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Doubts growing over govt's ability to govern: Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman said yesterday that some recent incidents, including former president Abdul Hamid's departure from the country, are raising doubts among people about the interim government's ability to fulfil its responsibilities.

"If we observe recent developments, doubts are gradually growing among various sections of people and professionals for various reasons about the interim government's ability to carry out its duties," he said while virtually exchanging greetings with members of the Christian community.

The BNP leader, however, said their party still supports the current interim government in every aspect to establish a representative government accountable to the people through public mandate.

Bangladesh Christian Forum organised the programme, marking the Easter Reunion at an auditorium in the capital's Farmgate Khamarbari area.

Mentioning Sajedul Islam Sumon, the BNP leader who disappeared after being abducted by law enforcers in December 2013, Tarique said, "We still have not received any information about the whereabouts of our colleague.



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Palestinians in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, receive food from a charity kitchen on Thursday. The United States announced that a new foundation will soon unveil aid plans for Gaza, bypassing the United Nations, as Israel's two-month blockade continues to cause severe shortages in the war-torn region.

PHOTO: REUTERS

80pc tariff on Chinese goods 'seems right' Says Trump

REUTERS

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that 80 percent tariffs on Chinese goods "seems right" as representatives prepared for weekend talks to contain a trade war between the world's two largest economies.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and chief trade negotiator Jamieson Greer will meet Chinese economic tsar He Lifeng in Switzerland for talks that could be the first step toward resolving their trade disputes.

"China should open up its market to USA — would be so good for them!!! Closed markets don't work anymore!!!" Trump said in a Truth Social post.

"80% tariff on China seems right. Up to Scott B," Trump said.

Since taking office in January, Trump has hiked levies on imports from China to 145 percent, in addition to those he imposed on many Chinese goods during his first term and the duties levied on Beijing

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T-rex ancestors crossed from Asia to North America 70m years ago

CNN ONLINE

The direct ancestor of Tyrannosaurus rex would have arrived in North America after crossing a land bridge from Asia, according to a new study.

The report is the latest to weigh in on the fierce debate among paleontologists over the origins of the king of the dinosaurs.

A team led by Cassius Morrison, a doctoral student of paleontology at University College London, or UCL, used mathematical modeling to conclude that T rex precursors likely arrived in North America after crossing the Bering Strait between modern-day Siberia and Alaska around 70 million years ago.

The finding tracks with past research that suggests T rex was more closely related to the large carnivore Tarbosaurus in Asia compared with top predators in North America such as Daspletosaurus, Morrison said in a statement.

At the time, the area would have been home to temperate rainforests, with a climate somewhat similar to British Columbia today,



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Two sisters found dead in city flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night recovered the bodies of two women in their rented apartment in Mirpur's West Shewrapara.

The deceased were identified as Mariam Begum, 60, and her sister Sufia Begum, 55.

According to HM Jahangir Hossain, owner of a local pharmacy, Mariam's husband, Kazi Alauddin, a retired forest officer, rented the apartment on the first floor of the five-storey building around 15 years ago.

Mariam, her daughter Mishti, and her sister Sufia have been living in the apartment since then. Alauddin mostly stays in Barishal.

"Last night, around 8:00pm, when Mishti returned from work, she found the front door of the apartment open. As she entered, she found her aunt Sufia lying on the floor of the dining room and her mother lying on the floor of her bedroom," Jahangir said, quoting Mishti.

Jahangir also said

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'No concrete progress' in Gaza truce talks

Say Hamas sources after meetings with Egyptian, Qatari mediators

AGENCIES

A Hamas delegation held two meetings with Egyptian and Qatari mediators in Doha this week but they produced no breakthrough in the search for a Gaza truce, sources close to the group said yesterday.

"Egyptian officials met twice with a high-level Hamas delegation led by (chief negotiator) Khalil al-Hayya (and) Qatari officials on Wednesday and Thursday in Doha," one source told AFP.

A second source said the talks were "serious" but made "no concrete progress".

Israel announced plans on Monday to expand its military campaign, drawing a chorus of international criticism. Israel's military has said the expanded operations approved by the security cabinet on Sunday would include displacing "most" of Gaza's population.

An Israeli security source said there was still a "window of opportunity" for a hostage release deal to be struck to coincide with US President Donald Trump's May 13 to 16 visit to the region.

But one of the sources close to Hamas told

AFP yesterday: "We do not expect an agreement to be concluded" by then.

Hamas fighters engaged in "fierce fighting" with Israeli soldiers on Thursday in the south of the Gaza Strip near Rafah, the Palestinian group said.

The statement, issued on Telegram, suggests that Hamas is still active in areas. In a later statement, it said fighters ambushed an Israeli 12-man force inside a house in the Tanur neighborhood in the eastern Rafah area with two anti-personnel and anti-armour rockets, killing and wounding several soldiers.

The Israeli army confirmed in a statement yesterday that two of its soldiers had been killed in combat in the southern Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, US ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said yesterday that Israel and Hamas will not be involved in Gaza aid distribution but Israel will take part in providing security, reports Reuters.

Israel cut most aid supplies into Gaza after the start of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023. It let more aid into the enclave during a fragile

- Israel to be involved in Gaza security, not aid distribution: US envoy
- Hamas fighters engaged in 'fierce fighting' in Rafah
- Trump to visit KSA, UAE, Qatar from May 13-16

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Church must fight 'lack of faith'

Says Leo XIV in first mass as pope

AFP, Vatican City

Leo XIV urged the Catholic Church to "desperately" counter a lack of faith in his first homily as pope yesterday, a day after the modest cardinal largely unknown to the world become the first US head of the 2,000-year institution.

Chicago-born Robert Francis Prevost on Thursday became the 267th pope, spiritual leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics and successor to Argentina's Pope Francis, after a secret conclave by his fellow cardinals in the Vatican's

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