



‘Bangladesh will never tolerate fascism again’

Jamaat ameer tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman warned yesterday that Bangladesh will never again tolerate fascism on its soil, saying that while the fascist has fallen, the grip of fascism endures.



He made the remarks at a divisional rally at the Laldighi Maidan in the port city, organised by the eight-party alliance, which is currently waging a movement over its five-point demand, including the implementation of the July charter and holding a referendum on the issue.

Criticising the Awami League, he said, “They [Awami League] came to power with weapons in their hands and left power with bloodstained hands.”

He continued, “When they came to power in February 2009 at

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On a winter morning, two women tend to their red spinach field in Munshiganj’s Sirajdikhan upazila. Farmers here cultivate cauliflower, cabbage, and a variety of leafy greens during the season. With supplies rising, vegetable prices in Dhaka’s kitchen markets have begun to ease. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Onion price jumps to Tk 160 a kg

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Within three days, onion prices jumped by Tk 40 in the capital’s kitchen markets.

As of yesterday, onions are being sold at Tk 140-160 per kg, up from Tk 110-120 previously.

Traders claimed that the rise is due to a shortage of onions. This correspondent visited several kitchen markets in the capital, including Karwan Bazar, Kochukhet, Ibrahimpur, Shewrapara, Kazipara, and Bhasantek, and found the prices to be higher.

Shamim Hossain, who works at a private organisation, could not believe his ears when traders asked Tk 160 for one kg of onions.

“At first, I thought I heard him wrong. Then I realised it was true. I checked four grocery shops and found that onions were being sold for Tk 150-160 everywhere,” he told this newspaper at Kazipara Kitchen Market yesterday morning.

“It is not acceptable that the price of onions per kg has gone up by Tk 40 within two days. The government needs to monitor the kitchen markets regularly to control the price hikes of daily essentials,” he added.

Retail onion traders said many consumers were shocked after hearing the prices, and some had heated arguments with them.

Mohammad Siam of Shahid General Store at Bhasantek Kitchen Market said he had to buy each kg of onion at Tk

Such sensitive matters can’t be resolved quickly

Says adviser Touhid on Hasina’s extradition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said Bangladesh has formally requested India to return Sheikh Hasina, describing her as a “convicted fugitive sentenced by the highest court of Bangladesh.”

He noted that no positive response has yet been received from India, adding, “Sensitive matters like this cannot be resolved quickly. We are closely observing what kind of reaction India provides.”



Speaking to journalists at the Rangpur Circuit House, Touhid also addressed questions about BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, saying he had no information on when Tarique might return to the country.

He confirmed that Khaleda Zia’s planned travel to London has been delayed due to a technical issue with the aircraft.

On Bangladeshi fishermen being abducted by the Arakan Army, he

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Israeli warplanes strike eastern Gaza

Settlers carry out attacks in Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank

AGENCIES

Israeli warplanes launched a series of raids targeting the eastern areas of Gaza City yesterday, as settlers cut water pipelines in Khirbet ad-Dir in the Jordan Valley of the occupied West Bank.

Eastern and northeastern parts of Gaza’s southern city of Khan Younis came under Israeli attack by artillery shelling, gunfire and a helicopter gunship, locals said.

In the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Media Office (ASRA) has reported that Israeli forces launched raids and arrests in several governorates at dawn.

The advocacy group said the operation included the storming of Palestinian homes, vandalising their contents and assaulting residents. A number of people were also arrested.

Israeli settlers cut water pipelines in Khirbet ad-Dir in the northern Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank, according to the Wafa news agency.

They also set fire to two vehicles and wrote racist slogans during their attack on the village of Taybeh, east of Ramallah.

Meanwhile, Israel’s defence budget for 2026 has been set at 112 billion shekels (\$34.63 billion), the defence minister’s office said yesterday, up from 90 billion shekels budgeted in an earlier draft.

Defence minister Katz said the military will continue its to address the needs of its fighters and reduce the burden on reservists.

In a separate development, the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem on Thursday said it “firmly opposed” another delay to the Israeli supreme court’s decision on its petition



- ▶ Press group opposes access delay to enclave
- ▶ Israel sets 2026 defence budget at \$34bn
- ▶ Anti-Hamas Gazan tribal leader killed

demanding independent access to the Gaza Strip.

Since the start of the Gaza offensive in October 2023, Israeli authorities have prevented foreign journalists from independently entering the devastated territory, reports AFP.

Israel has instead allowed, on a case-by-case basis, a handful of reporters to accompany its troops into the Palestinian territory under Israeli blockade.

The head of an armed Palestinian faction that opposes Hamas in Gaza died while mediating a family dispute, the group said on Thursday, in what would be a blow to Israeli efforts to support Gazan clans against the Islamist movement, reports Reuters.

US widens travel ban to more than 30 countries

Slashes work permit time for asylum seekers to 18 months

REUTERS

The US plans to expand the number of countries covered by its travel ban to more than 30, US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said on Thursday.

Noem, in an interview on Fox News’ “The Ingraham Angle,” was asked to confirm whether the administration of President Donald Trump would be increasing the number of countries on the travel ban list to 32.

“I won’t be specific on the number, but it’s over 30, and the president is continuing to evaluate countries,” she said. Trump signed a proclamation in June banning the citizens of 12 countries from entering the United States and restricting those from seven others, saying it was needed to protect against “foreign terrorists” and other security threats.

The bans apply to both immigrants and non-immigrants, such

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▶ Onion prices go up by Tk 40 in 3 days

▶ Traders blame supply shortage

145, including transportation costs, and now sells it at Tk 150-160 based on size.

Onion wholesaler Sajib Sheikh, proprietor of M/S Matri Bhandar at Karwan Bazar, said they had to buy onions from the haats of Faridpur, Rajbari, and Pabna at an extra cost of Tk 40.

“That is why we are now selling onions at Tk 138-145 per kg in the wholesale market,” he said.

“We went to the Faridpur haat to buy 80 sacks of onions. However, we could finally manage to purchase only 20 sacks due to limited supply,” he added.

He further explained that onion prices are expected to come down within a month once the new production reaches the market and onion imports resume.

Talking to this newspaper, Abdul Mazed, an onion importer and general secretary of the Shyambazar Onion Wholesalers’ Association, claimed that there is a shortage of onions in the kitchen markets at this time, which is why prices are rising.

Meanwhile, vegetable prices are usually relatively low during winter due to an influx of fresh vegetables, such as cauliflower, beans, bottle gourd, radish, and tomatoes. However, consumers said this year the vegetable market remains expensive. Prices of almost all types of vegetables are high, except for radish and papaya. Most vegetables now cost between Tk 60 and Tk 80.

In yesterday’s market, medium-sized cauliflower was sold for Tk 30-40 per piece. Similarly, medium-sized cabbage went for Tk 30-40, eggplant for Tk 60-80 per kg, radish for Tk 40, ridge gourd for Tk 60-80, sponge gourd for Tk 70-80, bitter gourd for Tk 80, cucumber for Tk 60-80, and carrot for Tk 60-80 per kg.

Sweet pumpkin was sold at Tk 40-50 per kg, beans at Tk 50-60, green chillies at Tk 60-80, papaya at Tk 40, and new potatoes at Tk 60-80 per kg.

Argentina, Brazil get easy draws

AFP, Washington

Holders Argentina and leading contenders Spain and England were all handed kind draws for the 2026 World Cup in a star-studded ceremony on Friday which saw US President Donald Trump receive FIFA’s new peace prize.

Five-time winners Brazil play 2022 semi-finalists Morocco as well as Scotland and Haiti in their group, while France take on Senegal, Norway and a qualifier from the playoffs in their group.

The event in Washington started the final countdown to the tournament, six months out from the first-ever 48-team World Cup, with much-fancied France among those receiving a harder task.

Lionel Messi’s Argentina will begin their defense of the trophy they won in Qatar in 2022 against Algeria, and will also face Austria and debutants Jordan in Group J.

Heavily-fancied Spain, the European champions, will kick off against first-time qualifiers Cape Verde before also taking on Uruguay and Saudi Arabia in Group H.

Thomas Tuchel’s England will meet Croatia, Ghana and Panama in a kind-looking Group L.

Two-time winners France, meanwhile, face awkward tests against Senegal and Erling

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Over a hundred families in Bishnapur union of Bijoynagar upazila in Brahmanbaria keep alive the traditional craft of making molasses or “Lali Gur”. The photo taken yesterday shows farmers pressing sugarcane with a buffalo-driven granary in their yard. The collected juice boiled for two hours under the night sky becomes the rich, golden Lali Gur. In winter, this delicacy pairs perfectly with rice cakes, or “pitha”.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

Ukrainian drone strike sparks fire at Azov port

REUTERS, Moscow

A Ukrainian drone attack caused a fire at Russia’s Azov Sea port of Temryuk, the local emergencies centre said yesterday.

Temryuk handles liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), oil products and petrochemicals, as well as grain and other bulk food commodities.

“There was a fire... Special and emergency services are working on site,” the emergencies centre said in a statement on Telegram.

Two industry sources told Reuters that the fire broke out at the Maktren-Nafta LPG transshipment terminal, which loads LPG from Russian and Kazakh producers for export.

In the first 10 months of 2025, the terminal handled about 220,000 tonnes of LPG, traders said.

The Russian Defence Ministry said air defence systems intercepted and destroyed 41 Ukrainian drones overnight, including one over the Krasnodar region where Temryuk is located.