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## MoUs inked with Bhutan on internet, healthcare

### Bhutanese PM shows interest in FTA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Bhutan yesterday signed two memoranda of understanding on health cooperation and internet connectivity and also explored plans to formally begin talks on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA).

Thimphu aims to sign the FTA "as quickly as possible" and hopes that Bhutan will become the first country to conclude a free trade deal with Bangladesh, said the visiting Bhutanese Prime Minister, Tshering Tobgay, in his meeting with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

Tobgay arrived yesterday morning on a two-day state visit.

Both sides discussed a plan to formally launch discussions on an FTA. Bangladesh and Bhutan previously concluded a preferential

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Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus welcomes visiting Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay at the Chief Adviser's Office in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PID

## 'Why rush to hand over terminals to foreign operators?'

### Asks Anu Muhammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist and activist Anu Muhammad yesterday questioned why the interim government handed over two terminals to two foreign operators with just a few months left of its tenure.

According to its own announcement, the interim government will not remain in power for more than two to three months, he said at an event organised by Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee.

"Why would such a government make a 40-50 year agreement that will affect the entire economy and the country, and which contains many causes for concern? Why was the signing of that agreement rushed through, with secrecy and a lack of transparency? How do they have the authority to make such an agreement?"

Last week, the interim government signed two agreements, assigning Denmark's APM Terminals to build and operate a terminal at Laldia Char in Chattogram, and Switzerland based logistics firm Medlog SA to manage the Pangaon terminal near Dhaka.

However, the government has not disclosed the key details of the agreements.



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## 'The better he does, the happier I am'

### Says Trump as he lavishes praise on Mamdani at warm White House meeting



REUTERS, Washington

After months of trading insults, US President Donald Trump and incoming New York City mayor Zohran Mamdani smiled at each other, swapped compliments and pledged to collaborate on tackling crime and affordability in the nation's biggest city at an unexpectedly friendly meeting at the White House on Friday.

The political opposites — a Republican billionaire and a young democratic socialist — have clashed over everything from immigration to economic policy. But it was clear the two forged a rapport in their first encounter.

Mamdani, a 34-year-old state lawmaker, stood by Trump's desk as the 79-year-old president smiled up at him and patted him warmly on the arm, having only recently falsely caricatured Mamdani as an antisemitic communist, among other jibes.

"We agree on a lot more than I would have thought," Trump said after letting journalists and cameras into the Oval Office at the end of a private meeting with the mayor-elect. "We have one thing in common: We want this city of ours that we love to do very well."

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## DEATH IN DB CUSTODY

### Wife claims police refused to register case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of Moktar Hossain, who died Friday while in the custody of the Detective Branch (DB), alleged yesterday that Pallabi police refused to register a case over his death and advised them to file it with the court.

Moktar, 40, was arrested in connection with the killing of Jubo Dal leader Golam Kibria, who was shot dead inside a shop in Pallabi on November 17.

"Since Moktar had been arrested in the Pallabi area, we went to the local police station shortly after midnight on Saturday to file a case over his death," said the victim's wife, Mukta Sikder.

However, after learning that Mukta's husband had died in DB custody, the duty officer referred her to Officer-in-Charge Mafizur Rahman.

"The OC told me that the matter was outside their jurisdiction and the case could not be filed with the station," Mukta said.

The duty officer then allegedly

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## Suspect dies in hospital while in DB custody

### Family alleges torture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A suspect detained in a murder case died in the custody of the Detective Branch of Police while undergoing treatment at Sirajganj General Hospital on Friday, a day after his arrest.

Md Shahadat Hossain, 45, an auto-rickshaw driver from Kalia Hariapur, died around 3:30pm, police said.

His family, however, accused DB officials of torturing him to death in custody for failing to pay a bribe.

Shahadat's brother Jahurul Islam said, "A DB officer asked me to give Tk 5 lakh if I wanted my brother released... My brother died as he was mercilessly tortured in police custody."

Police said Shahadat was detained on Thursday from Ullapara upazila as a suspect in the murder of auto-rickshaw driver Aminul.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Md Mahabubur Rahman, additional superintendent of police

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## Deal reached without fossil fuel plan

### Proposes tripling climate finance for developing nations by 2035

REUTERS, Belem

World governments yesterday agreed to a compromise climate deal at the COP30 conference in Brazil that would boost finance for poor nations coping with global warming but omit any mention of the fossil fuels driving it.

In securing the accord, countries attempted to demonstrate global unity in addressing climate change impacts even after the world's biggest historic emitter, the United States, declined to send an official delegation.

But the agreement, which landed in overtime after two weeks of contentious negotiations in the Amazon city of Belem, also exposed rifts between wealthy and developing nations, as well as between those governments with opposing views on oil, gas and coal. After gaveling the deal through, COP30 President Andre Correa do Lago acknowledged the talks had been tough.

"We know some of you had greater ambitions for some of the issues at hand," he said.

The European Union had been the main holdout for language on a transition away from fossil fuels, but ultimately agreed to drop it after a coalition of countries including top oil exporter Saudi Arabia said it was off-limits.

"We should support (the deal) because at least it is going in the right direction," the European Union's climate commissioner, Wopke Hoekstra, told

reporters before the deal was gavelled through.

Some countries had harsher words.

"A climate decision that cannot even say fossil fuels is not neutrality, it is complicity. And what is happening here transcends incompetence," said Panama's climate negotiator Juan Carlos Monterrey.

The deal launches a voluntary initiative to speed up climate action to help nations



meet their existing pledges to reduce emissions, and calls for rich nations to at least triple the amount of money they provide to help developing countries adapt to a warming world by 2035.

Scientists have said existing national commitments to cut emissions have cut projected warming significantly, but are not enough to keep world temperatures from breaching 1.5C above industrial levels, a threshold that could unleash the worst impacts of climate change.

Developing countries have argued in the meantime that they urgently

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## 4 of a family killed in bus-easy bike collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Four members of a family were killed and several others injured after a bus collided head-on with an easy bike in Dinajpur's Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Marjina Begum, 50, of Khanpur Koitur village in Sadar upazila; her daughter-in-law Tanjima Begum, 35; and her granddaughters Sadia, 12, and Sammi, 7, children of Abdus Salam and Marjina's daughter Yasmin Begum of Chiribandar upazila, said police. All of them were passengers in the auto-rickshaw.

Dinajpur's Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Nuruzzaman said the accident took place around 2:00pm in front of the Dinajpur Wheat and Maize Research Institute when a Dinajpur-bound bus coming from Panchagarh collided head-on with the easy bike on the Dinajpur-Dashmile road in Nashipur village.

Three people died on the spot and five others were injured, he said.

On information, firefighters went to the spot, recovered the bodies, and took the injured to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, where another victim succumbed to her injuries.

Police said the children had come to visit their grandparents' house.

Mokbul Hossain, 79, father-in-law of Marjina, who survived with

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Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Taijul Islam celebrates one of his three wickets on Day 4 of their second and final Test against Ireland at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Taijul became the leading wicket-taker for Bangladesh in the format, surpassing Shakib Al Hasan, as he helped the Tigers inch closer to victory. Ireland ended the day at 176 for six in 54 overs, needing 333 more runs to win on the final day.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



## Debate over terminal operations

After handing over operations of two terminals in Chattogram and Dhaka to foreign companies, the government is now preparing to award the largest terminal at Chattogram port to an overseas operator.

The move has intensified an already heated debate, sparking protests.

Opponents cite national interests in their criticism, while the government argues it is essential to boost efficiency and support exports. As the debate continues, The Daily Star has prepared special coverage on the issue.

STORY ON B3