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'Ties with India, China not zero-sum'

Khalilur tells Indian media

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's relationship with India or China is not a zero-sum game, Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman has said, assuring that any concerns India may have in this regard should be put to rest.

A zero-sum game in international relations refers to a situation where one country's gain equals another's loss, often leading to competition over cooperation.

"Our relationship with India or China is not a zero-sum game. If there are worries, we expect our Indian friends to state them clearly with specifics," Khalilur told Indian media during his visit to Mauritius on Friday.



He discussed various aspects of Indo-Bangla ties, which saw strains during the interim government but are now moving toward improvement.

During his April 7-9 visit to New Delhi, Khalilur met Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval before flying to Mauritius to attend the Indian Ocean Conference.

In a separate interview with The Hindu in Port Louis, he mentioned a possible visit by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to India.

"There will be a visit, but we have not yet finalised the dates. In the run-up to the visit, there will be many activities," he said, as he elaborated on how Bangladesh wants to improve relations slowly but surely.

Speaking to NDTV, Khalilur stressed: "Our relations with other countries are not at the cost of India. We cooperate fruitfully with China and do brisk business with India. We have negative trade [trade deficit] with both countries. These are dictated by market prices."

"Let us put these worries to rest and not view these relationships in ways that do not help. If there are issues, let us work together. Tell us if there is any specific problem," he said, adding that both countries are willing to engage and move forward.

"However, success must be based on trust and

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A man pushes a loaded cycle van past the collapsed bridge over the Kakina canal in Brahmanbaria's Moniando area, which has remained out of service for over a year. Slow reconstruction has kept direct road communication between Kasba and Akhaura upazilas suspended, forcing locals to rely on an earthen alternative route and endure prolonged hardship. PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCES AND HOSPITAL Tk 506cr new unit remains idle for lack of manpower

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Parvin Begum came to the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital (NINS) along with one of her ailing relatives who needed treatment there. However, she suddenly felt dizzy, collapsed and became critically ill.

Her son Tanzir stood in the queue for nearly an hour before managing to have his mother seen by an outdoor doctor.

The doctor advised them to take her to another hospital as there were no vacant beds available. In fact, many patients who had arrived before them could not be



admitted either, he was told, as the 500-bed public hospital is struggling to cope with the growing number of patients.

And yet, a new 500-bed unit of the

hospital has remained unutilised for over four months since its inauguration on December 8 last year due to a lack of necessary manpower and budgetary allocation.

Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the then chief adviser at the health ministry, inaugurated the unit, which was built at a cost of Tk 506 crore between January 2018 and December 2024, without ensuring the required manpower and budgetary allocation.

Doctors and staffers said that all

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Dovish budget in the works

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is preparing a Tk 927,000 crore budget for fiscal 2026-27, up about 18 percent from this year, as it looks to implement its electoral pledges, partially roll out the Pay Commission recommendations, and shield the economy from the fallout of the ongoing Middle East conflict.

The preliminary framework for the upcoming fiscal year's budget was finalised at a high-level meeting chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury on Friday night, before he left for Washington DC to attend the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings.

The final budget for next fiscal year is unlikely to veer too far off from the Tk

Higher allocation is being made to accommodate the BNP's electoral pledges.

927,000 crore-mark and will definitely be more than Tk 900,000 crore. The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

"This budget carries special weight as it is this government's first – it will signal the administration's priorities and lay the financial groundwork for delivering on its five-year commitments," said a senior finance ministry official, requesting anonymity.

The higher allocation is being made to accommodate the BNP's electoral pledges to provide several welfare benefits to the poor and low-income people such as Family Card, Farmers' Card and agricultural loan waiver as well as to implement the recommendations of the ninth Pay Commission, and to

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Nasa's Orion spacecraft with Artemis II crewmembers splashes down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California yesterday (BST). Inset, Astronauts Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch, Jeremy Hansen and Victor Glover pose for a group photo in front of Orion in the well deck of USS John P Murtha, in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California, after the completion of the mission. PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

Israeli strikes kill 7 in Gaza

AFP, Deir el Balah

Gaza's civil defence agency yesterday reported that Israeli airstrikes in the Palestinian territory had killed seven people overnight, with the military saying it had struck an "armed terrorist cell".

Despite an October 10 ceasefire, Gaza remains gripped by daily violence as both the Israeli military and Hamas accuse one another of breaching the truce.

Mahmoud Bassal, spokesman for Gaza's civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue service under Hamas, said an Israeli drone had fired two missiles close to a police post in the Al-Bureij refugee camp.

In addition to the seven dead, he said, several more people were wounded, four of them critically.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza said it had received six bodies and seven wounded, "including four in a critical condition because of direct impacts to the face, torso and other parts of the body".

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Artemis astronauts return to Earth after lunar flyby

AFP, San Diego

An elated Nasa late Friday was celebrating its successful voyage around the Moon, after four astronauts safely returned to Earth having completed the first lunar flyby in more than 50 years.

The Nasa spacecraft carrying four astronauts – three Americans and one Canadian – splashed down without a hitch off the California coast, capping the US space agency's crewed test mission that returned with spectacular images of the Moon.

"What a journey," said mission commander Reid Wiseman, who reported that the crewmembers – himself along with Christina Koch, Victor Glover and Jeremy Hansen – were "stable" and "green."

"They're in great condition, that's what that means," said Rob Navias, the Nasa public affairs official who narrated their return on the agency's livestream.

Following an expected but nerve-racking communications blackout during their high-stakes re-entry, Wiseman's voice triggered relief that the astronauts were well on their way back home.

"We have you loud and clear," he said following a voice check from mission control in Houston.

Nasa personnel and the US military helped extract the astronauts from the bobbing capsule – to the applause of those watching from mission control.

By late Friday, helicopters had lifted the astronauts to a recovery

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FACULTY SEARCH



Grameen University has been established with a bold and transformative vision, as envisioned by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, to contribute meaningfully to the creation of a world of **Three Zeros - Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions**. Rooted in the Grameen philosophy and inspired by decades of proven social innovation, the University seeks to redefine the role of higher education by aligning academic excellence with social responsibility, sustainability, and ethical leadership. It is envisioned not merely as a conventional degree-awarding institution, but as a purpose-driven university where education serves as a powerful catalyst for inclusive growth, innovation, and long-term sustainable development. The University is duly accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and officially approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh.

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- Social Business
- Microfinance
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- Excellent academic credentials; applicants must hold a **master's degree** in a relevant field for **Lecturer positions**. Preference will be given to the candidates with journal publications.
- For the rank of **Assistant Professor and above**, a **PhD** from a **highly reputed university** is preferred.
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For inquiries or further information, please visit www.grameenu.ac or contact: recruitment@grameenu.ac

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