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SPEECH EDITING

Trump seeks up to \$10bn in damages from BBC

The media company says it will fight lawsuit

REUTERS



President Donald Trump sued the BBC for up to \$10 billion in damages over edited clips of a speech that made it appear he directed supporters to storm the US Capitol, opening an international front in his fight against media coverage he deems untrue or unfair.

"As we have made clear previously, we will be defending this case. We are not going to make further comment on ongoing legal proceedings," a BBC spokesperson said.

Trump accused Britain's publicly owned broadcaster of defaming him by splicing together parts of a January 6, 2021 speech, including one section

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Fizz bags record IPL payday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's celebrated pacer Mustafizur Rahman made headlines again after Indian Premier League (IPL) side Kolkata Knight Riders bought him for a whopping INR 9.2 crore (Tk 12.36 crore) -- the highest for any Bangladeshi in the competition's history -- during the 19th edition's



mini-auction held in Abu Dhabi, UAE yesterday.

The 30-year-old, who had a base price of INR two crore, took the mini-auction by storm. Three franchises -- Kolkata, Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings -- showed interest when his name appeared.

The initial bid war was between Chennai and Delhi, but Kolkata later joined Chennai after Delhi reached their remaining budget of INR 5.4 crore. After a tense bargain, Mustafizur secured his sixth IPL franchise.

The left-arm pacer, also known as The Fizz, has previously played

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The Kushi river, a tributary of the Surma and the primary source of water and livelihood for residents and fishermen of Sylhet city's Kushighat area, has dwindled into a narrow stream. Locals blame unplanned development projects, road construction, brick kilns, canal encroachment, illegal filling and sand extraction for obstructing the river's natural flow, triggering an acute water crisis. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

'I WILL GO'

Said 16-year-old freedom fighter, ready to walk into Kamalpur enemy camp

SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB

"Who will go?"

The question hung heavy as hundreds of freedom fighters stood in silence. Everyone knew the mission -- carrying a letter urging surrender into the heart of the enemy camp at Kamalpur of Jamalpur's Bakshiganj upazila -- meant almost certain death.

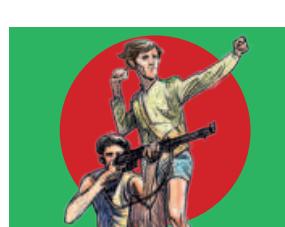
Amid the silence, a teenager -- barely 16 -- stepped forward, raised his hand and said quietly, "I will go."

The young man, now a Bir Protik, was Bashir Ahmed, whose bravery secured him a place in the history of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War.

Fifty-four years on, Bashir still vividly recalls those days when he took up arms to liberate the country from the atrocities of the Pakistani Army and its local allies.

"While one village after another was being set ablaze, innocent people were killed, and our mothers and sisters were subjected to unspeakable torture, it was impossible for anyone to remain silent.

"And so, I decided to join the Mukti Bahini to fight for my country," Bashir told The Daily Star yesterday -- Bangladesh's 54th Victory Day.



Bashir Ahmed Bir Protik

Bashir, who now lives in a small home in Bakshiganj Sadar, said he was a Class 10 student of Dhanua Kamalpur Cooperative High School when he decided to secretly leave home, cross the border and train in India.

"It was in April. Many people were going to India for training, and I wanted to go too. As my parents were unwilling to let me, I left home secretly with my nephew."

The destination was the Mahendraganj Mukti Bahini camp in India, where Bashir's class teacher from Kamalpur, Solaiman Haque, was selecting recruits.

As Bashir reached the camp, Solaiman refused to enrol him. "You're too young. War is not for you," he said.

Deflated, Bashir stayed at a relative's house in Mahendraganj for 15 days. In May, he heard recruitment had restarted and rushed back.

This time, before his teacher could speak, he firmly said, "Sir, I do not worry about life or death. I must join the war."

Moved by his resolve, Solaiman agreed, and Bashir began his journey as a freedom fighter.

He fought under the Helal Company of

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February 12 polls a test for democratic transition

Says Asian Network for Free Elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's upcoming national polls and referendum, slated for February 12, will be an opportunity and a major test for the country's democratic transition, Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) has said.

In a pre-election assessment report released yesterday, the international election monitoring group identified key operational gaps and political risks that could affect the credibility of the polls.

"The February 2026 election and referendum constitute both an opportunity and a test," the report said, warning that how the identified risks are addressed in the coming weeks will significantly shape the credibility of the broader democratic transition.

The July National Charter and several reform commissions outline wide ranging changes to the constitution, electoral

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HADI SHOOTING

Prime suspect hired car day before attack

Rent-a-car owner held; Rab 'retrieves weapon'

TOUSIF KAIM

Prime suspect Faisal Karim Masud hired a private car for Tk 6,000 a day before the shooting of Osman Sharif Hadi, investigators of the attempted murder case said yesterday.

Faisal, they said, told the driver that he would travel from the capital's Ramna to Manikganj's Shaturia upazila around 11:30am the next day.

Meanwhile, Rab yesterday claimed to have retrieved the weapon used in the shooting.

Officers of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police disclosed the information to The Daily Star following the detention of Nuruzzaman, who allegedly arranged the car for Faisal and his associate.

According to the arrestee, after Faisal and his associate Alamgir boarded the car, Masud changed the route several times and eventually travelled from Gazipur's Kalampur to Mymensingh's Haluaghata, for which Faisal paid Tk 10,000.

Meanwhile, Hadi, spokesperson of Inqilab Mancho, is currently in stable condition as he undergoes treatment in Singapore, said Inqilab Moncho.

In a Facebook post quoting Hadi's brother, Inqilab

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Italian team crafts 3D-printed pastries from plant cells

REUTERS, Rome

Scientists in Italy are developing sweet snacks with lab-grown plant cells and fruit residues, producing a material that a 3D printer can then process into 'pastries' with high nutritional content.

Italy's rich culinary traditions may have just gained Unesco heritage status, but the Nutri3D



project by the country's public research agency ENEA shows scientists are out to push boundaries in the quest for sustainable, nutrient-rich snacks.

Prototypes include snack bars and glossy "honey pearls" designed to preserve flavour and nutritional value.

"In a world where arable land is shrinking and climate change forces us to rethink food production, the goal is to keep making what we are used to eating," said Silvia Massa, head of ENEA's Agriculture 4.0 lab.

The aim "is not to grow the plant itself, but its cells," she added. Northern Europe has led early efforts, with Finnish labs producing fruit compotes from cell cultures and researchers in Zurich developing cocoa-like flavourings.

Dembele, Bonmati scoop FIFA Best awards



REUTERS, Doha

Paris St Germain and France forward Ousmane Dembele was named FIFA men's player of the year in Doha on Tuesday, with Spain and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati winning the women's award for the third year in a row.

Dembele was instrumental in PSG's first Champions League triumph when they beat Inter Milan 5-0 in the final and scored 35 goals last season across all competitions, including 21 in Ligue 1 to finish as top scorer.

The 28-year-old, who won this year's Ballon d'Or in September, was part of the PSG team which also swept all before them on the domestic front last season and

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People gather during a search and rescue operation at the site of a collapsed house that was partially destroyed during the war at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Stabilisation force already running in Gaza: Trump

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump on Monday said the International Stabilization Force for Gaza is already running and that more countries would be added.

"I think that, in a form, it's already running," Trump said in the Oval Office. "More and more countries are coming into it. They're already in but they'll send any number of troops that I ask them to send."

In the occupied West Bank, the Israeli military shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian during a raid on the town of Tuqu' on Monday evening, the Palestinian health ministry said.

The boy was shot after Israeli military forces gathered in the centre of town late on Monday and began firing "indiscriminately", according to a report by Palestinian state news agency WAFA citing the head of the Tuqu' town council. The military shot the teenager, Ammar Yaser Sabbah, with a live round to the chest, the report said. He was rushed to the hospital but did not survive.