



Dhaka, Ankara seek closer defence ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan yesterday reaffirmed Ankara's commitment to strengthening ties with Bangladesh, especially in the defence sector.

Calling Bangladesh an exceptional country and a strong voice of the Global South, he said it holds strategic importance for regional security and that stronger Dhaka-Ankara ties would contribute to stability in South Asia.

"We will continue to take steps that will embody our common will to strengthen our relations through new projects and reinforce stability, peace and prosperity in South Asia," Hakan Fidan said after a meeting with Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman at a hotel in Dhaka.

Khalilur said the two countries were committed to deepening cooperation and elevating their bilateral partnership to a new strategic level in the coming days.

The ministers said bilateral trade, which stood at \$1.36 billion in 2025, could be increased to \$2 billion.

"There are steps that can be taken

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Rescuers salvage a bus from the Padma after it plunged into the river while boarding a ferry at Daulatdia Ferry Ghat in Rajbari's Goalanda upazila yesterday. The incident occurred around 9:30am at pontoon 7 of the ferry ghat. There were no passengers on board at the time of the accident as all passengers had been asked to disembark before the bus got on the ferry. However, the driver, his assistant, and the supervisor sustained injuries and were sent to a hospital.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Seven killed in road crashes in 3 districts

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and three others were injured in road accidents in Sirajganj, Brahmanbaria and Gazipur districts yesterday.

In Sirajganj's Belkuchi upazila, three people, including a couple, were killed when a passenger bus of Dhaka Express hit a battery-run rickshaw-van coming from opposite direction in the Meghulla Bus Stand area on the Belkuchi-Enayetpur regional road around 7:30am.

The deceased were identified as: rickshaw-van driver Nurul Islam, 35; Abdul Mottaleb, 40, and his wife Fajila Khatun, 35.

The couple's daughter, Tamanna Khatun, 16, was undergoing treatment at Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College Hospital in Enayetpur with critical injuries, said Iman Jafar, officer-in-charge of Belkuchi Police Station.

Police recovered the three bodies and seized the bus. However, its driver managed to flee the scene. Legal steps were underway, the OC said.

In Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila, three people, including a woman and her son, were killed and two others injured as a fish-laden pick-up van hit a CNG-run autorickshaw from behind in the Biallishwar area on Cumilla-Sylhet highway in the morning.

The deceased were identified as: CNG auto-rickshaw driver Mahbub Mia, 45; Josna Begum, 40, and her son Ashraful, 5. They died after being taken to Brahmanbaria General Hospital.

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Delhi trip for treatment turns fatal for family

Cumilla man die in hotel fire, four relatives in ICU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The Bangladeshi national among the 22 people killed in the recent hotel fire in India's New Delhi was from Chaudhagram upazila of Cumilla.

Nurul Amin, 44, was from Sangishwar village under Chiora union. He had travelled to India with family members for his brother-in-law's kidney treatment, said Chaudhagram Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shahadat Hossain.

Nurul died on Thursday while undergoing treatment at a Delhi hospital.

Four members of his family were seriously injured in the fire and are currently receiving treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU). The injured are his brother-in-law Mosharraf Hossain, elder sister Rehana Akter, cousin Umme Johora, and Johora's daughter Umme Jaima.

According to family members, Mosharraf had been suffering from kidney failure. On doctors' advice, Nurul travelled to New Delhi on June 2 with four relatives for Mosharraf's kidney transplant procedure.

They were staying at a hotel in Malviya Nagar,

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Nurul Amin

US to win Iran war 'militarily or on paper'

Trump insists no deal needed to get enriched uranium; Israeli strikes kill 7 in Lebanon despite truce

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump has said the United States would emerge victorious in its standoff with Iran, whether through diplomacy or military force. He also signalled a possible meeting with Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei if the agreement is sealed.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Thursday evening, Trump suggested that the conflict could be resolved either through

there's no reason to. It's entombed," he told reporters in the Oval Office.

Trump also said that he did not want to meet with Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei. But he added that if Washington and Tehran reached a deal, it was possible that the two would meet and added: "If it happened ... I'd be respectful".

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has dismissed the idea of his country's Supreme Leader meeting Trump. "I saw a report

the territories they have occupied."

Iran's navy said yesterday it had fired warning shots at US destroyers in the Gulf of Oman to counter "maritime mischief and harassment and the hijacking of commercial vessels and oil tankers". Earlier, US forces said they had boarded an oil tanker in the Indian Ocean and said they would continue to block "vessels providing material support to Iran".

In Oman, an alleged drone attack forced the suspension of oil loading

US forces board tanker; Iran fires warning shots

Explosion halts oil loading at Oman's Mina al Fahal terminal

Iran rules out Trump-Khamenei talks, backs Hezbollah

Israel issues new evacuation warnings in Lebanon

military means or diplomacy, as negotiations continue over a memorandum of understanding aimed at ending months of hostilities.

"We're going to win one way or the other," Trump said, adding, "It's going to be militarily or on paper."

He said that Washington did not need a deal with Iran to get enriched uranium from the country. "We could get it right now. I don't think they could stop us if we wanted, but

which apparently said that he (Trump) had stated that he was ready for a meeting or that he wanted to hold a meeting," Araghchi told Al Mayadeen television channel.

"I think we should be realistic and think and live in the real world," he said.

"This war will end only when it ends in Lebanon as well," Araghchi said, adding: "The end of the war on Lebanon must be accompanied by the withdrawal of Israeli forces from

at the Mina al Fahal terminal after an explosion, sources said, before normal operations resumed.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes in the historic south Lebanon city of Tyre killed seven people, a source from the civil defence told AFP yesterday, despite a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war.

One strike near Jabal Amel hospital killed four people, wounded seven and lightly

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Bhutan to pay families cash for more babies



REUTERS, Kathmandu

The tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is worried about its declining population and has announced cash incentives to families to produce more children.

Nestled between China and India in the eastern Himalayas, Bhutan, a country of fewer than 800,000 people, is offering families monthly incentives of 10,000 ngultrums (about \$105) for every third and subsequent children born on or after June 4, 2026 until the child reaches three, the government said in a statement on Thursday.

It will also cover eligible third and more children who were born before but have not yet attained three years of age as of the above date.



ERRATUM

This photo was miscredited in yesterday's paper. It was taken by Kajol Hazra. We regret the error.



US Senate passes \$70b for ICE in new funds

AFP, Washington

The US Senate yesterday approved \$70 billion in funding for Donald Trump's hardline immigration crackdown, but only after a long day of votes on multiple amendments that highlighted Republican infighting over some of the president's other contentious policy proposals.

The bill would fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol through the rest of Trump's term, handing the Republican leader a major victory on one of his signature issues after months of bitter fighting over the future of immigration enforcement.

It now heads to the House of Representatives, where Republican leaders hope to move it early next

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Topu Barman heads home the first of his two goals during Bangladesh's 2-1 victory over San Marino in a FIFA international friendly at the San Marino Stadium last night. The veteran centre-back struck in the 19th minute before netting the winner in the 86th, as Bangladesh marked new coach Thomas Dooley's debut with a historic triumph — their first-ever match on European soil and their first victory against European opposition.

PHOTO: BFF