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## Bangladesh suspends visa services at three missions in India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Three key Bangladesh missions in India have temporarily suspended visa services on security grounds, said Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday.

"What I have done is that I have asked our three missions to keep their visa sections closed for the time being. It's a security issue," he told reporters at the foreign ministry in response to a question if Bangladesh missions in India have restricted tourist visas for Indians.

Though he did not mention the names of the missions, according to diplomatic sources, they are the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, the Deputy High Commission in Kolkata, and the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala.

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## CUMILLA-4 SEAT BNP aspirant's loan defaulter status upheld

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday stayed for eight weeks a High Court order that had suspended the inclusion of BNP candidate Manjurul Ahsan Munshi's name in the list of loan defaulters.

Justice Md Rezaul Haque passed the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by Premier Bank, challenging the HC order.

Manjurul Ahsan Munshi is an

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Amid an acute LPG cylinder shortage, a trader is seen selling the cooking gas canisters from a mini-truck at prices well above the official rate to selective consumers at Farmgate's Tejkunipara area yesterday. According to consumers, most of the local outlets of the bottled gas have remained closed for days.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## LPG supply disruption likely to continue

Importers cite difficulty in booking vessels; retailers call off strike following assurances

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The liquefied petroleum gas price will continue to stay above the government-set rate at the retail level, given the instability in the supply chain.

The traders yesterday withdrew their indefinite countrywide strike on marketing and supply of the fuel.

"We are trying our level best to make the supply situation normal as soon as possible, but the problem in the booking

of ships in the Middle East is not in our hands," said Mohammed Amirul Haque, president of LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh, the body representing LPG importers.

There is a shortage of vessels due to US sanctions, he said.

He couldn't specify any timeframe for when the supply chain would be back to normal.

Against the backdrop, the LPG traders

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## July warriors to get immunity Says law adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul stated yesterday that a draft of an indemnity ordinance will be presented at the next meeting of the Council of Advisers, aiming to grant immunity to those who participated in the July uprising.

"The July warriors freed the country from fascist rule by risking their lives. Of course, they have the



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## US wants to send back 5k Bangladeshis

PORIMOL PALMA

The US wants the speedy repatriation of around 5,000 undocumented Bangladeshis currently living there, as the Trump administration steps up its anti-immigration drive, diplomatic sources said.

It also wants Bangladesh to increase imports from the US and narrow the trade gap, an issue that has remained a priority since the Trump administration took office in early 2025, they added.

According to the sources, these issues are expected to dominate talks between the United States and Bangladesh during National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman's five-day visit to Washington.

Khalilur arrived in Washington on Wednesday and was scheduled to hold talks yesterday with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Alison Hooker, US Assistant Secretary of State for

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## US VISA BOND Visitors to be hit the hardest Experts say it's bad news for businesses

MD ABBAS and SUKANTA HALDER

Bangladesh's addition to a US visa bond list could disrupt travel and trade, potentially hurting small businesses and ordinary visitors, experts said.

Expressing disappointment, a Bangladeshi PhD student in Texas told The Daily Star that the bond added to his stress. "We already live far from our families. Now, even short family visits will become a privilege only for wealthy households."

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Three blue-tailed bee-eaters, perched in a perfect descending line, flaunt their midday catches in Gopalpur of Rajshahi's Godagari upazila. Often found around mustard fields in winter, these agile birds sweep low over open country, wetlands and farmlands, snatching bees, wasps, dragonflies and other flying insects mid-air. Native to South and Southeast Asia, they migrate seasonally, arriving in Bangladesh with the cooler months. Before swallowing stinging prey, they deftly beat it against a perch to remove the sting -- a neat survival trick. Listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, they remain a lively winter spectacle.

PHOTO: AZAHLA UDDIN

## Oldest evidence of poison-laced weapons found



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Peculiar 60,000-year-old Stone Age arrowheads unearthed in South Africa could be the earliest known use of poison-laced weapons by human hunters, archaeologists say in a new study.

For long, researchers have attempted to trace the trajectory of innovations by prehistoric humans to better understand the evolution of hunting technology.

One such innovation is the use of poisoned weapons, which are seen as a hallmark of advanced hunter gatherer technology.

Until now, the evidence of poisoned hunting tools has been sparse, mostly dating to the last Ice Age around 10,000 years ago.

## TANKER SEIZURE Russia accuses US of raising 'military-political tension'

AFP, MOSCOW

Russia yesterday accused the United States of stoking tensions and threatening international shipping with its seizure of a Russian-flagged oil tanker in the North Atlantic a day earlier.

The US has said the ship carried oil for states like Venezuela, Russia and Iran in violation of Western sanctions and seized it after an American raid toppled Moscow's ally Nicolas Maduro in Caracas.

Moscow's foreign ministry said the move will "only result in further military and political tensions", adding that it was worried by "Washington's willingness to generate acute international crisis situations."

The US seizure came as Washington grew frustrated with Moscow as little progress on its diplomatic push to end the war in Ukraine has been made.

It seized the ship days after US President Donald Trump said he was "not thrilled" with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

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## THE MOMENT IS HERE!

**bij** The Daily Star

## STELLAR WOMEN SEASON 2 GALA



Tomorrow!

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