





Ankara eyes strategic ties with Dhaka

Turkish foreign minister meets PM



UNB, Dhaka

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan yesterday described his visit as the “first step” towards elevating Bangladesh-Türkiye relations to a “strategic” level.

During a courtesy call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Prime Minister’s Office, Fidan also conveyed greetings from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, according to the foreign ministry.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



A tailback stretching around 15 kilometres persisted on the Jamuna Bridge and its approaches till yesterday as holidaymakers return to the capital following the Eid-ul-Azha break. Bridge authorities and highway police said heavy traffic pressure and several vehicle breakdowns on the bridge and connecting roads have caused the congestion since Friday night.

PHOTO: STAR

Al-Muslim Group lays off 1,868 workers

RMG workers protest in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Al-Muslim Group laid off 1,868 workers from its seven garment factories in Savar, citing a downturn in business, a move that sparked protests and allegations of labour law violations.

While the company said the layoffs followed legal procedures and that all dues had been paid, workers disputed both claims.

Workers said they first learned of the decision through SMS sent by the company on May 27 during the Eid vacation, informing them that their employment had been terminated.

The factories were scheduled to reopen yesterday. But when workers arrived in the morning to resume work, they found layoff notices posted at the factory gates.

In protest, the workers gathered around 8:30am and demonstrated on the service lane of the Dhaka-Aricha Highway in front of the factories.

Police later arrived and persuaded them to leave the road. Around 10:00am, the workers moved to the office of a labour organisation in the Ulail area.

At around 1:30pm, laid-off workers, joined by leaders and activists from several labour organisations, formed a human chain and held a protest programme at Ulail bus stand beside the Dhaka-Aricha Highway.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

‘Cockroach Party’ leads India exam fiasco protests

AFP, New Delhi

Hundreds of young students gathered in New Delhi yesterday for the first street protest organised by the satirical “Cockroach People’s Party” over alleged irregularities in recent major examinations.

Protesters, some in paper cockroach masks – a reference to reported remarks by India’s top judge – called for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the irregularities, including question paper leaks and technical glitches.

“We want accountability from the government,” 16-year-old Utkarsh Raj, who hopes to pursue a medical career, told AFP.

“How is it that exam papers get leaked in this country? How is this right?”

The protest, watched closely by police officers in riot gear, was led by Abhijeet Dipke, whose parody “Cockroach Janta Party” (CJP) – a play on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – has won millions of followers on social media since its launch last month.

“This protest is for the future of this country. This protest is for jobs,” Dipke, a former political communications strategist for the opposition Aam Aadmi Party, told the rally.

“The youth of the country... will fight,” said the 30-year-old organiser, who returned to India from the United States on Saturday.

The movement emerged after India’s Chief Justice Surya Kant reportedly likened young people who criticised the government to “cockroaches” and “parasites” during a court hearing, sparking outrage.

Kant later said his comments were taken out of context.

Despite rapid economic growth, millions of people in the world’s most populous nation still struggle to find stable and well-paying jobs, fuelling discontent.

Last month, authorities scrapped the nationwide

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

US-Iran truce being tested

Tehran fires missiles at Bahrain, Kuwait after US strikes on its radar installations; talks remain in deadlock

AGENCIES

Iran launched a salvo of missiles at US allies Bahrain and Kuwait yesterday, after renewed American strikes, drawing a furious response from the Gulf monarchies and further undermining a fragile truce.

Weeks of indirect talks marked by

Iran launched a salvo of missiles at US allies Bahrain and Kuwait yesterday, after renewed American strikes, drawing a furious response from the Gulf monarchies and further undermining a fragile truce.

Weeks of indirect talks marked by

second against both nations in three days, as “blatant aggression” and “a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of both countries”.

Kuwait’s foreign ministry warned that the Iranian attacks “represent a dangerous escalation” and a direct threat to the “lives of citizens and residents”.

Gulf monarchies condemn ‘blatant aggression’

Iran says frozen funds key to progress in US talks

Trump says Iran has ‘22 percent’ of missiles left

tit-for-tat threats and sporadic strikes have failed to secure a deal to end the Middle East war or reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for Gulf oil and gas shipments.

Yesterday, the island kingdom of Bahrain, which hosts the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet, denounced the latest attacks against its territory and that of Kuwait.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said Iran had launched seven ballistic missiles towards the countries, but that six had been intercepted and one had fallen short.

Manama described the attacks, the

In Bahrain’s capital Manama, an AFP journalist heard three explosions as air raid sirens sounded.

In Kuwait, another AFP journalist heard repeated blasts near the country’s international airport, which had been struck on Wednesday in an attack blamed on Iran that killed one person.

Formally, a ceasefire in the war, which was triggered almost 100 days ago by US and Israeli strikes that wiped out Iran’s top leadership, has been in place since April 8.

But tensions rose on Friday, when

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Conflicting letters revive debate over NCT lease

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The lease process of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chattogram Port has returned to the spotlight after the Ministry of Shipping issued two letters on the same day carrying seemingly different instructions.

In a letter sent to the port authority on Thursday morning, the ministry instructed officials either to expedite the process of finalising the lease agreement with Dubai-based port operator DP World or cancel the initiative.

However, another letter issued later the same day directed the port authority to continue negotiations with the company.

Both letters were signed by Senior Assistant Secretary of the ministry Farzana Hossain.

The NCT leasing initiative, which had been suspended toward the end of the interim government, regained momentum under the BNP government.

When contacted yesterday evening, Shipping Secretary Zakaria told The Daily Star

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

Andreeva wins 1st Grand Slam at Roland Garros



AFP, Paris

Mirra Andreeva won her first Grand Slam title on Saturday by downing Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in straight sets in the French Open final.

The 19-year-old Russian beat Chwalinska 6-3, 6-2 to become the youngest Roland Garros women’s singles champion since Monica Seles, then aged 18, won her third straight title in Paris in 1992.

With her first-ever major crown, Andreeva also became the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand Slam.

The Coupe Suzanne Lenglen will now take centre spot in Andreeva’s burgeoning trophy cabinet, which already features two WTA 1000 titles.

“I’ve been watching Roland Garros on TV since I was very, very young, so it’s also a big dream of mine to win this tournament and I honestly cannot believe that I’m holding this trophy right now,” Andreeva said on court, before thanking her team and notably her psychologist.

“Congrats to Maja for these amazing three weeks,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Wind from Milky Way’s black hole is finally discovered

REUTERS, Washington



After five decades of trying, astronomers have finally discovered the wind emanating from the supermassive black hole at the center of our Milky Way galaxy, though it turns out it is more of a gentle breeze than a hurricane.

Using data from the Chile-based ALMA telescope and NASA’s orbiting Chandra X-ray Observatory, the researchers viewed the cosmic neighborhood around the black hole – called Sagittarius A*, or Sgr A* for short.

They spotted a vast conical cavity filled with hot, electrically charged gas adjacent to Sgr A* that they concluded was sculpted by wind blowing from the black hole that swept away or heated up the cold gas that had populated the region. They said the energy needed to create such a cavity could be generated only by a supermassive black hole.

Black holes are extraordinarily dense objects with gravity so strong that not even light can escape. Galaxies typically have a supermassive black hole at their core that pulls in gas and other material in its surroundings.



Bangladesh players look dejected after their bid for a third successive SAFF Women’s Championship title ended in a 3-1 defeat to India in the final at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bangladesh lose SAFF crown to India

ANISUR RAHMAN
from Margao

Bangladesh produced a much better performance than previous matches yet fell short of defending their SAFF Women’s Championship title, suffering a 3-1 defeat to hosts India in the final at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao yesterday.

The women in red and green had been bidding to become the first team other than India to win three consecutive SAFF titles. Having lifted the previous two editions after India had won the first five, Bangladesh entered the final with a chance to create history but ultimately had to settle for the runners-up trophy.

The tournament had been far from straightforward for

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6