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## Ziaur Rahman's 44th death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is 44th death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman, founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party and former president of Bangladesh.

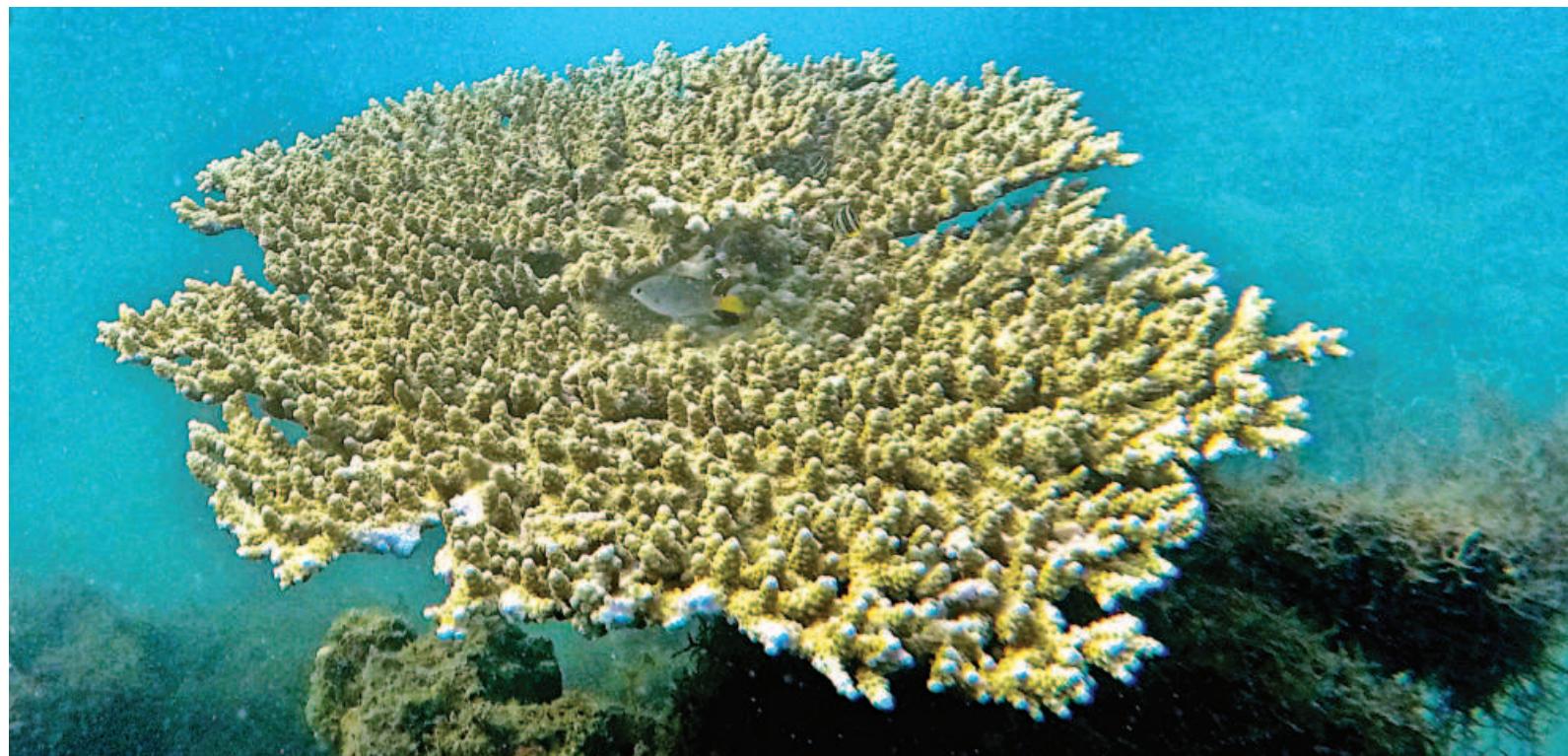
The party and its various associate bodies have organised programmes over eight days across the country to observe the anniversary. The programmes began on May 25.

As part of the observance, the party arranged a discussion yesterday at the Institution of Engineers in the capital.

The party's top leaders will pay tribute at Ziaur Rahman's grave in the capital at 10:30am today.

On May 30, 1981, he was assassinated by a cabal of army

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### GUARDIANS OF THE BLUE

A coral in the Bay of Bengal off Saint Martin's Island shows early signs of bleaching -- a phenomenon where coral loses its vibrant colour and turns white due to stress from rising sea temperatures or other environmental changes. Coral reefs, often called the rainforests of the sea, are in serious decline worldwide. Since 2009, 14 percent of the world's coral has been lost, according to the 2025 Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. This threatens an ecosystem that supports nearly a quarter of all marine life, protects coastlines, feeds millions, and helps regulate the climate. **World Reef Awareness Day** on June 1 is a stark reminder of the crisis and our responsibility to ensure their conservation. Because saving them isn't just about protecting marine biodiversity; it's about defending the planet's health, and with it, our own future.

PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR



**44 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza**  
Says civil defence agency; Israel announces creation of 22 settlements in West Bank

AGENCIES

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli attacks killed 44 people yesterday, including 23 in an attack on a home in the centre of the Palestinian territory.

"Forty-four people have been killed in Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip," civil defence official Mohammad Al-Mughayir told AFP.

"Twenty-three people were killed, others injured and several (are) missing following an Israeli strike on the Qreinawi family's home east of Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza."

Mughayir also reported "two people killed and several injured by Israeli forces' gunfire this morning near the American aid centre in the Morag axis, southern Gaza Strip."

When asked by AFP about the strike in Al-Bureij and the gunfire near the aid centre, the Israeli military said it was looking into them.

Meanwhile, Israel announced the creation of 22 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, risking further

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**GM Quader's house in Rangpur attacked**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The residence of Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader in Rangpur city's Senpara area was attacked last night.

The attackers smashed windows and set fire to a motorcycle parked on the premises, JP has claimed. The incident occurred around 8:45pm, reports Prothom Alo.

Jatiya Party Co-chairman and former Rangpur City Corporation mayor Mustafizur Rahman alleged that activists of the National Citizen Party (NCP) and Students Against Discrimination (SAD) were behind the attack.

"There is no rule of law in the country ... if there were, such an attack wouldn't have taken place. We'll observe the situation closely and make a decision soon."

Quader went to Rangpur from Dhaka in the afternoon and spoke to journalists at his residence. He left for the party office,

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## 'They took my money, deserted me at the airport'

Promising jobs in Malaysia, racket swindles the poor

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Helena Begum, a widow and mother of two from Munshiganj, returned home from Malaysia after spending three harrowing days at a Malaysian airport.

"I borrowed Tk 3.5 lakh at a high interest rate to go there for work, but I ended up being locked," she said.

Helena was among 40 Bangladeshis deported from Kuala Lumpur on May 19 after Malaysian immigration officials caught them attempting to enter the country on tourist visas.

Each individual gave scammers Tk 3.5 lakh, believing they would be offered jobs upon arrival in the Southeast Asian country. As their visas were meant for tourism, the authorities detained them on suspicion and deported them.

In the first four months of this year, over 3,500 Bangladeshis were denied entry and sent back from Kuala Lumpur International Airport, reports a Malaysian news portal, quoting Malaysia authorities.

### THE FLIGHT BACK HOME

On the flight back home, Helena told this correspondent that she flew to Malaysia on May 16.

"I was issued a 22-day visa. They told us

employers were waiting for us," she said.

The 35-year-old woman from Munshiganj lost her husband two years ago and had been struggling to raise her two children. "That's why I borrowed Tk 3.5 lakh from a village cooperative and risked everything."

Ilias Hossain from Sharariatpur, who was on the same flight, recounted a similar ordeal.

"I reached Kuala Lumpur on May 16. Someone introducing himself as a recruitment agent, took Tk 1 lakh from me at the airport, promising that he would help me get out of the airport, but then disappeared."

"Two days passed, but no one showed up. Some of us who had no money could not even buy water to drink," he said.

On May 18, the scammers told them to go to the immigration.

"The immigration authorities arrested us and held us for a day. Each of us was fined RM 120 and then sent back."

Both Helena and Ilias say they think they saw hundreds of Bangladeshis stranded at Kuala Lumpur airport.

### AIRPORT MANAGEMENT

Overseas recruitment agents say that the scammers operate at both Bangladeshi and Malaysian airports.

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## Bangladesh committed to global peace

Army Chief General Waker tells Int'l Day of UN Peacekeepers event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uzzaman yesterday said Bangladesh has earned global recognition for its contributions to peacekeeping and remains firmly committed to upholding international peace through continued participation in UN missions.

He made the remarks at an event marking the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025, held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

Paying tribute to the 168 Bangladeshi peacekeepers who lost their lives in the line of duty, the army chief commended the dedication

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## No service at national eye hospital for second day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All forms of medical services at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Dhaka remained suspended for the second consecutive day yesterday, leaving many patients without care.

Around 150 inpatients have already left the 250-bed facility, while many outpatients were turned away without receiving treatment, according to hospital staff.

The hospital, popularly known as the National Eye Hospital, served around 1,800 outpatients and emergency patients daily, while approximately 40 patients were admitted each day, according to government data from 2023. The number is likely to be higher now.

All services came to a halt after a group of injured July victims who were receiving treatment at the hospital attacked staff members at around 11:00 am on Wednesday. This led to a tripartite clash involving other patients and their attendants.

Some doctors and nurses were injured, and their residences also came under attack, said the hospital's director Khair Ahmed Choudhury.

Police and army personnel later

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## Three new bank notes ahead of Eid-ul-Azha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank will release redesigned Tk 20, Tk 50, and Tk 1,000 banknotes into circulation from June 1, ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Notably, the new notes do not feature the image of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- a move that has already stirred significant public interest.

According to central bank officials, the new notes will initially be available only at Bangladesh Bank's Motijheel office. Select branches of several commercial banks in Dhaka will begin distributing them shortly after.

Signed by Governor Ahsan H Mansur, the banknotes are printed on 100 percent cotton paper and feature a Royal Bengal Tiger watermark, denomination markings, and the central bank's monogram.

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## China launches space probe seeking asteroid samples

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday launched a space probe on the country's first mission to retrieve samples from an asteroid and bring them home for research, the Xinhua state news agency reported.

Beijing has ploughed billions of dollars

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**বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০২৫-২০২৭**  
"বাংলাদেশে তৈরি"  
বিজিএমইএ কম্পিউটার: বাড়ি # ৭/৭, ব্রক # একচ ১, সেক্টর # ১৭, উত্তর, ঢাকা-১২০০  
সম্মানিত সদস্যদের জন্য নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০২৫-২০২৭ এর সকল ভোটারদের জন্য আছে যে, আগামীকাল ৩১ মে ২০২৫ তারিখ (শনিবার) বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০২৫-২০২৭ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। এ উপলক্ষ্যে আগামীকাল সকাল ৮:০০ ঘটকা থেকে বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটকা পর্যন্ত রেডিসন বুর্জ ওয়ার্টের গার্ডেন হোটেল, ঢাকা ও রেডিসন বুর্জ ওয়ার্টেল, ঢাকায় বে তিতে কেন্দ্রে বিভিন্ন ইন্ডিভিউভিন্যাতা একযোগে ভোট প্রদান করে।  
বিজিএমইএর সম্মানিত ভোটারদেরকে ভোটার কার্ডসহ নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে বুর্জ ওয়ার্টে কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হয়ে আচরণবিধি অনুসরণে ভোট প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

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