



'A whole civilisation will die tonight'

Warns Trump ahead of his deadline; Tehran remains defiant as strikes hit its bridges, key highway, railways and Kharg Island

Iran warns US against 'crossing red lines'	UN says attacks on civilian infrastructure 'a war crime'	Russia, China veto UNSC resolution on Hormuz	Iranians form human chains around key installations
---	---	---	--

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday warned that "a whole civilisation will die" in Iran if the country does not heed his midnight deadline to open the Strait of Hormuz, as Tehran showed no sign of budging and reported that US-Israeli attacks on its infrastructure were already underway.

Speaking in Budapest, Vice President JD Vance said the United States has "tools in our toolkit that we so far haven't decided to use" against Iran, without explaining further.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned they would deprive the US and its allies of oil and gas if Washington crossed Tehran's "red lines".

As the clock ticked down on Trump's deadline, strikes on Iran intensified throughout the day, hitting railway and road bridges, an airport and a petrochemical plant. US forces also attacked targets on



"More than 14 million proud Iranians have so far registered to sacrifice their lives to defend Iran. I, too, have been, am, and will remain ready to give my life for Iran,"

MASOUD PEZEHSKIAN
Iran president

Kharg Island, home to Iran's main oil export terminal, which Trump has openly mused about seizing.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed attacks on railways and bridges, saying they were "used by the Revolutionary Guards". The Israeli military said it had already completed a broad wave of strikes targeting "infrastructure sites" across Iran.

Trump had initially vowed to carry out the "complete demolition" of Iran's critical infrastructure, particularly bridges and power plants, only if a deal was not reached by 8:00pm in Washington.

Writing on Truth Social, Trump elevated his ultimatum for Iran.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will,"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

TRUMP BRANDED 'CRAZY' OVER IRAN THREATS - PAGE 5



Smoke rises following strikes on Tehran. New strikes rocked Tehran yesterday with Iran showing no sign of backing down as a US deadline loomed for it to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or have its civilian infrastructure "decimated", according to the US president.

PHOTO: AFP

No bail, no remand for Shirin Sharmin

Ex-speaker arrested in attempted murder case

TOUSIF KARUM and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former Jatiya Sangsad speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury had arrived at her cousin's residence in Dhanmondi just hours before she was arrested early



yesterday in an attempted murder case linked to the 2024 July uprising.

Confirming the matter to The Daily Star, Shirin's cousin Arif Masud Chowdhury said they had not been in

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

LDC GRADUATION DELAY

Tarique seeks UN chief's support

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has sought the backing of UN Secretary-General António Guterres for a deferral of Bangladesh's graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) category, as the issue moves through the multilateral system.

"With full confidence, we kindly seek your personal support in ensuring that our request receives due consideration across the United Nations system," Tarique wrote in a letter to Guterres on April 5.

"Our aim is not to avert the coveted graduation, but to ensure that it is sustainable, resilient and truly irreversible," he added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Fuel queues stretch despite improved stock

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The long queues at filling stations across the country do not seem to be abating, with the lines getting longer in some places, even though the fuel stock became slightly healthier compared with last week's.

As of yesterday, the total stock of octane and petrol stood at 10,500 tonnes and 16,000 tonnes respectively, enough to meet the demand for 9-11 days, according to the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

Besides, a ship containing 25,000 tonnes of octane is due today and another ship containing the same volume of the fuel is scheduled in the second half of this month, data shows.

With the upcoming ships and local

condensate production, officials are hopeful of ensuring a supply of octane and petrol of up to 60 days.

And yet, in the capital yesterday, queues in petrol pumps in Tejgaon, Mohakhali and Gulshan link road areas started from one filling station and extended up to the next.

Besides, most of the stations in Moghbazar, Malibagh, Banasree, Hazipara, Ramna and Paribagh were facing huge pressure, both from cars and motorcycles over the days.

The waiting vehicles took up the entire first lane of the roads, disrupting traffic flow in those areas.

People are queuing up since the morning, even before the fuel reaches the pumps from

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



This handout picture released by Nasa yesterday shows Earth as it dips beyond the lunar horizon as seen from the Orion spacecraft. Images like this, often called "Earthrise", became powerful symbols during the Apollo missions, inspiring environmental awareness and the idea of planetary stewardship. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: AFP

NSC dissolves Bulbul-led BCB body

Tamim made adhoc committee president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Sports Council yesterday dissolved the board led by president Aminul Islam Bulbul and appointed former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal as president of an 11-member adhoc committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.



NSC Sports Director Aminul Ahasan announced the decision at a press conference at the council's meeting room, presenting findings of an investigation into last year's BCB elections held on October 6. The polls saw 23 directors elected from three categories alongside two NSC-nominated members.

According to the NSC, a five-member probe committee, led by retired Supreme Court justice AKM Asaduzzaman, found irregularities across all categories of the election. Based on the findings, the council dissolved the board under

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

SC Secretariat vital for judicial independence

HC observes in full verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has observed that the establishment of an independent and separate secretariat under the Supreme Court is necessary to ensure the judiciary's autonomy and integrity.

The observation came in the full text of a verdict released yesterday amid a move in parliament to repeal three ordinances related to judicial independence, appointment of judges, and budgetary authority entrusted to the Supreme Court Secretariat.

In the full verdict, the court also directed the government to establish the secretariat within three months and ruled that the Supreme Court, not the president, will have the authority over the transfer, posting, and discipline of lower court judges.

"We believe that the proposed secretariat would enhance transparency in judicial policymaking, ensure proper budget allocation and infrastructure development, and bring clarity to the transfer and promotion of judges," the High Court bench of Justice Ahmed Sohel and Justice Debashish Roy Chowdhury said in the 185-page full judgment.

During the hearing of a writ petition on the matter, the then attorney general Md Asaduzzaman, who is now the law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister, "has fairly submitted [before this court] that the state has no objection to the establishment of such a secretariat", the High Court said.

"In our view that true judicial independence requires abolition of the dual governance system i.e. the joint authority of the Supreme Court and the ministry of law must be dismantled to facilitate a separate secretariat under the Supreme Court of Bangladesh," the judges said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

UCB

*Your dreams still glow.
Like a guiding light.
In love and honor,
you remain bright.*

Humayun Zahir (1948-1993)

A name, a story of an indomitable entrepreneur.
One of the Founding Directors of United Commercial Bank PLC.

He was uncompromising when it came to integrity, ethics, and responsibility. His sacrifice has shaped United Commercial Bank PLC into the value-driven and principled institution it is today.

On his **33rd death anniversary**, we remember him with deep respect, love, and gratitude.

UCB Islamic UCB STOCK UCB ASSET UCB INVESTMENT