

Ankara eyes

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The two sides agreed to hold annual Foreign Office Consultations at the level of foreign ministers and to introduce annual 2+2 consultations involving the foreign and defence ministers of both countries.

They also decided to establish a consultation mechanism in the form of a committee under their respective foreign ministers, involving relevant ministries from both sides, with the aim of further strengthening political, economic and strategic cooperation.

The meeting reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations, with discussions focusing particularly on the Rohingya issue, climate change, trade and investment, joint production and cooperation, and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Tarique thanked Fidan for the visit and invited President Erdoğan to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time in the near future.

According to the PM's Press Wing, the prime minister also expressed appreciation for Türkiye's continued support to Bangladesh, particularly its backing of Bangladesh's candidate for the presidency of the 81st UN General Assembly session.

From the Bangladesh side, Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed, and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir attended the meeting.

The meeting marked the final engagement of Fidan's official visit to Bangladesh.

In a message posted on his verified X account after wrapping up the visit, Fidan said Türkiye was determined to expand cooperation across all sectors in the coming period and would continue supporting Bangladesh with the same strong commitment.

Referring to his visit to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, the Turkish foreign minister said Bangladesh was shouldering a major responsibility by hosting more than one million Rohingya Muslims and that their shared goal remained a lasting and just solution to the crisis.

During his visit to Cox's Bazar, Fidan also inspected the activities of Türkiye's Ministry of Health, TİKA, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Turkish Religious Affairs Foundation and other Turkish institutions operating on the ground. He also met healthcare personnel working at the Türkiye-Bangladesh Humanitarian Aid Hospital.

Fidan arrived in Dhaka from Seoul on Thursday night on a three-day official visit.

On Friday, he held bilateral talks with Khalilur at a hotel in Dhaka before travelling to Cox's Bazar to observe the situation of Rohingya refugees.

The Turkish foreign minister was scheduled to leave Dhaka later yesterday.

Verdict today

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confessional statement and that the alleged murder weapon had not undergone forensic testing.

Lawyers involved in the case said they could not recall a verdict being delivered so quickly in a rape and murder trial.

Ramisa, a second-grade student of Popular Model High School, was found beheaded on May 19 at the home of her neighbour, Sohel, in the capital's Pallabi area.

The following day, her father, Abdul Hannan Mollah, filed a case with Pallabi Police Station, accusing Sohel, Swapna and an unidentified person.

According to the case statement, Sohel lured Ramisa into his room and raped her. Investigators said he later slit her throat and attempted to dismember the body to conceal the crime.

On May 24, the investigating officer, Sub-Inspector Ohiduzzaman of Pallabi Police Station, submitted a charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka, accusing Sohel of rape, murder and destruction of evidence. Swapna was charged with destruction of evidence, providing false information and assisting her husband in committing the offence.

Several hours later, the court transferred the case to the tribunal for trial.

Andreeva wins

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passing through qualies, winning so many matches, beating so many great players."

Defeat at the final hurdle brought to an end an astonishing run which started in qualifying for Chwalinska, who won nine matches in the French capital to become the first qualifier to reach the final in the Open era.

"I will definitely not forget these three weeks," she said. "Paris will stay forever in my heart."

Border killings, push-in attempts to top agenda

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of people, including women and children, stranded near the zero line on the Indian side of the border.

According to a BGB press release issued yesterday, border guards thwarted at least eight alleged push-in attempts involving around 75 people over the preceding 24 hours.

The first reported incident took place on May 8, when 10 people, including women and children, were allegedly pushed in through the Muraichhara border in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila. Such attempts have intensified since the beginning of this month.

On June 1, the BSF tried to push 13 people, including women and children, through the Sadipur border in Jashore's Sharsha upazila, but BGB

vigilance foiled the attempt.

On June 4, the BGB thwarted 10 separate push-in attempts within 24 hours involving around 90 people across border points in Jhenaidah, Joypurhat, Chapainawabganj, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Sylhet, and Netrokona.

BGB headquarters records show at least 2,303 people were pushed into Bangladesh between May 7, 2025, and January 26 this year. Of them, 126 were Indian nationals and 38 were Myanmar nationals.

A BGB official, on condition of anonymity, said the Indian nationals were returned through due process, though the status of the Myanmar citizens remains unconfirmed.

Although no such incidents were officially recorded between January and April this year, BGB officials

claimed fresh attempts resumed following the BJP's victory in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly election.

A senior official at BGB headquarters told The Daily Star that the force has identified around 70 vulnerable points along the border where the BSF could attempt further push-ins.

These areas are located in Jashore, Jhenaidah, Joypurhat, Satkhira, Naogaon, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Chapainawabganj, Sylhet, Netrokona, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Brahmanbaria.

Border killings will also feature prominently in the BGB-BSF talks.

According to rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least eight Bangladeshis have been killed by the BSF in firing or torture along

the border between January and May, 2026.

In 2025, 34 Bangladeshis were killed by the BSF.

"There is no legal or moral justification for extrajudicial killings along the border. These incidents must stop," said Colonel Abul Hasnat Mohammad Mahmud Azam.

According to BGB officials, the agenda includes stopping the alleged forced push-ins of Indian nationals and forcibly displaced Myanmar citizens, preventing illegal crossings, human trafficking, and the smuggling of drugs and weapons, as well as addressing border law violations and the construction of barbed-wire fences and other unauthorised structures within 150 yards of the international border.

Take strict stance against extortion, crime, drugs

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Seven ministers, including those in charge of home, education, power and energy, and road transport, gave presentations on the activities of their ministries in the last three months.

During the meeting, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said there would be no place for extortion or drugs in the country.

Strict action will be taken against anyone involved, whether inside or outside the party. No one will be spared even if the person belongs to the ruling party, he said at a meeting.

Tarique supported the statement and called for a strict stance against all crimes. He also asked the authorities to take steps to stop gambling.

In the education ministry's presentation, it was said that mistakes in the curriculum were being removed and corrected.

Tarique said the education programmes should be designed in a way that enables people to earn a livelihood after completing their

studies.

The meeting was also informed about decisions to introduce tabs for teachers and mid-day meals for students.

Tarique directed the authorities to take action against those involved in providing low-quality food under the mid-day meal programme.

During the meeting, the dengue situation was also discussed. Tarique asked the authorities to take necessary measures so that dengue does not have a major impact.

The meeting was informed that five agreements had been signed with China. These include the construction of five 1,000-bed hospitals, one of which will be built in Nilphamari. Tarique directed that one of the hospitals be built for women and children.

In the transport sector presentation, it was said that travel during the two Eid festivals was smooth. Road and bridge construction work is also ongoing.

The meeting also discussed the Padma Barrage and the Teesta Barrage. It was said that the projects, if implemented, would help address water-related problems.

On power and energy, the meeting was told that electricity prices had not increased for 66 percent of consumers. Those using up to 75 units of electricity will not face a price hike.

The decision on power prices was taken after considering people's overall situation. However, they said there was no alternative to raising prices due to the sector's financial pressure. Around Tk 1 lakh crore will have to be provided as subsidy, the meeting was told.

In the law ministry's presentation, progress in the Ramisa murder case was discussed. It was said that the verdict in the case would be delivered soon.

The meeting was also informed that progress in the Tanu murder case was satisfactory.

The law minister raised the issue of character assassination, false information and propaganda on social media. The meeting discussed ways to address such trends.

Talking to the reporters, Nurul said the meeting also discussed the economic situation.

"The government started its journey with a deficit of Tk 30 lakh crore. Despite such a large deficit, the government has managed the situation and moved forward. This was presented as a success of the government," he said.

On the resignation of Dipen Devan as the minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, the chief whip said that any minister in a parliamentary system may resign at any time, especially due to failure, illness, corruption or any act inconsistent with parliamentary norms.

"The minister concerned has said he resigned for health reasons. If there is any other reason, we will inform you," he added.

While there is no official figure for the total amount of frozen Iranian assets, media reports have estimated the sum at between \$100 billion and \$123 billion.

Lebanon – which was drawn into the Middle East war when Iran-backed Hezbollah attacked Israel on March 2 – called Friday for Iran to stop interfering in its affairs.

Yesterday, Lebanon said an Israeli strike in the south of the country had killed three of its soldiers. The Israeli military said it was "reviewing the incident" and insisted its operation in Lebanon was targeting Hezbollah, not the government army.

Israel and Hezbollah have traded attacks after a new truce deal was flatly rejected by the militant group. Iran, in its peace negotiations with Washington, has insisted that the fighting in Lebanon and the war in the Gulf are inextricably linked.

US-Iran truce being tested

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the US military said it struck radar sites in Iran after downing drones headed towards the strait.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said early yesterday they had targeted "enemy bases in the area" with missiles in response to a US operation targeting the country's Sirik and Qeshm islands.

"There are currently no reports of harm to US personnel, and Iranian claims of damaging US 5th fleet headquarters in Bahrain are false," CENTCOM said in a statement.

Iranian foreign ministry yesterday condemned the US attack on coastal radar installations in the Gulf, calling it a "flagrant" violation of the ceasefire.

The latest flare-up came despite the United States moving ahead with allowing Iran's national football team to travel to the FIFA World Cup it is

co-hosting with Canada and Mexico.

US Ambassador to Turkey Tom Barrack confirmed the visa issuances, saying "sports transcends borders, and we look forward to welcoming competitors and fans from around the world".

An Iranian state television report confirmed that the team's players and technical staff had received their visas but that 15 administrative and managerial members of the delegation had been refused.

The team is due to fly from Turkey to Spain yesterday before arriving at their base camp in Mexico on Sunday.

US President Donald Trump told NBC News on Friday that Iran retains roughly "21, 22 percent" of its missile stockpile – more than the figure of 18 percent he gave in May – despite Washington's repeated insistence that Tehran's military capacity had been crippled.

Al-Muslim Group lays off 1,868 workers

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Speaking to The Daily Star, Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation President Rafiqul Islam Sujan said the company claimed it had carried out the layoffs under Section 20 of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006.

According to the provision, if a company faces a business downturn and a reduction in purchase orders, it may terminate workers beginning with the most recently recruited employees, he said.

He alleged that the company violated the provision by laying off many long-serving workers who had worked there for 10 to 15 years. He also claimed that workers had not

received their full lawful dues.

Sarwar Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Garments Workers' Unity Federation, said, "The company authorities have laid off selected workers at their own discretion. We strongly protest and condemn this."

Jochhna Begum, who was among the laid-off workers, alleged the company "falsely claimed" reduced purchase orders.

"There are sufficient orders, and many workers have been doing overtime to complete the work," she said.

"I have worked here for around 16 years, but now I have lost my job. By my calculation, the company owes me more than Tk 2 lakh, but I was

paid Tk 1.7 lakh."

Another worker, Sumitra Rani, said, "I have worked as a helper in the sewing section for more than eight years. But now I have been terminated. My dues were not paid in accordance with the labour law."

Contacted, Al-Muslim Group Deputy General Manager Md Abu Raihan claimed the layoffs were carried out in accordance with government regulations and company policies.

"We were compelled to undertake the process due to a shortage of purchase orders. However, we will reinstate the workers in future if purchase orders increase," he told this newspaper.

29 lakh receive widow allowance.

The disability allowance is being increased by Tk 100 to reach Tk 1,000 per month. On the other hand, the number of beneficiaries is being increased by about 250,000 to 38 lakh.

The education allowance for students with disabilities is being increased from Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,400.

In addition, the number of beneficiaries under the mother and child support programme is being increased by more than 100,000. However, the allowance remains at Tk 850.

In the upcoming budget, the allocation for financial assistance in the treatment of serious diseases like cancer, kidney and liver ailments will be increased to Tk 700 crore, and the

maximum assistance may rise to Tk 1 lakh from the existing Tk 50,000.

For freedom fighters, the number of beneficiaries and allowances will remain the same, but only the categories of Bir Shreshtha, Bir Uttam, Bir Bikram and Bir Protik will see their allowances increase by Tk 5,000.

Currently, these allowances range from Tk 20,000 to Tk 35,000 per month. At present, 589 individuals across these four categories receive allowances.

Meanwhile, on June 11, along with the budget for fiscal 2026-27, a separate social safety net budget document will be published outlining the five-year plan and detailed strategies for the social protection sector, the finance ministry officials said.

Bangladesh

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Bangladesh. The team arrived in Goa without several of the experienced players who formed the backbone of their previous title-winning campaigns, including Sabina Khatun, Krishna Rani Sarkar, Masura Parvin and Sanjida Akter. The squad also had to cope with the emotional blow of defender Sheuli Azim's mother's sudden death during the tournament, an event that deeply affected the players ahead of the semifinal against Nepal.

Their form had also been inconsistent. Bangladesh scraped past Maldives 4-2 in their opening match, suffered a heavy 3-0 defeat to India in the group stage and looked below their usual standards against Nepal despite reaching the final.

Yet Peter Butler's side rose to the occasion in the title decider.

Bangladesh nearly took the lead inside the opening 15 minutes but both Shamsunnahar Jr and Tohura Khatun failed to convert promising opportunities. While Bangladesh controlled large spells in midfield, India also created chances in an evenly contested first half.

Tohura came close again midway through the half, narrowly missing the far post, before India struck against the run of play in the 41st minute. A move down the left flank ended with Pyari Xaxa's shot taking a deflection off Suravi Akter Arfin before finding the net.

Bangladesh responded positively and almost equalised three minutes later when Anika Siddiqui was denied by Indian goalkeeper Panthoi Chanu. Their reward arrived just before the break as Ritu Porna Chakma slotted home from inside the box after being picked out by Tohura.

However, Bangladesh's hopes suffered an immediate setback after the restart. Just a minute into the second half, substitute Sanfida Nongrum headed home a cross from the left to restore India's lead.

Bangladesh continued to push forward and Shamsunnahar Jr came close to levelling in the 51st minute, but India gradually gained greater control after coach Crispin Chettri introduced fresh legs.

The decisive blow arrived in the 81st minute when Lynda Kom finished clinically to put the result beyond doubt.

Cockroach Party

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medical college entrance test, one of the country's most competitive exams, after investigators uncovered a question paper leak.

That came on top of another scandal related to the online marking system of tests taken by nearly two million high school students.

"India deserves better administration of such crucial exams," said 20-year-old protester Sarthak, who gave only one name.

Sapan Gyan, 52, who accompanied his sons to the protest, said that "young people... can't have a situation where these exam systems have no credibility left."

Environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk, 59, who has been at loggerheads with the government over demands for greater autonomy for the Himalayan region of Ladakh, said the students affected by the exam failures "have no voice, no say".

Conflicting letters

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that negotiations with DP World were continuing. "There has been no change in the process," the secretary said.

Explaining the first letter, he said the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Authority had provided its opinion on the matter, and the ministry's initial communication was issued based on that feedback. After the Chattogram Port Authority sought further clarification, a second letter was sent instructing officials to continue negotiations, he added.

A port official said that the day after receiving the ministry's letters, the Chattogram Port Authority formed an evaluation committee to complete the negotiation process. In a letter issued on Friday, a weekly holiday, the authority sought ministry approval for a seven-member committee.

The move to lease NCT to DP World under a PPP and government-to-government (G2G) framework was initiated during the tenure of the Awami League government but could not be completed.

Under the interim government, the initiative advanced to the final stage of negotiations. The process later became complicated due to objections raised by members of the negotiation committee and labour unrest over the proposed involvement of DP World. Eventually, the interim government suspended the leasing process on February 9.

The issue resurfaced after the BNP formed the government. At the fourth meeting of the Bangladesh-Dubai Joint Public-Private Partnership Platform on April 8, DP World proposed operating NCT together with the adjacent Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) as an integrated terminal facility.