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HC clears Tarique, Zubaida in graft case
Lawyer claims Tarique no longer convicted in any case
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife, Zubaida Rahman, of corruption charges that had led to their conviction and sentencing to different jail terms in 2023.

The HC also scrapped the trial court judgment that handed down nine years' imprisonment to Tarique and three years to Zubaida.

The bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman delivered the verdict following an appeal filed by Zubaida, who challenged the trial court verdict upon her return to Bangladesh on May 6 from London after 17 years.

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Waves crashing on Kuakata sea beach in Patuakhali yesterday. The Met Office predicts heavy rains across the country and potential landslides in hilly regions over the next 24 hours, starting today, as a low-pressure system has formed over the Bay of Bengal.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Bangladesh youth unemployment rate to stay high
Says ILO report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youth unemployment in Bangladesh will continue to be high – more than double the national unemployment rate – with university graduates being the hardest hit, according to the World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) report released yesterday by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

“The global contraction of jobs is of grave concern, especially for Bangladesh, which is undergoing political, economic, social, and climatic transitions and sends over a million workers abroad,” said Tuomo Poutiainen, the outgoing country director for the ILO in Bangladesh.

“The WESO report underscores the need for Bangladesh not to lose sight of the urgency of creating decent work opportunities, particularly for women and youth.”

“As more jobs are anticipated in high-skilled occupations, such as digital roles, it is critical for Bangladesh to move forward with its skills development reforms to adequately equip its labour force for more specialised, better-paying jobs both at home and abroad,” Poutiainen said in a statement.

The ILO identified geopolitical tensions and trade disruptions as key factors weakening the economic outlook, leading to slower job growth.

Bangladesh's unemployment rate rose to 4.63 percent in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024–25, as a growing

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Israel kills Hamas's presumed leader
47 injured in 'shooting' at Gaza aid centre; 16 more killed in strikes

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday said its military killed Mohammed Sinwar, Hamas's presumed Gaza leader as military offensive in the tiny Palestinian territory killed dozens more.

“We drove the terrorists out of our territory, entered the Gaza Strip with force, eliminated tens of thousands of terrorists, eliminated... Mohammed Sinwar,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told parliament.

Israeli media outlets reported Sinwar was targeted in Israeli air strikes in southern Gaza earlier this month.



The announcement came as the United Nations condemned a US- and Israeli-backed aid system in Gaza after dozens of people were hurt in chaotic scenes at a food distribution site.

Israel's military denied allegations that its forces had fired on the crowds.

The aid issue has come sharply into focus amid a hunger crisis coupled with intense criticism of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a shadowy group that has bypassed the longstanding UN-led system in the territory.

The United Nations said 47 people were injured in the mayhem that erupted on Tuesday when thousands of desperate Palestinians rushed into a GHF aid distribution

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There'll be no compromise on territorial integrity
Says air force chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan yesterday said Bangladesh would never compromise its independence, sovereignty or territorial integrity.

“Our foreign policy is based on friendship with all, malice towards none. But when it comes to our geographical integrity and sovereignty, there will be no compromise,” he said in his address to the commissioning parade of the 88th BMA Long Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy in Bhatiary, Chattogram.

According to a statement from the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), 155 officer cadets – including 128 male and 23 female officers of the

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Those pushed-in allege torture, abuses in India

1,053 individuals have been forced into Bangladesh since May 7

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A Bangladeshi woman has alleged that India's Border Security Force (BSF) tied empty plastic bottles to her and her three daughters to keep them afloat, then pushed them into the Feni river along the Tripura border in the dark of night, in a chilling account of abuse at the border.

Selina Begum, 41, said she and her three daughters floated in the water all night before being rescued by locals in Khagrachhari's Ramgarh on May 22.

“They tied bottles to our waists and threw us into the river,” she told The Daily Star.

“My children had no idea what was happening. We floated all night. None of us know how to swim,” she said.

Selina, her husband Ummed Ali, 47, and their daughters Rumi Khatun, 16, Rumpa Khatun, 15, and Sumaiya Khatun, 6, were later found cold and exhausted by locals near the Sonai Pool area around 6:00am on May 22 and taken into custody by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members from the Mahamuni camp.

The family members said they were working as labourers in Haryana when Indian authorities detained them.

After holding them overnight, the

authorities drove them to the border, robbed them of their money and phones, and then pushed them into the river.

“We just kept drifting in the darkness. They didn't even care that there were children with us,” said Ummed.

Rana, a local who first spotted the family, said, “They were clearly in shock. The children looked frightened and freezing. We immediately called the BGB.”

“They kept us in custody for the next three days without food or water. Then they drove us to the border and pushed us across the fence around 3:00am.”

A WOMAN WHO HAD BEEN PUSHED-IN

What happened to this family is not an isolated case.

Several Bangladeshi nationals have alleged that Indian authorities tortured them prior to pushing them across the border.

A 45-year-old woman, requesting anonymity, said she had been living in India for the last 10 years.

On May 10, she and her husband were detained and taken to a Delhi police station along with 46 others.

“They kept us in custody for the next three days without food or water. Then they drove us to the border and pushed us across the fence around 3:00am,” said the woman.

Since May 7, at least 1,053 individuals have been pushed into Bangladesh from India through different border points, according to a statement from BGB headquarters.

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The curious case of imposter at BB

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank has recently discovered through a probe that the joint director of its Rajshahi office, who has been serving the central bank for 12 years under the name of Md Abdul Waresh Ansary, is actually an imposter.

The real Ansary, who is now the additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Narayanganj district, was unaware of the situation until yesterday, when Bangladesh Bank informed him that someone had been impersonating him at the central bank.

The ADC said he had passed both the 31st Bangladesh Civil Service exam and Bangladesh Bank's assistant director recruitment exam in 2013.

“I preferred joining the civil service. I had no idea that someone was serving at Bangladesh Bank using my credentials,” he said.

He added that the central bank might have been tracking the fraud for some time.

“Some ID-based scrutiny might have uncovered the fraud.”

Bangladesh Bank has conducted an investigation into the matter, said Aref Hussain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of the central bank.

The investigation found that the imposter joined Bangladesh Bank as an assistant director

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Appointments for US student visa halted

Expanded social media vetting planned; China slams the move

AFP, Washington

The US State Department has ordered the suspension of student visa processing in the latest escalation of a Trump administration crackdown on foreign students criticised yesterday by China.

President Donald Trump's administration is seeking unprecedented control of the nation's universities, taking particular aim at foreign students by revoking visas and deporting some of those involved in protests against the war in Gaza.

A cable signed Tuesday by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and seen by AFP orders embassies and consulates not to allow “any additional student or exchange visa... appointment capacity until further guidance is issued.”

The government plans to ramp up vetting of the social media profiles of international applicants to US universities, the cable said.

Rubio earlier rescinded hundreds of visas and the Trump administration has moved to bar Harvard University from admitting non-Americans.

China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning yesterday said Beijing urged Washington to “safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of international students, including those from China.”



Vehicles stand still on the Panthapath-Tejgaon link road and the Hatirjheel exit ramp of the elevated expressway near FDC. Thousands of commuters faced severe traffic congestion all day yesterday in the southern part of the capital, largely due to political events organised by the BNP and Jamaat.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Couple, 2 others murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four people, including a married couple, were killed in separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

In Pallabi, a man and his wife were stabbed to death in their home.

The victims were identified as Pappu, 34, and his wife, Dola, 29, a private university student.

Police have detained a suspect, Gaus Miya, in connection with the double murder.

Quoting neighbours, Pallabi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shafiqul Islam said Gaus entered the couple's home around 1:00pm and stabbed them.

Locals rushed in after hearing screams, detained the attacker at the scene, and handed him over to police.

Saleh Mohammad Zakaria, additional deputy commissioner of Pallabi Zone, said Dola was living in the Mirpur-II flat as a sublet, while her husband stayed in Barguna for work. He would occasionally visit her there.

Gaus Miya, a Bangladeshi expatriate living in Saudi Arabia, confessed to the crime, said ADC Zakaria.

Based on the detainee's confession, police said the murder happened over an

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