



Foreigners who come from thousands of kilometres away... have no place there except at the bottom of its waters.
Mojtaba Khamenei
Iran supreme leader on Strait of Hormuz

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXVI No. 101

BAISHAKH 18, 1433 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILQAD 12, 1447 HDRI

20 PAGES: Tk 15.00

Solutions lie in talks with opposition

Tarique says in his session-concluding speech in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said solutions to all national problems must be found through dialogue with the opposition and stressed that stability in parliament is essential for Bangladesh's progress.

"This parliament is made up of you [opposition] and me. If either of us fails, then Bangladesh itself will fail... Both the ruling party and the opposition must work together, and under no circumstances should parliament be allowed to fail," he said in his concluding speech of the first session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad.

The session, which began on March 12, ended yesterday after 25 working days. Tarique's address came during the thanksgiving motion



"The ruling party and the opposition must work together, and under no circumstances should parliament be allowed to fail."

Leader of the House Tarique Rahman

"I will not compare whether law and order has improved or worsened. I only want us to live in a safe Bangladesh today."

Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman



"We compromised on everything and signed the July National Charter out of compulsion ... what if they blocked the election with the excuse of reforms."

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed



on the president's speech, which was passed by voice vote.

"Agree to disagree is a recognised principle in every parliament across the democratic world. Yes, today much has been said about the July charter, but I will not go into that debate," he said.

The prime minister said consensus had been reached on some bills, while differences remained on others. "From my party's position, I want to state clearly: on issues where we disagree, we will sit with opposition members, we will discuss, and we will find solutions in the national interest."

He reiterated the proposal for making a Deputy Speaker from the opposition. "The opposition did not accept it due to their party's decision. That is their policy matter. But today I want to make it clear once again: this proposal remains open to the leader of the opposition, and opposition MPs. By keeping it open, we have tried to demonstrate our genuine intention."

Tarique warned that obstruction of democracy harms the economy, education, healthcare, and employment. "If we ask an ordinary citizen today what they want, I believe they will say, 'We want peace; we want safe roads.'"

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Indian envoy summoned over Assam CM's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry yesterday summoned acting Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pawan Badhe and conveyed Dhaka's displeasure over remarks by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, officials said.

Director General (South Asia) Ishrat Jahan communicated Bangladesh's position to the acting envoy in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of May Day. Therefore, the newspaper will not come out tomorrow.

We will serve our readers 24/7 through our website. Stay tuned to our web coverage in English and Bangla.



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY

TOILING THROUGH LIFE ... The dust-covered face is that of Kalam Hawlader, 75, who mixes cement, sand, and stone in a concrete mixer for roof casting work all day. Without any protective gear, he is highly susceptible to respiratory illnesses from constant exposure to fine particles. The photo was taken yesterday in Barishal city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Biman signs \$3.7b deal with Boeing for 14 jets

First delivery in late 2031

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday signed an agreement with US aircraft manufacturer Boeing to purchase 14 aircraft, the largest order in the national flag carrier's history.

Under the deal, Biman will acquire eight Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners, two Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners and four Boeing 737-8

in the presence of senior government officials, diplomats and aviation executives at a city hotel.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman; Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam; State Minister MRashiduzzaman Millat; and US Ambassador Brent T Christensen attended the ceremony.

MRashiduzzaman Millat, state minister for civil aviation, said, "Bangladesh is



MAX jets with an estimated list value of about \$3.7 billion or roughly Tk 45,000 crore (calculated at \$1 = Tk 122 as per Google Finance yesterday).

The first Boeing aircraft is scheduled for delivery in November 2031, while the rest are expected to arrive by October 2035.

The agreement was signed by Biman Managing Director Kaizer Sohel Ahmed and Boeing Vice President Paul Righi

moving towards becoming a regional aviation hub, and the addition of new aircraft will support that goal."

Kaizer Sohel Ahmed, also the Biman CEO, said that the airline will have to pay 0.5 percent of the total amount as signing money.

He added that the Export-Import Bank of the United States will arrange the loan

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

New law excludes supervisors from 'worker' definition

Interim-era protections rolled back within five months

ZYMA ISLAM

The newly passed Labour Act changes the definition of who qualifies as a worker, excluding anyone with a supervisory role from the protections offered by the law.

The Labour Ordinance 2025, passed last year, formally recognised

OTHER CHANGES

- Provision removed allowing unions and collective bargaining agents to represent workers in court.
- Large establishments are no longer required to provide provident funds unless two-thirds of workers demand them.

"officers" as workers.

Its predecessor, the Labour Act 2006, strictly limited the definition of a "worker" to mean "any person, including an apprentice, employed in any establishment or industry, either directly or through a contractor [...] but does not include a person employed mainly in a managerial, administrative or supervisory capacity".

For years, this excluded those with managerial duties in their job descriptions from enjoying the rights afforded to other workers.

On November 17, 2025, the interim-era labour ordinance

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Farmers race to save crops as rains pause

Heavy showers forecast

STAR REPORT

For the first time in nearly a week, the sun broke through over the haor, prompting farmers to rush to their fields.

By dawn on Thursday, thousands of farmers of the seven Haor districts and their families went to the field to harvest, haul, thresh and dry Boro paddy.

Roadsides of the 19,000 square kilometres of Haor areas became drying floors, courtyards were buried under freshly cut sheaves, and even children skipped school to help carry grain with their family.

"I felt some relief today as the sun came out," said Rashid Mia, a farmer from Bhuksimuil village in Hakaluki haor in Moulvibazar.

Rashid managed to retrieve the paddy that had sunk into the water but could not dry it due to the rain.

But the sliver of light brought him hope. Joy Sarkar, a college student from Khaliajuri upazila, was seen harvesting submerged paddy alongside his farmer father.

"Today is somewhat better with a bit of sunshine," he said, adding that they hired three labourers at Tk 1,200 per day to harvest four acres of land that went underwater.

Similarly, Shiblul Das, a farmer from Badalpur in Habiganj's Ajmiriganj, who cultivated 13 bighas of leased land by spending over Tk 1.5 lakh, has hired labourers to salvage whatever remains underwater.

In Kishoreganj's Majlispur Khola, one of the largest drying fields next to the Nikli-Karimganj road, the stillness

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3, 5, B1

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Several paddy fields have gone under water at Gollapara village in Tanore upazila, Rajshahi. A farmer was seen cutting paddy and ferrying it home by boat yesterday. He said due to low prices he will struggle to recover production costs. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN