina. Meanwhile, India expressed concerns over regional security, particularly the rise of extremist forces and the persecution and protection of minorities in Bangladesh. Despite these divergent priorities, both sides acknowledged the necessity of continued dialogue—a crucial step towards building a conflict-resilient diplomatic framework.

Another important factor in increasing dialogue and cooperation between the two nations is the security dynamics of Eastern South Asia, which highlight the necessity for close cooperation between Dhaka and New Delhi. The rise of the Arakan Army along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, the protracted Rohingya refugee crisis, and the latent threat posed by non-state insurgent actors represent shared security challenges. These threats are transnational in nature and cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Political and security cooperation, underpinned by mutual recognition of each other's sovereignty and core interests, becomes not just desirable but essential. The current instability in Myanmar, combined with the potential for radicalisation among displaced communities, has the capacity to destabilise the broader Bay of Bengal region. A robust, trust-based Bangladesh-India partnership is therefore a critical pillar in ensuring regional peace and stability.

A defining feature of Bangladesh-India relations over the past two decades has been the development of multi-tiered institutional frameworks for dialogue and cooperation. These include joint working groups, border management coordination mechanisms, and shared intelligence platforms. Reinvigorating these structures in the current political climate is vital for managing misunderstandings, preventing escalation, and fostering predictability. However, rebuilding the structures to better bilateral relations must follow a new

template—not that of the past regime, whose cooperation between the two nations served India's national and economic interests in a lopsided manner. Bangladesh's chief adviser has reiterated that rebuilding the relations must be done to benefit both nations equally.

Moreover, a key challenge in the digital age is the weaponisation of information. The spread of disinformation and fabricated narratives through social media has emerged as a potent destabilising force, fuelling mistrust and animosity at the grassroots level. Even after the meeting between the two leaders, hostile rhetoric in sections of the Indian media has continued towards the current government of Bangladesh. Both governments must prioritise cyber diplomacy and information hygiene by establishing fact-checking protocols, digital literacy campaigns, and cross-border communication frameworks to combat this emerging threat.

The present uncertainty in Bangladesh-India relations, while concerning, also offers a rare opportunity to redefine the terms of engagement, and it is imperative that both nations seize it. The political transition in Bangladesh has altered the dynamics of bilateral diplomacy, but it has not diminished the strategic logic that binds the two nations. In fact, the challenges of the current moment underscore the need for more—not less—engagement. The Yunus-Modi meeting serves as a beacon of cautious optimism, a reminder that even in moments of political flux, diplomacy can prevail. To ensure a stable and prosperous South Asia, it is imperative for both nations to transcend short-term disagreements and invest in a long-term, cooperative framework grounded in mutual respect, historical solidarity, and shared aspirations. Only through sustained dialogue, robust institutional cooperation, and an unwavering commitment to truth and transparency can Bangladesh and India chart a course through this testing time and emerge with a stronger, more resilient partnership.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Supermarket aids
6 Select group
11 Concerning
12 Alpine trill
13 Entertainer Midler
14 Business bigwigs
15 Feedbag fill
17 That woman
18 Valuable item passed down
22 Old Atlanta arena
23 Radio button
27 Pocket breads

29 Ham it up
30 Furry wraps
32 Possesses
33 Looks down on
35 Scrooge cry
38 Convoy truck
39 San Antonio mission
41 Canary homes
45 More certain
46 Fill with joy
47 Vacant
48 Newark's county
DOWN
19 Ham it up
20 Furry wraps
21 Lincoln nickname
23 Looks down on
24 Boars' mates
25 Sicilian peak
26 Exam
28 Kind of overload
31 Take in
34 Game show host
35 Diamond corner
36 Homecoming attendee
37 Angel's instrument
40 Convened
42 Neon or helium
43 Summer in France
44 Kinsey topic
45 Give off
46 Spinning toy
47 Brewing ingredient
48 Hailed vehicle

2 Lincoln nickname
3 Go bad
4 Helpful software features
5 Real bargain
6 Ugly building
7 Smoked salmon
8 Midmonth day
9 Computer fixer
10 Different
16 Spinning toy
18 Brewing ingredient
19 Give off
20 A fan of



SATURDAY'S ANSWERS



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
dsopinion@gmail.com.

5-29



Tigresses close in on WC qualification

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty is enjoying the form of her life as yet another blistering 59-ball 83 from the wicketkeeper-batter, alongside fifties from Fargana Hoque (57 off 84) and Sharmin Akhter (57 off 79), helped the side to a 34-run victory over Scotland in their third match of the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier in Lahore yesterday.

The victory helped the Tigresses inch closer to qualifying for next year's World Cup in India as they moved top of the table with their third straight win.

BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh: 276-6 in 50 overs (Joty 83*, Sharmin 57, Fargana 57; Bryce 2-53)

Scotland: 242-9 in 50 overs (Priyanaz 61, Slater 61*, Nahida 4-40, Sumona 2-43)

Result: Bangladesh won by 34 runs

Player of the match: Nigar Sultana Joty

A win against West Indies in their next game on Thursday will ensure Bangladesh's qualification before they play their final game against Pakistan next Saturday. However, even if they lose their final two matches, the Tigresses have a good chance of qualifying as one of two teams from the six-team competition due to their healthy net run rate of 1.494.

With 11 fours and a strike rate of 140.68, it was Joty's unbeaten knock that helped Bangladesh post 276 for six – the Tigresses' highest total in Women's ODI, surpassing their previous best of 271 for three against Thailand. The Tigresses then restricted Scotland to 242 for nine, despite a 115-run eighth-wicket stand between Priyanaz Chatterji (61 off 63) and Rachel Slater (61 off 73*). Bangladesh left-arm spinner Nahida Akter stood out with the ball, scalping four for 40 in 10 overs.

Meanwhile, it was the only time when Joty, who notched up her maiden ton in their opening match against Thailand and then scored a fifty against Ireland, scored three successive 50-plus innings in her international career.

Arsenal target CL glory

AFP, London

Arsenal face Real Madrid on Wednesday with one foot already in the Champions League semifinals, but with the added pressure of knowing their entire season hinges on the result at the Bernabeu.

Mikel Arteta's men last week demolished the defending champions 3-0 in the first leg of their quarterfinal in London and are favourites to reach the last four of Europe's top club competition for only the third time.

But all their eggs are now in one basket as they seek to end their trophy drought, with leaders Liverpool almost out of sight in the Premier League.

Arsenal, who have never been crowned European champions, have become used to battling for the English league title – narrowly losing out to Manchester City in the past two seasons.

This year it has been their misfortune to be competing against a Liverpool team that flew out of the blocks in Arne Slot's first season at Anfield.

Arsenal have had chances to put the pressure on the runaway leaders but 12 draws in the Premier League, and just two wins in their past

seven games, have cost them as they are 13 points behind Liverpool.

Arteta made five changes for their 1-1 draw at home to mid-table Brentford last Saturday, and the Spaniard was clear about where his priorities now lie.

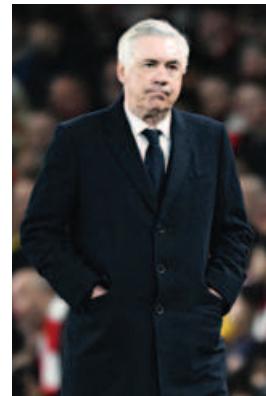
"We still have six games to play in the Premier League, which are going to be really important, for sure," he said. "But, for now, it's all about Wednesday."

Arsenal will travel to Madrid in high spirits, even though the 15-time European champions regularly defy logic in the competition, meaning Arteta will not breathe easily until the final whistle.

Meanwhile, Real will be hoping to do something that they have not done so far in the competition – overturning a 3-0 deficit – and will rely heavily on Kylian Mbappe, who was brought in exactly for such nights.

"Of course we can," said Mbappe on his way out of the Emirates last Tuesday.

Will Mbappe be able to add to Real's rich history of European comebacks, or will Arteta's men be able to take a step closer to their first-ever Champions League glory? The answer will be known in just a few hours.



Arsenal are unbeaten in three Champions League meetings with Real Madrid and could become the first team to ever keep three successive clean sheets against them in the competition.

Only four teams have lost the first leg of a Champions League tie by at least three goals and advanced – Deportivo (vs Milan in 2004), Barcelona (vs PSG in 2017), Roma (vs Barcelona in 2018), and Liverpool (vs Barcelona in 2019).

The other fixture of the night – Bayern Munich vs Inter Milan – will also demand a comeback as Bayern lost the first leg 2-1 at home against the Italian side.



BFF to receive \$1m from AFC

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is all set to receive US\$ 1 million from Asian Football Federation's (AFC) new Stadium Project, which was approved during its 35th Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on April 12.

BFF president Tabith Awal, vice-president Wahid Uddin Chowdhury, general secretary Emran Hossain as well as BFF EC member and AFC member Mahfuz Akter Kiron attended the congress where they also held bilateral meetings with Japan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

"AFC has sanctioned US\$ 0.25 million per year for a four-year circle under the Stadium Project. The BFF president also sat with the AFC president [Shaikh Salman] to seek help for the academy as well as referees' development," Wahid told reporters at the BFF headquarters yesterday.

Emran informed that the annual amount of US\$ 250,000 was previously of US\$ 200,000 per year. Bangladesh had previously availed a few more projects to buy two vehicles for BFF, ERP software for the finance department and other things.

"This project involves improving infrastructure which includes renovation, floodlights, training facilities and many other things," Emran told The Daily Star.

ACC raids BCB headquarters

SPORTS REPORTER

In light of various irregularities and corruption allegations, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) conducted a raid at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters in Mirpur on Tuesday. A special three-member team from the ACC carried out the operation at around 12pm.

Later, in a press briefing, ACC official Mahmudul Hasan told media: "The main issue of the complaint was corruption in the selection process of various cricket leagues under the Bangladesh Cricket Board. This enforcement operation is being conducted based on allegations of illegal transactions and various other irregularities.

"We had specific complaints today, particularly regarding the 2023 team selection for the Third Division Qualifying round. In previous years, the application fee was set at 5 lakh taka. At that time, only two or three teams would apply, and one or two would be selected from those. This time, when the fee was reduced to 1 lakh taka, 60 teams applied. We have collected the documents and will now verify and investigate these matters," he added.

The ACC official also brought forward the ticket sales issue of the Bangladesh Premier League.

"From the 3rd to the 10th season of the BPL, BCB had income from ticket sales. It was shown that the revenue from those eight seasons amounted to 15 crore taka. But in the 11th season, when BCB sold tickets themselves, the income was reported to be around 13 crore taka," Mahmudul said.



FEDERATION CUP

Little-known Insan takes Kings to final

SPORTS REPORTER

Teenager Insan Hossain emerged as Bashundhara Kings' saviour as the three-time champions came from behind to hand a 2-1 defeat to Rahmatganj MFS in the Federation Cup Qualifier 2 fixture in Dhaka yesterday, moving into the final of the competition for the fifth time.

Smarting from a 4-2 defeat in a penalty shootout at the hands of Abahani in Qualifier 1, Kings were seemingly heading to another shootout with only seven minutes left of extra time, until substitute Insan – who replaced Argentine forward Juan Lescano in the 105th minute – struck at Bashundhara Kings Arena.

Having spent most of his time playing as a defender for Brothers Union last season and featuring in only 18 minutes of two Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) matches for Kings, the 19-year-old met Rakib Hossain's pinpoint cross with a glancing header in the 113th minute to spark wild celebrations

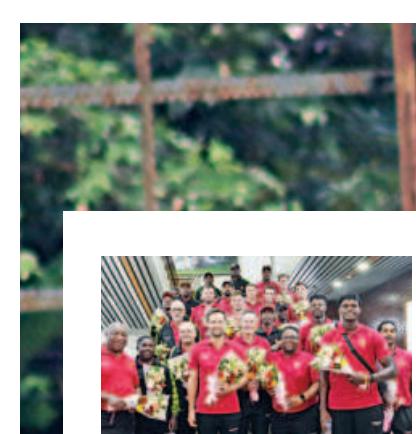


in the stands.

Kings, who lost to title contenders Mohammedan in the BPL on Saturday, were on the toe in the beginning of the match, as Rahmatganj were deprived of taking a 10-minute lead with a

shot coming off the crossbar, before Kings saw Sheikh Morsalin miss the near post from a free-kick in the first half.

Lescano, who played for the Real Madrid youth team, also rattled the crossbar in the second



Experienced batter
Mushfiqur Rahim, who missed Bangladesh's last Test tour of the West Indies last year due to injury, is all set to make a return in the Tigers' upcoming two-Test series against Zimbabwe at home. Bangladesh have already begun their camp in Sylhet, where the first Test is scheduled to start from April 20, while [Inset] Zimbabwe arrived in the country's capital yesterday.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR/BCB

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

IPL
Delhi vs Rajas-than
Live from 9:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 2
Champions League
Real Madrid vs

Islamabad vs Multan
Live from 8:00 pm
NAGRIK TV
Real Madrid vs

Arsenal Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)
SONY SPORTS 1
Inter vs Bayern Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

Bangladesh-India series fixtures confirmed

India are set to tour Bangladesh in August for a series comprising three ODIs and three T20Is – marking their inaugural bilateral T20I series in the country and their first white-ball-only visit since 2014. Scheduled during the off season, the series recalls previous off-season tours, such as India's 2014 visit in June and Australia's tours in 2017 and 2021. Additionally, this tour will act as final preparation for this year's T20 Asia Cup, which India will host in September.

ITINERARY

India arrive in Dhaka – August 13
1st & 2nd ODIs, Dhaka – August 17 & 20
3rd ODI, Chattogram – August 23
1st T20I, Chattogram – August 26
2nd & 3rd T20Is, Dhaka – August 29 & 31

DPL

MSC get Fizz boost for Super League games

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman is set to feature for Mohammedan Sporting Club in their Super League matches of the ongoing Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League, confirmed the club manager, Sazzad Ahmed, to The Daily Star yesterday.

Sazzad added that they have included a few more cricketers, including Nabil Samad and Farhad Hossain, after a few of their registered cricketers like Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam joined the national team in Sylhet ahead of the Tigers' two match Test series against Zimbabwe, starting on April 20.

Mohammedan also have injury problems to deal with as pacer Taskin Ahmed has been sidelined due to a left Achilles tendon issue. Their skipper, Towhid Hridoy, has also been suspended for two matches due to his misbehaviour with umpires during the last league match against Abahani.

Mohammedan are currently leading the table with 18 points, on par with Abahani, but ahead due to a better head-to-head record.

Meanwhile, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) yesterday confirmed the itinerary of the opening three rounds of Super League matches, scheduled to take place on April 17, 20 and 23.

Mohammedan will take on Legends of Rupganj in Mirpur, while Abahani Limited and Gazi Group Cricketers will face Agrani Bank Cricket Club and Gulshan Cricket Club at BKSP-3 and BKSP-4, respectively, during the opening round matches.

Meanwhile, the relegation league – featuring Partex Sporting Club, Shinepukur Cricket Club and Brothers Union – will begin on April 18.



THE BEST QUALITY
EVERY TIME GUARANTEED
BSRM



SHAH
CEMENT

Best Brand Award
Winner Every Year

Join hands to build a discrimination-free country

Yunus urges people on Pahela Baishakh

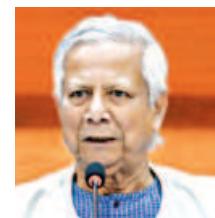
AGENCIES

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has called upon the people of the country to join hands in building a new Bangladesh which is "happy, peaceful and prosperous" without any discrimination.

"Let building a Bangladesh without discrimination be our commitment in this Bangla New Year," he said in a message marking the Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year, on Monday.

Prof Yunus said the mass uprising of '24 has provided them with the opportunity to build a Bangladesh that is happy, prosperous, peaceful and joyful.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Mourners pray next to the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Govt settling for lower GDP growth target

Next fiscal's budget size would be Tk 790,000cr

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The interim government may backtrack from its initial plan to set an ambitious GDP growth target of 6 percent for the next fiscal year amid the new economic reality and settle for 5.5 percent.

The development comes following lower projections by multilateral lenders. For instance, last week the Asian Development Bank forecasted next fiscal year's growth would be 5.1 percent.

A 6 percent GDP growth is very high in any condition and in any comparison to global economic growth or the South Asian growth average, Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office, earlier told The Daily Star.

The new GDP growth target, inflation and the size of next budget were discussed at yesterday's fiscal coordination council meeting, led by finance adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

The government's main target is to bring down inflation in the next budget. The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials with knowledge of the discussions in the meeting.

"We are keeping the low GDP rate aiming to reduce the inflation," said one of the officials.

The inflation target will be set at 6.5 percent by the government in the upcoming budget while the ADB has projected that inflation would be hovering around the 8 percent mark next fiscal year.

This fiscal year, the government set the inflation target at 8 percent while the ADB's projection was 10.2 percent.

The country's overall inflation stood at 9.35 percent in March, up from 9.32 percent the month prior, according to the latest data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Jamaat ameer meets Khaleda in London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The top leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami, including its Amir Shafiqur Rahman, recently held a meeting with BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia at her son's home in London.

After concluding their European tour, Shafiqur Rahman and Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullab Abu Taher recently returned to Bangladesh following a meeting with former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in London," wrote Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel, former press secretary to Khaleda Zia, on social media.

"Tarique Rahman was also present during the extended meeting. It remains unclear what specific issues were discussed during the meeting between the two top Jamaat leaders and Begum Zia," he also wrote.

Khaleda is receiving treatment under the supervision of doctors from the London Clinic.

Prothom Alo spoke to the Jamaat ameer. He told the paper, "I met with Begum Zia. We worked

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

'Tearing down walls' to expand trade alliances

Says China amid US standoff; Beijing, Hanoi sign 45 co-op deals

AGENCIES

China is "tearing down walls" and expanding its circle of trading partners, "shaking hands" instead of "shaking fists", its foreign ministry said yesterday, as Beijing works on diversifying ties amid an escalating trade war with the US.

President Donald Trump has added an eye-watering 145 percent of tariffs on Chinese goods this year as part of broader reciprocal duties on all US trading partners. That prompted ridicule and criticism from Beijing, which retaliated by jacking up levies on US goods by 125 percent.

"In the face of external uncertainties, China will insist on shaking hands rather than shaking fists, tearing down walls instead of building barriers, connecting instead of decoupling," Lin Jian, a foreign ministry spokesperson, told a press briefing yesterday.

The World Trade Organization has warned the high stakes Sino-US trade row could cut the shipment of goods between two economies by as much as 80 percent and severely hurt global growth.

Beijing has called US President Donald Trump's tariffs strategy "a joke", irritating US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. "These are not a joke. I mean these are big numbers," Bessent said in a Bloomberg Television interview.

Xi on Monday kicked off a three-nation tour of Southeast Asia, which President Donald

Trump said was aiming to "screw" the United States.

"I don't blame China. I don't blame Vietnam. I don't. I see they're meeting today, and that's wonderful," he said. "That's a lovely meeting... like trying to figure out, how do we screw the United States of America."

In Vietnam, which is facing potential US tariffs of 46 percent, Xi called for the two countries to oppose "unilateral bullying" and to strengthen cooperation in production and supply chains, reports Reuters.

Chinese and Vietnamese officials also signed 45 cooperation deals during Xi's visit, including on production and supply chains as well as railway cooperation.

After a two-day stop in Hanoi, Xi will continue his Southeast Asian trip by visiting Malaysia and Cambodia, which could be slapped by additional US

tariffs of 24 percent and 49 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, China has told its airlines to stop taking deliveries of jets from American aviation giant Boeing, reports AFP.

Bloomberg News reported yesterday that Beijing has also told its carriers to suspend purchases of aircraft-related equipment and parts from US companies.

Bloomberg said the Chinese government is mulling helping carriers that lease Boeing jets and face higher costs.

PURBACHAL PLOT GRAFT Arrest warrant issued against Joy too

Tulip sued over Gulshan flat, claims she's innocent

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and 16 others in two more cases filed over irregularities in plot allocation in Purbachal New Town.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after accepting the charges brought against them.

The court has now accepted charges against Hasina and her family in all six cases filed over the plot allocation irregularities, said an official of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The judge directed the officers in charge of over a dozen police stations in Dhaka and other parts of the country to submit progress reports on the execution of the arrest warrants by April 29.

The ACC officials showed all the 18 accused as fugitives in the two cases, as they did not secure bail from any courts in the country.

According to ACC documents, Hasina, in collusion with senior

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Shares worth Tk 17,000cr frozen

Joint taskforce assess its activities in meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint taskforce, formed by the interim government, has had frozen Tk 17,000 crore worth of shares, around Tk 4,000 crore held in different bank accounts, and imposed travel bans on 84 individuals from 10 major industrial groups and the Sheikh family through courts.

These developments were shared at the 7th meeting of the taskforce, which was formed to investigate alleged money laundering and other misdeeds carried out by 10 major industrial groups and the Sheikh family.

The meeting was held at the Bangladesh Bank yesterday, with Ahsan H Mansur, BB governor and chairperson of the taskforce, presiding over the meeting.

A meeting source said suggestions were made to take initiatives to recover the money laundered abroad.

The taskforce teams are investigating alleged money laundering and other irregularities by S Alam Group, Beximco Group, Summit Group, Bashundhara Group, Gemcon Group, Orion Group, Nabil Group, Nassa Group, Sikder Group, and Aramit Group.

In addition, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her family members are also under investigation.

The meeting source added that among the 10 major business groups and the Sheikh family, nine groups have been found to possess assets abroad. The assets have been made with the laundered money, the meeting participants claimed.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



A pigeon quenches its thirst from a dripping pipeline at Sylhet Rail Station, seeking relief from the scorching summer heat. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

'There is nothing illegal about it' Says CA's special assistant about Meghna Alam detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The steps taken against model Meghna Alam were in line with the existing laws and did not involve any unlawful conduct, Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser for home affairs, said yesterday.

"The law is in use. It's not like this law has not been used before. This is not the only instance where it has been applied. There is nothing illegal about it," he said, referring to the Special Powers Act.

Khuda Baksh was talking to reporters at a home ministry press conference at the Secretariat after a core committee meeting on law and order.

The special assistant said that an incident occurred, a complaint was filed, and the matter is now under legal proceedings.

The case has gone to the High Court. Since it's now a sub judice matter, it wouldn't be appropriate to comment further. Let's see what comes out of it," he further said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1