



"The political mutual trust between China and Russia is becoming deeper, and the ties for pragmatic cooperation are becoming stronger."

Chinese President Xi Jinping tells Putinduring Moscow visit

YOUR RIGHT
TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 9, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 110

BAISHAKH 26, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILQAD 10, 1446 HIJRI

16 PAGES: TK 15.00



BBS gets full authority to publish data

B1



Dozens of students arrested in pro-Gaza protest

P5



Bangladesh's export dilemma post-trans shipment ban

P6



Polan Sarkar's philosophy drew me to 'Solte'

P8

INDO-PAK ESCALATION

Rivals trade drones, missiles

India reports major strikes across J&K; Pakistan denies role, claims downing 25 Indian drones

AGENCIES

India and Pakistan yesterday accused each other of carrying out waves of attacks using drones and missiles, as deadly confrontations between the nuclear-armed foes raised the fear of escalation.

New Delhi yesterday said Pakistan carried out strikes targeting three Indian military stations in Kashmir with missiles and drones. No casualties were reported.

Pakistani Information Minister Attaullah Tarar denied that his country's military had carried out strikes in Jammu. Pakistan also rejected allegations that it launched attacks on Indian cities of Pathankot, Jaisalmer, and Srinagar.

India said "the threat was neutralised ... with kinetic and non kinetic means," adding that the bases targeted were in "Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur in proximity to the international boundary".

Blackouts were reported from a swathe of cities in Kashmir, including Jammu, as well as cities in the neighbouring state of Punjab such as Amritsar and Jalandhar.

"We can hear loud explosions, it feels like bombs are going off everywhere," said Varinder Jeet Singh, a senior member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), speaking about Jammu.

"There is a complete blackout."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Rubio holds talks with Pakistan PM, Indian FM, urges de-escalation

Blackout in Indian border areas; schools shut

India claims 100 terrorists killed in Wednesday's attack

Pakistan claims killing 40-50 Indian soldiers along LoC

A site where Pakistan claims to have shot down a drone in Karachi yesterday. Inset, the debris of a missile is pictured in a field on the outskirts of Amritsar in India.

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

Hamid off to Thailand, chaos in his wake

2 cops withdrawn, 2 suspended; actions follow home boss's warning

STAR REPORT

Two police officials have been withdrawn and two others suspended for negligence in duty regarding former president Md Abdul Hamid's departure from the country.

Hamid left Dhaka for Bangkok early yesterday. He boarded a Thai Airways flight that departed from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) around 3:00am, confirmed an SB official.

The officials withdrawn are Hasan Chowdhury, special superintendent of Kishoreganj police, and Tahsin Arif, additional superintendent of police of the Special Branch's immigration wing.

Those suspended are Sub-Inspector Azharul Islam of Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station, also the investigating officer in the case against Hamid, and trainee Sub-Inspector Md Soleiman of



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

JULY ATROCITIES
Govt forms ICT-2 to speed up trials

Adviser Mahfuj says law to be amended to try AL; NCP demonstrates in front of CA's residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has established a second International Crimes Tribunal to expedite ongoing trials and address the increasing number of cases filed over atrocities committed during the July mass uprising, said a gazette issued last night.

The law ministry appointed former High Court Division Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury as the chair of the ICT-2 and named former district and sessions judge Manjurul Bashid and current Madaripur District and Sessions Judge Nur Mohammad Shahriar Kabir as its members.

Meanwhile, Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam wrote on Facebook that the government was going to incorporate a new provision into a law to try the Awami League as a party.

"Trial of fascist [Awami] League must be held. Tribunal 2 is being formed to expedite the trial proceedings," he wrote on his verified page.

The development comes around seven months after the formation of the first tribunal.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

At 10:44pm, local government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain wrote on Facebook that AL's affiliated organisations Jubo League and Sweekchhasebok League would be banned.

'Bureaucrats loyal to fascists running country'

Says Fakhrul, wants election for sake of reform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said fascist bureaucrats are still running the country and claimed that the majority of the officials at the Secretariat are fascist loyalists.

"Many are saying that reforms must come first before elections. But reforms are a continuous process. Some reforms might take five years, even 10. So does that mean there will be no election in that period? And during these 10 years, will the country continue to be run by these fascist bureaucrats?" Fakhrul asked.

He made these remarks at a discussion held at the Supreme Court auditorium marking the first death anniversary of former attorney general and the BNP chairperson's lawyer Abdul Jamil Mohammad Ali.

"We are currently being run by fascist bureaucrats; 90% of the bureaucrats at the secretariat are fascists."



SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Robert Prevost of Chicago now Pope Leo XIV

REUTERS, Vatican City

Cardinal Robert Prevost, a little known missionary from Chicago, was elected in a surprise choice to be the new leader of the Catholic Church yesterday, becoming the first US pope and taking the name Leo XIV.

Pope Leo appeared on the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica after white smoke had billowed from a chimney atop the Sistine Chapel signifying the 133 cardinal electors had chosen a new leader for the 1.4 billion-member Catholic Church.

"Peace be with you all," he told the cheering crowd, speaking in fluent Italian. He also spoke in Spanish during his brief address but did not say anything in English.

Prevost, 69, and originally from Chicago, has spent most of his career as a missionary in Peru and has dual Peruvian nationality. He became a cardinal only in 2023. He has given few media interviews and rarely speaks in public.

President Donald Trump swiftly congratulated Prevost on becoming the first US pope. "What excitement, and what a Great Honor for our Country. I look forward to meeting Pope Leo XIV. It will be a very meaningful moment!"

Prevost becomes the 267th Catholic pope after the death last month of Pope Francis, who was the first Latin American pope and had led the Church for 12 years.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Protesters stage a sit-in outside the chief adviser's residence on Hare Road in the capital last night, demanding a ban on the Awami League.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TIME 100
Health names Dr Tahmeed of icddr,b

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of icddr,b, has been named to the 2025 TIME100 Health list -- the annual list by TIME magazine recognizing 100 most influential individuals in global health -- published yesterday.

Under Dr Tahmeed's leadership, icddr,b has strengthened its global impact through cutting-edge research and lifesaving interventions that have reached millions across Bangladesh and beyond, according to icddr,b press release.

On May 13, Dr Tahmeed will join fellow honourees at the TIME100 Impact Dinner: Leaders Shaping the Future of Health in New York, where he has also been invited to deliver a toast -- a TIME tradition spotlighting voices shaping the future of global health. His remarks will be featured editorially and



SEE PAGE 2 COL 4