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GRAFT ALLEGATIONS ACC asks PDB for info on 172 power plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sought detailed information on 172 power plants amid widespread allegations of corruption and irregularities in the country's power sector.

Letters requesting the information have been sent to the Power Development Board (PDB) and other concerned agencies.

In a letter addressed to the PDB chairman, the ACC stated that the requested information is necessary to investigate allegations against the former state minister for power, Nasrul Hamid.

The allegations include accepting bribes, approving projects to benefit family members, illegal occupation of government land, and embezzlement of funds through fictitious projects, confirmed Akhtarul Islam, deputy director of the ACC.

According to the complaint, the power sector witnessed expenditures amounting to \$28.3 billion (nearly Tk 4 lakh crore) over the past 15 years. Of this, an estimated Tk 1 lakh crore (one fourth) is alleged to have been misappropriated under the guise of "capacity charges."

India using remote areas to push people in
Says BGB DG, calls efforts 'well-orchestrated'; 280 pushed into Bangladesh so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India is targeting remote and uninhabited border areas to push people into Bangladesh, said the chief of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday, terming the move "well orchestrated and unjust".

So far, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has pushed in 280 individuals between May 7 and May 9 through these isolated, hard-to-monitor locations, he added.

"As far as we know, they are trying to push in another 200 to 300 people," Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, director general of the BGB, told reporters at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

These individuals, including Rohingyas, were pushed in through remote areas such as Panchhari, Jamini Para, and Khedachhara in Khagrachhari; parts of Moulvibazar; the Rourmari char regions of Kurigram; and the remote Mandarbaria island in the Sundarbans.

"These locations are difficult for our patrols to access quickly, and that's exactly why they're being used," Siddiqui said.

Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, adviser to the Ministry of Home Affairs, was also present during the briefing, which was followed by a meeting of the Advisory Council Committee on Law and Order.

The BGB chief said five Rohingya individuals -- each



Once a vital water source for Keraniganj residents, the Shubhadra Canal has now turned into a dumping ground, choked by market and garment waste. Yesterday, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan announced that the canal will be re-excavated to revive the long-neglected waterbody. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



We'll ask UN to see how the press failed in 15 yrs
Shafiqul says people relieved after ban on AL activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will write to the United Nations, requesting an independent expert review of how journalism has failed in Bangladesh over the past 15 years, Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, said yesterday.

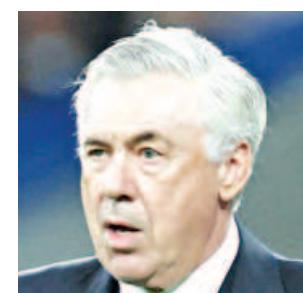
He said that it would also request a review of how certain state actions, including extrajudicial killings carried out in the name of counter-terrorism, have taken place.

"We want to understand the failures. The people deserve to know how labels like militant were used to justify killings, and how incidents such as the post-Sayedee verdict violence and the crackdowns on Hefazat were handled," he added.

Shafiqul made the remarks at a "Meet

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Ancelotti to take over as Brazil coach



AFP, Rio De Janeiro

REUTERS, Geneva

The United States and China have agreed to temporarily slash reciprocal tariffs in a deal that surpassed expectations as the world's two biggest economies seek to end a damaging trade war that has stoked fears of recession and roiled financial markets.

The US will cut extra tariffs it imposed on Chinese imports in April this year to 30 percent from 145 percent and Chinese duties on US imports will fall to 10 percent from 125 percent, the two countries said yesterday. The new measures are effective for 90 days.

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The dollar rose against other major currencies and stock markets lifted following the news, which helped allay concerns about a downturn triggered last month by US President Donald Trump's escalation of tariff measures aimed at narrowing the US trade deficit.

Ancelotti leaves Madrid

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

**TRADE WAR DE-ESCALATION
US, China reach deal to slash tariffs**

REUTERS, Geneva

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The Geneva meetings were the first face-to-face interactions between

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

- Both sides will cut tariffs by 115 percent from tomorrow
- The new measures are effective for 90 days
- New economic dialogue forum agreed by US, China

"Both countries represented their national interest very well," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said after talks with Chinese officials in Geneva. "We both have an interest in balanced trade, the US will continue moving towards that."

Bessent was speaking alongside US Trade Representative Jamieon Greer after the weekend talks in Switzerland in which both sides had hailed progress on narrow differences and agreed to launch another new economic dialogue forum.

"The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling," Bessent said. "And what had occurred with these very high tariffs ... was the equivalent of an embargo, and neither side wants that. We do want trade."

The Geneva meetings were the first face-to-face interactions between

Argentina's SC finds 83 boxes of Nazi materials in basement

REUTERS, Buenos Aires



Dozens of boxes of Nazi material confiscated by Argentinean authorities during World War II were recently rediscovered in the Supreme Court's basement, the court said on Sunday.

The 83 boxes were sent by the Germany embassy in Tokyo to Argentina in June 1941 aboard the Japanese steamship "Nan-a-Maru," according to the history that the court was able to piece together, it said in a statement.

At the time, the large shipment drew the attention of authorities, who feared its contents could affect Argentina's neutrality in the war.

Despite claims at the time from German diplomatic representatives that the boxes held personal items, Argentine customs authorities searched five boxes at random.

They found postcards, photographs and propaganda material from the Nazi regime, as well as thousands of notebooks belonging to the Nazi party. A federal judge confiscated the materials, and referred the matter to the Supreme Court.

It was not immediately clear why the items were sent to Argentina or what, if any, action the Supreme Court took at the time.



PHOTOS: RAJIB RAIHAN
Truckloads of juicy water palms, locally known as taal, roll into Chattogram's bustling Kadamtali market, marking the arrival of summer. Sourced from Cumilla, Noakhali, and Chandpur, these refreshing seasonal delights sell wholesale for Tk 5-15 apiece, depending on size and quality. Markets in Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari and Rangamati get supply from Kadamtali. The photos were taken yesterday.



Kohli's Test reign ends

AGENCIES

India stalwart Virat Kohli's Test retirement has robbed the format of its biggest global star and most influential advocate, leaving a vacuum that will be hard to fill.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude -- for the game, for the people I shared the field with and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way," the 36-year-old Kohli posted to his 271 million followers on Instagram yesterday.

"There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no

The upcoming budget should deliver economic stability

PAGE 6

Have reforms lost the way?

PAGE 7

Bangladesh football referees in freefall

PAGE 11

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12 May 2025 22 মে ২০২৫ ২৪ মে ২০২৫

৪২তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা

ড' উত্তরা ব্যাংক পিএলসি

Uttara Bank PLC conducted its 42nd Annual General Meeting on 12-05-2025 (Monday). The Founder & Executive Chairman of Aftab Group and Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Azharul Islam presided over the Meeting. The Chairman & Managing Director of Aftab Group and Vice-Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Iftekharul Islam was also present. The Managing Director & CEO (Acting) of Uttara Bank Mr. Maksudul Hasan and other Directors also attended the meeting. Uttara Bank Declared 35% (17.50% stock and 17.50% cash) dividend for the year-2024.