



Bangladeshis in fear amid Tripoli unrest

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Around 10,000 Bangladeshi nationals, along with embassy officials, have been living in fear in the Libyan capital Tripoli and surrounding suburbs, as heavy fighting between government forces and armed militias has continued over the past several days.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Libya Major General AHM Khairul Bashar said he and his colleagues at the embassy have been working from their homes, and have advised all Bangladeshis in vulnerable areas to remain indoors.

The embassy has issued an advisory, urging Bangladeshi nationals not to venture outside unless in cases of emergency.

Speaking to this correspondent about the situation in the Libyan capital, Anwar Hossain, a Bangladeshi resident in Tripoli, said, “The situation is grave. Please [manage to] send us home [in Bangladesh] as soon as possible.”

Quoting security sources, Al Jazeera confirmed the killing of Abdel Ghani al-Kikli, widely known as “Gheniwa”, who was head of the powerful Stability Support

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FOREST MARBLES ... A magnificent marbled cat spotted in Fatikchhari’s Hazarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary. First recorded in Bangladesh in 2014, these rare and elusive felines inhabit the dense evergreen forests of Sylhet, Chattogram, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Remarkably stealthy and agile, they spend much of their lives in the trees as skilled arboreal hunters. Marbled cats are listed as “Near Threatened” by the IUCN, meaning they are on the brink of endangerment, due to deforestation and habitat loss. Conservation efforts are now crucial to keep their populations stable. On **WORLD ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY** today, let us remember that every creature is vital to nature -- and deserves not just to survive, but to thrive.

PHOTO: MD ASHIQUL ISLAM

APPOINTMENTS OF SC JUDGES Merit often took a back seat

HC observes in full verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court, in the full text of a verdict, has said that the appointments of Supreme Court judges were not always made on merit, and many unsatisfactory appointments were made to the High Court on political or other considerations, badly affecting the image of the country’s judiciary.

“The scheme of our constitution for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court is, by and large, sound, but some defects or lacunae have come to surface in the actual working of the scheme.

“The impression, nevertheless, has prevailed that the appointment of the judges to the Supreme Court has not been always made on merit and many unsatisfactory appointments were made to the High Court on political, or other grounds with the result that the fittest persons were not appointed, which has badly affected the image of the judiciary of the country,” the bench of Justice Md Akram Hossain Chowdhury and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury made the observations.

On April 28, the bench delivered the verdict after disposing of a writ petition that challenged the legality of four sections of the Supreme Court Judge Appointment Ordinance, 2025.

On February 26, Supreme Court lawyer Md Ajmol Hossain Khokon submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC, saying that sections 3, 4, 6, and 9 of the ordinance are contradictory to the constitution.

These sections deal with the establishment of the

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Israeli strikes kill over 100 in Gaza

Say Palestinian rescuers; US should turn the enclave into ‘freedom zone’: Trump

AGENCIES

Israeli military strikes killed more than 100 people in the Gaza Strip yesterday, Palestinian rescuers said, as the United States and Arab mediators pushed for a ceasefire deal and US President Donald Trump visited the Middle East.

Most of the victims, including women and children, were killed in Khan Younis in southern Gaza in airstrikes that hit homes and tents, they said.

The dead included local journalist Hassan Samour, who worked for the Hamas-run Aqsa radio station and was killed along with 11 family members when their home was struck, the medics said.

Hamas said in a statement that Israel was making a “desperate attempt to negotiate under cover of fire” as indirect ceasefire talks take place between Israel and Hamas, involving Trump envoys and Qatar and Egyptian mediators in Doha, reports Reuters.

Trump yesterday said he believes the United States should “take” the region and turn it into a “freedom zone.”

“I have concepts for Gaza that I think are very good, make it a freedom zone, let the United States get involved, and make it just a freedom zone,” said Trump.

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Season’s first mangoes hit the Rajshahi markets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The air was rich with a sweet aroma at Baneshwar, the largest mango market in Rajshahi, yesterday as the season’s first Gutti, Gopalbhog, and Lakkhanbhog started arriving from all over the region.

With the beginning of the eagerly awaited mango season, traders expressed hope for promising weeks of abundance and trade despite a slow first day.

Depending on quality, Gutti mangoes were selling at Tk 800-1,500, Gopalbhog at Tk 1,500-2,400, and Lakkhanbhog at Tk 600-700 per maund.

While harvest of only the Gutti variety of mangoes was scheduled to start from yesterday, other popular varieties, including Gopalbhog and Lakkhanbhog, also hit the market.

As per the Department of Agricultural Extension guidelines, Gopalbhog is to be harvested from May 20 and Lakkhanbhog from May 25.

Regarding the early arrival of these varieties, mango growers and traders said the harvest began early due to excessive heat and lack of rain, which caused many mangoes to ripen ahead of schedule.

Rajshahi DAE’s Additional Deputy Director (Horticulture) Sabina Begum said, “This year, the heat has been unusually intense, causing mangoes to ripen earlier than expected. When farmers asked for permission to harvest those mangoes, we granted it, considering the

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The mango season began officially in Rajshahi yesterday, with local markets welcoming the first harvests of several varieties, including Gutti, Gopalbhog and Lakkhanbhog. Prices of these mangoes range between Tk 1,000 and 1,700 per maund. The photo was taken in Baneshwar of Puthia upazila, the largest mango market in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Who appoints CEO at Nagad now?

Govt asks postal department to take responsibility of the MFS provider

MD MEHEDI HASAN

A new power struggle started at Nagad, Bangladesh’s second-largest mobile financial service provider, after a court order suspended the role of a central bank-appointed administrator, triggering competing claims of authority.

The High Court stayed the activities of the administrator, Motasem Billah, on May 7 following a petition by one of Nagad’s former directors. In the aftermath, Motasem Billah and his team have refrained from attending office since Wednesday.

In the administrator’s absence, former Nagad director Md Shafayet Alam assumed the role of chief executive officer despite facing fraud charges in a case filed by the Bangladesh Bank. But how he was appointed remains unclear.

When contacted, central bank spokesperson Arief Hossain Khan said this development amounted to “fraud”, as the management board of Nagad remained intact and had informed the central bank that it did not appoint any CEO.

Arief said the central bank had learnt that former CEO Tanvir A Mishuk named the new chief executive via email. “But how can a former CEO appoint a new CEO?” asked Arief, who also serves as executive director of the central bank’s Payment Systems Department.

In a surprising turn, Shafayet – an accused in a case filed by the central bank – became CEO of Nagad, though the management board reportedly made no such appointment.

“This appointment is illegal,” he said.

Following a political transition, Bangladesh Bank took over Nagad in September last year and formed a management board to oversee its operations.

KAS Murshid, former director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, was initially appointed to lead the board, but he recently resigned.

Former AB Bank managing director Kaiser A Chowdhury has since taken over as its new head. When contacted, Kaiser declined to comment on the issue.

A Nagad official, requesting anonymity, said Shafayet had begun acting as CEO remotely. He has reportedly appointed new personnel and dismissed several

others.

Efforts by The Daily Star to reach Shafayet via phone and WhatsApp were unsuccessful.

In a separate development, the government on Thursday directed the Directorate of Posts to assume overall responsibility for Nagad.

Citing a Supreme Court Appellate Division order in Civil Miscellaneous Petition No. 177 of 2025, the directorate said an interim government official instructed it to urgently take charge of Nagad’s management, following the stay on the administrator’s appointment.

To implement the directive, a committee has been formed. The committee will be physically present at Nagad’s head office and other relevant locations as necessary and submit periodic reports, according to the letter.

Earlier, the Appellate Division stayed Bangladesh Bank’s August 2024 decision to dissolve Nagad’s board and appoint an administrator. It also paused a High Court verdict, which had upheld that decision. Bangladesh Bank has since sought to overturn the stay, and a hearing is scheduled for May 19 in the Appellate Division, said Arief.

After taking charge, the administrator uncovered numerous alleged irregularities

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7 of a family hurt in ‘teen gang’ attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven members of a family were injured in an alleged attack by a teen gang in the capital’s Mohammadpur early yesterday.

The incident took place around 1:45am in Jafraabad near Ityadi Mor, said Hafizur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Mohammadpur Police Station.

Quoting locals, police said 10-12 youths armed with sharp weapons stormed the house and hacked the victims before fleeing, spreading panic in the area.

The injured are Abul Kashem, 55; his sons Rabbi, 27, and Sabbir, 30; nephews Swapan, 40, Afzal, 35, and Mamun, 40; and his sister Fatema Begum, 50.

Sabbir and Rabbi are receiving treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, while Swapan is being treated at a city hospital.

According to family members, Rabbi confronted two youths, who were spotted loitering near the house.

As an altercation broke out, more teenagers, allegedly part of a local gang, joined the two youths. They first attacked Rabbi, and when his family members rushed to his aid, the attackers stormed the house and hacked six more people before

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Stay vigilant against banned political parties

DMP chief tells police, warns of subversion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Mohammad Sazzat Ali yesterday instructed members of the police to maintain maximum vigilance regarding the activities and possible subversive acts of banned political parties.

“Extreme vigilance should be exercised regarding the activities and sabotage attempts of banned political parties. We must work with utmost professionalism to ensure public safety and service,” he said while addressing the DMP’s monthly crime review meeting at the Bangladesh Police Auditorium in Rajarbagh.

Noting that the police are a well-disciplined force governed by laws and regulations, he urged members to discharge their duties with the highest level of professionalism.

“We should be polite in our interactions with the public,” he said.

“We must uphold the highest standards in appearance, conduct,

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