



# Press ahead with economic reforms

IMF chief urges Yunus, praises his leadership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has urged Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to pursue deeper reforms as Bangladesh seeks to consolidate its economic recovery ahead of the national election in February.

In a video call from Washington yesterday, Georgieva emphasised the importance of increasing domestic revenue and implementing bold reforms in the banking sector.

"To be in a strong position, reform is inevitable. This is such a precious moment in the history of Bangladesh," Georgieva said.

Yunus outlined key measures already undertaken by his government, including restructuring efforts in the banking sector and initiatives to enhance revenue collection.

"We inherited a devastated and completely broken economy. Some individuals literally stole money in bags from banks and fled the country," he said.

Georgieva praised the Nobel laureate's stewardship since taking office as chief adviser in August 2024, crediting his administration with stabilising the foreign exchange market and rebuilding depleted reserves.

"I am impressed by what you have achieved," Georgieva said.

"You've done so much in such a short time. You took responsibility for your country when the risk of deterioration was very high," she told Yunus, describing him as "the right person at the right time".

Yunus thanked the IMF managing director for her

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Kristalina Georgieva  
IMF chief



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

RAIN, RAIN, DON'T GO AWAY ... Two schoolboys are all smiles as a sudden downpour soaks them on their way to school near the capital's Asad Gate yesterday morning, turning their commute into a moment of pure joy.

- Initial July 2025 launch missed due to bureaucratic delays
- Tk 70cr project taken up to upgrade Shah Amanat airport
- Tender process for scanners, cold storage, cargo shed still underway
- Korean, Chinese companies show interest in operating flights
- Two weekly flights planned, serving European destinations via Uzbekistan

## Direct cargo flights from port city not before Feb

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Ctg

Direct cargo flights from Chattogram's Shah Amanat International Airport are expected to begin in February next year -- six months later than the initial timeline -- due to bureaucratic sluggishness.

Earlier on April 8, following India's abrupt suspension of transshipment facilities to Bangladesh's export cargo, the government said direct cargo flights would take off from the



port city's airport in July -- an announcement that calmed the nerves of garment exporters.

The route, through which garment consignments were

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## LDC exit may hurt exports

Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tarique Rahman, acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), has expressed concern over the potential impact on the economy after the nation's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category.

In a Facebook post yesterday, he said: "Graduation is not just a milestone -- it comes with risks and challenges that we need to be honest about, directly affecting our economy and people."

The BNP is concerned about a multitude of issues if Bangladesh does not proceed with caution, he added.

His comment comes amid repeated appeals from businesses to the interim government to take the initiative to defer Bangladesh's LDC

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## Trials must not halt after polls

Says Nahid on July atrocities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party (NCP), yesterday expressed hope that the ongoing trials for crimes against humanity committed during last year's July uprising will not be disrupted after the upcoming national election.

"To ensure that the trial process is not obstructed even after the election, we have demanded that the government prepare a roadmap guaranteeing that the tribunal and other courts continue trying the pending cases. We also expect this commitment

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Bangladesh spinner Nasum Ahmed wheels away in celebration after dismissing Afghanistan opener Sediqullah Atal off the first ball of the innings during their Asia Cup Group B match at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Nasum took two for 11 as Bangladesh bowled Afghanistan out for 146 after posting 154 for five, winning the match by eight runs and keeping their Super Four hopes alive.

PHOTO: ACC

## Tigers stay alive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanzid Hasan Tamim scored an aggressive half-century while Nasum Ahmed bowled a tidy spell of two for 11 as Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by eight runs in their final Group B match of the Asia Cup at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday to keep their hopes of a Super 4 berth alive.

The win put Bangladesh second in the group on four points, behind Sri Lanka on net run rate and two ahead of the Afghans, who will play the last match of the group against the Lankans on Thursday.

The Tigers will hope Sri Lanka beat Afghanistan in that match or in case Afghanistan win, they win by a massive margin to book a last-four berth.

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## Trump sues NY Times for defamation

Seeks \$15 billion

REUTERS

US President Donald Trump sued the New York Times, four of its reporters and publisher Penguin Random House for at least \$15 billion on Monday, claiming defamation and libel and citing reputational damage, a Florida court filing showed.

Trump has gone after major media outlets in his second term for what he describes as false coverage and has sought billions of dollars in damages from them.

Monday's suit cites a series of NYT articles, one an editorial prior to the 2024 presidential election, which said he was unfit for office, and a 2024 book published by Penguin titled "Lucky Loser: How Donald Trump Squandered His Father's Fortune and Created the Illusion of Success".

## Cinema legend Robert Redford dies at 89



AFP, Los Angeles

Cinema legend Robert Redford, a screen great both in front of and behind the camera whose career spanned six decades, died early yesterday at his home in Utah, his publicist said. He was 89.

Redford died in his sleep, and a specific cause was not given, according to a statement by Cindi Berger, the chief executive of publicity firm Rogers & Cowan PMK.

"Robert Redford passed

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## DELIMITATION ROW Protests flare in Bagerhat, ease in Bhanga

STAR REPORT

Demonstrators in Bagerhat yesterday besieged the election office demanding reinstatement of the district's previous four constituencies.

As per the EC's new gazette on September 4, the number of constituencies in Bagerhat has been reduced to three from four.

From 9:30am, residents gathered in front of the office in processions and blocked the entrance until 1:00pm. Officials and staffers were unable to enter the office premises during the protest, witnesses said.

MA Salam, former president of Bagerhat district BNP, said they would enforce a similar programme today.

Meanwhile, demonstrators yesterday called off their movement against constituency demarcation in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila, considering public suffering and the district administration's request to

the Election Commission to meet their demands.

However, they warned of fresh protests from Sunday if the demand is not met by then. The announcement came a day after violence that left five police vehicles vandalised, 11 motorcycles torched, and four people injured.

Faridpur Deputy Commissioner Md Kamrul Hasan Molla said he sent a letter to the EC on Monday requesting a review of the boundary changes. He expressed hope that the issue would be settled during the hearing scheduled at the EC Secretariat in Dhaka on September 21.

Contacted, Faridpur Additional Superintendent of Police Shamsul Azam said additional law enforcers, along with army personnel, had been deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

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