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Rana, Tanzid shine as Bangladesh crush Pakistan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pacer Nahid Rana claimed his maiden five-wicket haul before Tanzid Hasan Tamim scored an unbeaten fifty as Bangladesh crushed Pakistan by eight wickets in the opening ODI of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Playing his maiden ODI on home soil, Rana returned figures of 5-24 and ripped through Pakistan's batting lineup with fiery pace, helping the hosts bundle out the visitors for just 114 runs in 30.4 overs after opting to field first.

It is Pakistan's lowest total against Bangladesh in ODIs, eclipsing the previous record of 161 in Northampton during the 1999 ICC World Cup.

In reply, Bangladesh lost opener Saif Hassan (four) early off Shaheen Shah Afridi, but an 82-run stand between Tanzid and Najmul Hossain Shanto for the second wicket all but sealed the victory.

Shanto was dismissed by
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Bangladesh pacer Nahid Rana celebrates dismissing Pakistan's Shamyul Hussain in their eight-wicket victory in the first of three ODIs at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Rana's maiden five-wicket haul on his home ODI debut restricted Pakistan to 114 all out in 30.4 overs. Bangladesh reached the target in 15.1 overs, powered by Tanzid Tamim's unbeaten 67 off 42 balls. The second ODI will take place at the same venue on Friday.

PHOTO: FROZ AHMED

Dhaka freezes plan to join Haiti peacekeeping

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Bangladesh has decided not to deploy peacekeepers to Haiti for the proposed Gang Suppression Force (GSF) mission amid global turmoil and shifting geopolitical dynamics, officials and internal correspondence confirmed.

An initial plan had outlined a contingent of 1,625 personnel, 1,100 from the armed forces and 525 from the police, for deployment beginning next month.

But Dhaka has informed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that, given the war in the Middle East, it will not proceed for now, a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The decision comes as US Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks have widened conflict across the Gulf, raising global security concerns.

Documents seen by this correspondent show Bangladesh had earlier expressed willingness to join the GSF, a multinational mission intended to help Haitian authorities combat armed gangs and restore stability.

An email dated February 13, 2026, sent by Brig Gen Mohammad Golam Rabbani, military and police adviser at Bangladesh's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, circulated a communication regarding the Standing Group of Partners (SGP) decision on the proposed deployment.

The forwarded message contained a response from
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STRANDED UMRAH PILGRIMS Cost of housing, food mount on top of high ticket prices

RASHIDUL HASAN

Several thousand Bangladeshis who travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform umrah have been stranded in the Gulf kingdom after multiple Middle Eastern countries suspended flights from February 28, the day the United States and Israel launched their war on Iran.

Many pilgrims had booked 15- to 20-day umrah packages, but their stay has now stretched far beyond the scheduled period. As the packages expire, several travel agencies are refusing to bear the additional costs of accommodation and meals, leaving many Bangladeshis struggling to cope financially, pilgrims alleged.

Leaders of the Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAAB) said pilgrims are now being forced to buy return tickets at sharply higher prices amid the disruption.

They said Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Jordan closed their airspace following the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East, disrupting flight operations to and from Dhaka.

As a result, flights of several airlines, including Emirates, Air Arabia and Qatar Airways, were cancelled.

Currently, only four airlines are operating flights between the two countries. They are Bangladeshi carriers Biman Bangladesh Airlines and US-Bangla Airlines, and Saudi airlines Saudia and Flynas.

Many Bangladeshis had travelled for umrah using airlines from Middle Eastern transit hubs such as the UAE and Qatar. With those flights suspended, their return journeys have been thrown into uncertainty.

Some stranded pilgrims said the travel agencies are demanding an additional Tk 30,000 to Tk 35,000 for new return tickets for passengers whose earlier flights were cancelled. For many pilgrims, arranging such a large sum at a short notice has become nearly impossible.

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Political detentions interim govt's failure

Says Rehman Sobhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan yesterday said many are languishing in jail primarily because of their political identity, describing it as a failure of the judicial system and the interim government.

"This has been a violation of human rights, a failure of our judicial system and, tragically, a failure of the interim government, which should have been more committed to preserving the rule of law," said Prof Sobhan, also chairman of the think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue.

He made the remarks at a dialogue titled "National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2025: Expectations from the New Parliament", organised by the Citizens' Platform at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital's Agargaon.

Prof Sobhan said while there are ongoing discussions about the proposed legislation for the National Human Rights Commission, the real test of human rights protection in Bangladesh will depend more on the conduct of political leaders and lawmakers than on the commission itself.

Though members of parliament are the primary custodians of human

rights, they have historically also been responsible for violating them, said Prof Sobhan, adding that successive governments have repeatedly violated the rights of opposition groups and often continued the same pattern after assuming power.

Prof Sobhan said the early days of the new home minister would serve as a litmus test for the government's commitment to restoring human rights and re-establishing the rule of law.

He stressed that the real challenge before the new parliament will be to ensure the rule of law and an independent judiciary that protects, rather than violates, human rights.

Speaking as the chief guest, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said actions taken during wars and political uprisings cannot always be judged strictly as human rights violations, referring to both the 1971 Liberation War and the 2024 mass uprising.

He said questions are now being raised about whether those who led the July uprising should face legal cases.

"We have given indemnity to the July warriors, and we must remain committed to that nationally," he said.

He argued that if actions taken

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No legal bar to journo Anis Alamgir's release

Gets bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to senior journalist Anis Alamgir in a case filed over allegations of acquiring assets beyond known sources of income.

Judge Md Sabbir Faiz of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order following a bail petition, defence lawyer Taslima Zahana Popy said.

With the latest order, there is no legal bar to his release, as he has secured bail in both cases filed against him, the lawyer added.

On January 28, the same court showed Anis arrested in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Earlier, on January 15, ACC Assistant Director Akhtaruzzaman filed the case under section 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act with its Integrated Office-1 in Dhaka.

According to the ACC inquiry, Anis's total wealth stands at

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US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN Govt moves to ensure power for hospitals

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The health ministry has taken a series of initiatives to ensure uninterrupted medical services and safeguard the supply of medicines and vaccines amid concerns over power supply triggered by the ongoing US-Israel war on Iran.

According to directives prepared at a recent meeting, special measures will be taken to keep intensive care units (ICUs), operation theatres, laboratories, and cold chain management systems running without interruption.

- Special measures to keep ICUs, OTs, labs, refrigeration running
- Risk-mitigation action plan to be prepared within a week
- Search on for alternative sources for raw materials for drugs

The authorities will also request the Power Division to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to hospitals and pharmaceutical factories so that critical medical services, as well as the production of medicines and vaccines, are not disrupted.

The meeting was held on Sunday to prepare for any potential crisis in the health sector arising from the global situation linked to the Middle East conflict, three officials who attended the meeting told The Daily Star.

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain presided over the meeting, which was attended by officials from

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3 civilians killed in Pak shelling Afghan Taliban govt says three others injured

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban government said yesterday that three civilians were killed in southeastern Afghanistan when Pakistani forces fired mortars and artillery across the countries' shared border.

Deputy government spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat told media in an audio message that the deaths happened on Tuesday in Kot village, in the Dand Patan district of Paktia province.

"Three civilians were killed due to a shell hitting their houses and three were injured," he added.

A medical source also confirmed the death of three civilians to an AFP correspondent in southeastern Afghanistan.

Pakistan has insisted it does not target civilians. Casualty claims from both sides are difficult to verify independently.

Months of cross-border clashes have flared again since February 26, when Afghanistan launched an offensive along the frontier, in retaliation for earlier Pakistani air strikes.

Islamabad then declared "open war" against the Taliban authorities and led strikes on Kabul and Kandahar in the following days. Regular clashes have been reported in the border areas since February 26.

Fitrat said Pakistan has fired "hundreds of mortars and

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Despite a government advisory against ornamental lighting, shops along Shyamoli Ring Road in the capital were seen illuminated with fairy lights last night. The energy-saving guideline was issued earlier this week amid US-Israel war on Iran.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

War on Iran rattles Bangladesh dollar market

B1



HASANAH ISLAMIC BANKING
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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 12

| | Fajr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN | 4:57 | 12:45 | 4:30 | 6:08 | 7:30 |
| JAMAAT | 5:07 | 1:15 | 4:45 | 6:18 | 8:00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

| RAMADAN | MAR | SEHRI | IFTAR |
|---------|-----|-------|-------|
| 22 | 12 | | 6:08 |
| 23 | 13 | 4:54 | 6:08 |
| 24 | 14 | 4:53 | 6:09 |