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16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00



Israeli military kills four in Gaza, expands control zone
P5



How FY27 budget can bridge our climate finance gap
P6



Ramisa, Asiya, and the unfinished duty of the state
P7



'Huge opportunity' to end Australia ODI hoodoo
P11

AUDIT OF BANK DONATIONS 2015-24

Tk 1,243cr flowed to PM's fund, entities linked to Hasina

Contributions were allegedly made under pressure during Nazrul Islam Mazumder's leadership at BAB

AHSAN HABIB

Banks donated Tk 1,243 crore to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund and organisations linked to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her family over a decade beginning in 2015 under the direct influence of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), according to a forensic audit.

The audit found that the transfers took place when BAB was led by Nazrul Islam Mazumder, a close ally of the ousted premier.

Of the amount, BAB directly collected Tk 105 crore from member banks and later transferred it to selected organisations, while most of the remaining Tk 1,138 crore was provided directly by banks to the PM's fund, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman Memorial Trust and Shuchona Foundation following request letters issued by the association.

The auditors also identified another Tk 565 crore transferred by banks to the same organisations during the period, although they did not find any demand letters or documentary evidence showing the payments were made at BAB's request.

Overall, 29 banks donated Tk 1,809 crore, around 24 percent of their total corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending, to the PM's fund and organisations linked to Hasina and her family during the 10 years.

According to the audit, these transfers often did not align with the banks' CSR planning.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



BSF takes back 21 stranded people as BGB blocks push-ins
Bangladesh strengthens surveillance; border talks begin

Over 2,000 people pushed in between May 2025 and Jan 2026: BGB

Around 20 push-in attempts reported since early June this year: BGB

Thermal drones introduced, patrols intensified for border monitoring

Ansar-VDP members deployed in 11 border districts

STAR REPORT

India's Border Security Force (BSF) has taken back 21 people, including women and children who had remained stranded for days near the Panchagarh and Thakurgaon borders, after Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) thwarted repeated attempts to push them into Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the BGB also strengthened border surveillance by introducing thermal drones, intensifying patrols, and launching awareness campaigns.

Members of the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) have been deployed in 11 border districts to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Push-in bids will not be accepted

Warns Shama Obaed; 4,800 Bangladeshis deported: Suvendu

STAR REPORT

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed yesterday said India's attempts to push people into Bangladesh without following due process will not be accepted.

"The BSF's attempts at push-ins are being firmly resisted by the BGB," she added while speaking to journalists at the foreign ministry.

The state minister said Bangladesh has sent a dozen diplomatic letters to India seeking an end to push-in attempts along the border and cautioned that such incidents could strain bilateral relations, stressing that repatriation of undocumented individuals must follow legal processes.

Speaking to The Daily Star on the same day, Col AHM Mahmud Azam,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Iran, Israel halt strikes on each other for now

Trump says foes must 'stop shooting' as 'final negotiations on peace' are proceeding

AGENCIES

Iran and Israel yesterday said that hostilities between them had halted, after the two countries exchanged strikes that threatened to reignite the Middle East war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the "fire on that front is contained" hours after Tehran said it had

It yesterday said it would attack again if Israel persisted with its strikes in Lebanon. Netanyahu warned in turn that should Iran "make the mistake of resuming attacks against us, we will respond with full force".

Defying Iran's warning, an Israeli strike hit a vehicle in the city of Tyre, in southern Lebanon, Lebanese state media reported. Hezbollah meanwhile said it had targeted Israeli troops in

Israel strikes Lebanon defying Iran warning

Iran fires 30 missiles at Israel, downs drone over Tehran

Pakistan PM calls for restraint with objective close

US not looking for diplomatic solution with Iran: Tehran

stopped its military action against Israel.

Tehran launched missiles at Israel on Sunday over its ongoing war against Hezbollah in Lebanon, which prompted Israel to strike back, despite efforts by US President Donald Trump to dissuade Netanyahu from doing so.

That triggered another round of Iranian missiles, before Tehran announced it would cease fire.

Iran has sought for weeks to link the wider Middle East truce, in place since April 8, to Israel's war against Hezbollah, warning that attacks on Lebanon would force it to act.

Lebanon, but did not claim any attacks on Israeli territory.

Earlier, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz insisted that the campaign in Lebanon would carry on regardless and said Israel would strike the Hezbollah-dominated southern suburbs of Beirut in retaliation for each attack on northern Israel by the militant group.

In one of several posts on social media, Trump said Israel and Iran both wanted "an immediate CEASEFIRE! Final negotiations on 'Peace' are

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Swechchhasebak Dal man stabbed to death in city

Jubo Dal leader expelled, committee dissolved after family alleges involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Swechchhasebak Dal leader was stabbed to death during an arbitration in the capital's Mouchak area last night.

The deceased was identified as Billal Hossain Talukdar, 57, former convener of Ramna thana Swechchhasebak Dal. He lived in the Malibagh Baganbari area and ran a sand and cement business in the area, police said.

"The victim had a stab wound on his chest. Ramna Police Station has been informed of the incident," said Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital police outpost.

He said the body had been kept at the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

The incident took place around 8:00pm in front of Anarkali Market

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Billal Hossain

2 GOALS FOR



Luis Monti's dual glory

Luis Monti is the only player to have played in World Cup finals for two different countries.

He played for Argentina in the 1930 final, finishing as runner-up, and later won the 1934 World Cup with Italy.

****Visit the Star website to also read: 'World Cup 2026 in numbers: Key statistical goals, titles and age records'**



Farmers in Mohanpur upazila, Rajshahi, who planted Boro paddy after harvesting potatoes, have just begun reaping their crops. Since recurring rainfall has left the fields waterlogged, farmers are cutting and storing the paddy along roadsides, fearing heavy showers in the coming days. The photo was taken Sunday at Bara Debpur Beel.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

BCB polls: Legality intact, legitimacy questioned

BISHWAJIT ROY

In the polished corridors of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, where cricket is meant to be played, celebrated, and governed, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has once again produced an election that feels less like a contest and more like a coronation dressed up as process.

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal has been elected uncontested as president of the BCB, after no rival candidate stepped forward to challenge his nomination. On paper, it is presented as a smooth consensus. In reality, it raises an old and uncomfortable question in Bangladesh cricket: how much of this was ever truly open to competition?

In Bangladesh cricket governance, the term "uncontested" rarely signals unity – more often it suggests the outcome was settled long before the ballots were cast, and the formalities merely followed.

Tamim's rise from ad hoc committee chief to elected president is being projected as a natural transition of leadership. Yet the shift feels less like a democratic handover and more like a carefully managed handoff, shaped by alignments of influence that were visible well before election day.

An ad hoc committee had been appointed with the stated mandate of ensuring a free and fair election.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

