



BSRM
THE ONLY STEEL FACTORY IN BANGLADESH TO RECEIVE THE
GREEN FACTORY AWARD 2025



Terminal 3,
Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport
Proud Construction Partner
SHAH CEMENT

1.23 lakh tonnes of LNG arrive in two tankers

Third LNG tanker from US due on April 4 with 70,000 tonnes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two tankers carrying a combined 123,000 tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) reached Bangladesh within a week – one on Thursday and another yesterday.

A third vessel, carrying about 70,000 tonnes of LNG, is scheduled to arrive on April 4, which will bring the total shipments to 193,000 tonnes.

According to Chattogram port sources, the LNG carrier HL Puffin reached Bangladesh on Thursday with 61,997 tonnes of LNG from Australia.

Another vessel, New Brave, arrived Friday carrying 61,000 tonnes from Indonesia.

A third tanker, Celsius Galapagos, is expected to reach by the end of next week with 70,000 tonnes of LNG from the US.

Md Nurul Alam, senior deputy general manager of Uni Global

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



People ride on the roof of train carriages as the rush of Eid holidaymakers returning to the capital continues. This photo was taken from Khilgaon Flyover close to Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka around 4:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

New advisers in the offing

Move aimed at easing workload, speeding up decisions

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The government is set to expand its advisory team, bringing in a couple of new faces to help ease growing pressure across ministries, as it seeks to speed up decision-making, improve coordination, and push forward its election pledges.

The step comes at a time when officials say the pace of work has slowed in some areas, making it harder for the administration to meet rising public expectations. New advisers are likely to be appointed in the coming days, according to sources at the Prime Minister's Office familiar with the matter.

Officials said the new appointments are aimed at easing the workload of existing ministers and helping ministries run more smoothly. Before the Eid, several ministries faced delays in taking decisions and carrying out plans, mainly due to overlapping responsibilities among senior officials.

Cabinet sources said many ministers are juggling political and administrative duties simultaneously, which has made it harder to maintain the pace of work expected from the government.

Officials said the pressure has been felt most in areas where ministries must deal with policy work, project supervision, and urgent public-facing decisions at the same time.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Ex-rapper Shah sworn in as Nepal prime minister



REUTERS, Kathmandu

Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah was sworn in as prime minister of Nepal yesterday, tasked with restoring political stability and creating jobs in the poor Himalayan nation long troubled by fragile governments and weak growth prospects.

Shah, who wore skin-tight trousers, a matching jacket, his signature black Nepali cloth cap and sunglasses at the ceremony, is Nepal's youngest prime minister in decades and the first Madhesi – people of the southern plains bordering India – to lead the Himalayan nation that is wedged between Asian giants India and China.

A former mayor of the capital, Kathmandu, Shah, 35, became prime minister after his three-year-old Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) won 182 seats in the 275-member parliament in the March 5 election, the first vote after the anti-corruption Gen Z protests in which 76 people were killed in September last year.

In a new music video posted on his Facebook page on the eve of his swearing-in ceremony, Shah stressed

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Sri Lanka jails man for hoarding 4 litres of fuel

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka has jailed a man for three weeks after he admitted to hoarding four litres of petrol during a nationwide fuel shortage triggered by the Middle East war, local media reported yesterday.

The 48-year-old man initially said the fuel was for his lawnmower.

A magistrate in Nikaweratiya, 125 kilometres (78 miles) northeast of the capital Colombo, also imposed a fine of 1,500 rupees (\$5), according to the Lankadeepa daily newspaper.

It added that the man had been charged with hoarding petrol and trying to sell it on the black market at a time when authorities had imposed fuel rationing.

Motorists on the South Asian island are currently receiving fuel every other day. Authorities say existing diesel stocks are sufficient until mid-May, while petrol supplies could last about a week longer.

Fuel prices across Sri Lanka have risen by a third since the United States and Israel began bombing

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

Sonali chicken, potatoes, lentil pricier after Eid

SUKANTA HALDER and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The prices of Sonali chicken have risen sharply across Dhaka's kitchen markets following Eid-ul-Fitr, adding further strain to household budgets of consumers who prefer it over broiler chicken.

Alongside poultry, potatoes, onions, lentils, and several fish varieties have also become costlier, while some vegetables have remained stable.

In Dhaka's retail markets yesterday, potatoes were sold at Tk 20–25 per kilogram, up from Tk 15–20 a week ago.

Large-grain lentils fetched Tk 90–105 per kilogram, compared to Tk 85–105 last week.

Mohammad Sabuj, a wholesale trader at Karwan Bazar, said middlemen and farmers are increasingly storing potatoes in cold storage, driving demand and pushing prices higher.

Recent rains have also caused potatoes to rot in several areas, worsening the situation. Heavy rains in mid-March had already damaged Rabi-season crops, including potatoes, across northern districts.

He noted that wholesale prices rose to Tk 14 per kilogram yesterday, from Tk 11 last week and Tk 10 the week before.

Onions too saw a rise, retailing at Tk 35–50 per kilogram yesterday, up from Tk 30–45 a

week earlier.

Wholesale prices climbed to Tk 26–35 per kilogram, compared to Tk 22–33 previously.

Abdul Majid, another Karwan Bazar trader, attributed the hike to increased demand and hoarding by farmers and traders, though he stressed there is no shortage in supply.

Sonali chicken prices surged

In contrast, demand for broiler chicken has fallen, leading to lower prices.

Fish prices also rose in the post-Eid period.

Rohu was sold at Tk 370–400 per kilogram yesterday, Tk 50–80 higher than usual.

Tilapia, Catfish, and Pangash prices increased by Tk 40–50 per kilogram.



after Eid.

Two days before the festival, they were sold at Tk 350–380 per kilogram.

From the fourth day of Eid, prices jumped by Tk 30–40, with current rates at Tk 380–410.

Ariful Islam, a meat seller at Shewrapara Market, explained that weddings and social events have kept demand high, preventing any price drop.

Khokon Chandra Samaddar, a wholesale trader at Jatrabari fish market, said demand has picked up after Eid, with hilsa seeing the sharpest rise ahead of Pahela Baishakh.

Hilsa weighing one kilogram is now priced at Tk 3,000, up from Tk 2,500–2,600 a week ago.

Vegetable prices showed mixed trends.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Dog removal move sparks outcry in Baridhara

TANGLA TASNIM

Fresh attempts to remove community dogs from Baridhara DOHS have drawn criticism from residents and animal welfare advocates, who warn the move risks repeating a history of cruelty in the area.

Members of Animal Welfare of Baridhara DOHS (AWBD), a resident-led group, described recent notices issued by the DOHS Parishad calling for the removal of stray dogs and restrictions on pet movement as unlawful and counterproductive.

"The Animal Welfare Act, 2019 clearly states that ownerless animals cannot be removed or killed outside specific provisions. The law promotes vaccination and sterilisation, not displacement," an AWBD representative said.

A resident said attempts to engage with authorities have failed.

"I have pet dogs, and I have received notices multiple times from the current DOHS Parishad president. I tried to have a dialogue, but he refused to

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Trump's name to mark US currency

Treasury confirms break with 165-year-old tradition



REUTERS, Washington

US paper currency will bear President Donald Trump's signature starting this summer, the first time a sitting president has signed American money, the Treasury Department said on Thursday.

The redesigned notes, planned to mark the 250th anniversary of American independence, will also for the first time in 165 years drop the signature of the US treasurer, who reports to the Treasury Secretary and oversees the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the US Mint and other Treasury functions.

The first \$100 bills with Trump's signature

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



PHOTO: REUTERS

People react at the site of a residential building damaged by a strike, amid the US-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Tehran yesterday.

Myanmar army signals change in leadership

AFP, Naypyidaw

Myanmar's junta signalled changes in the military's leadership ahead of the country's annual show of force yesterday, potentially clearing the way for defence chief Min Aung Hlaing to become president.

Thousands of soldiers will march for Armed Forces Day at a parade ground in the capital Naypyidaw, where Min Aung Hlaing will make his yearly speech to rally morale.

He has ruled by diktat since ousting the hugely popular government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021 – detaining the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, dissolving her party and triggering civil war.

There will be "leadership changes" in the armed forces after the ceremony, the state-run Global

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7