





# 'India can't play Hasina card and seek friendly ties'

## Salahuddin warns of rethinking ties

DU CORRESPONDENT



Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said Bangladesh would have to rethink its relations with India if New Delhi allows former prime minister Sheikh Hasina to conduct political activities from its territory, adding such activities aimed at destabilising the country are incompatible with India's desire for friendly ties.

"India will play the Hasina card and seek a friendly relationship with Bangladesh -- the two are contradictory. I hope the Indian authorities -- the Indian government -- will understand this," he said.

Salahuddin made the remarks at a discussion titled "Teachers' Role in

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PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

**Makeshift stalls continue to operate on the railway tracks in Dhaka's Jurain yesterday, crowding the area and heightening fears of a major accident. A similar scene was captured in a photo published by The Daily Star in late May, showing that little has changed since then.**

# Aynaghar bears signs of brutal torture

## ICT chief prosecutor says after visiting JIC cells

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal has found physical evidence inside the DGFI-run interrogation cell, widely known as Aynaghar, consistent with survivors' accounts of prolonged secret detention and torture.

According to its Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam, parts of the facility appeared altered or concealed after the fall of Sheikh Hasina regime on August 5, 2024.

Aminul made the remarks yesterday after visiting the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) at the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment.

He was accompanied by ICT judges, along with prosecution and defence lawyers, who inspected the site as part of proceedings in enforced disappearance and torture cases.

The JIC, located in Dhaka's Kachukhet area, has 26 cells. "Prime Minister Tarique Rahman was detained and tortured in one of the cells during the 1/11 caretaker

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BIMAN FLIGHT FROM TORONTO

# 174 Bangladeshis stranded for over 33hrs in Rome

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least 174 Bangladeshi passport holders, including elderly people, women and children, had been stranded at Rome's Fiumicino International Airport for nearly 33 hours since landing there at 7:20am (Rome time) on Friday, after a technical glitch grounded a Biman Bangladesh Airlines aircraft.




Videos shared by passengers, copies of which were obtained by The Daily Star, showed some lying on the airport floor, while others sat on chairs and inside a lounge. Passengers and their relatives complained of exhaustion, illness, lack of sleep and difficulty accessing medicines and other essentials.

Amina Anjum Tonni, a private-sector employee in Dhaka whose parents are among those stranded, described their ordeal.

"It has already been over 28 hours. My father has had three bypass heart surgeries, and he has had no sleep at all, having sat upright the entire time," she told The Daily Star around 7:30pm (Dhaka time) yesterday.

She added that passengers were initially kept inside

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TONU MURDER CASE

# Hafizur held again after bail suspension

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cumilla*

Retired army warrant officer Hafizur Rahman has been rearrested by the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) for failing to surrender within the 24-hour deadline set by the court after his bail was stayed in the Sohagi Jahan Tonu murder case.

Hafizur was arrested from his residence in Dhaka's Keraniganj yesterday morning. He was later produced before a Cumilla court around 3:30pm, where Senior Judicial Magistrate Tayeb Uddin of Cognisance Court-5 ordered that he be sent to jail.

The PBI said Hafizur was arrested to prevent him from fleeing and to implement an order of the Appellate Division's chamber court.

Mahbubur Rahman, additional public prosecutor of the Cumilla Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, said Hafizur was released from Cumilla Central Jail on August 4 after the High Court granted him bail.

The state later appealed, seeking to suspend the bail order.

On August 6, Appellate Division Chamber Judge

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SAUDI-TURKEY-PAK DEFENCE PACT

# Riyadh turns to Muslim powers amid Iran war

CNN ONLINE

Saudi Arabia has drawn two of the Muslim world's most formidable military powers into its defense as the Iran war moves closer to the kingdom.

Pakistan and Turkey signed a Nato-style mutual defense pact with Saudi Arabia in Makkah on Friday, consolidating their longstanding security ties into a collective-defence alliance that stipulates an attack against any of them "shall be regarded as attack on them all."

That commitment could draw Pakistan and Turkey into a war they have carefully kept at arm's length.

The official rationale for the agreement is "to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression" and further provide "for the enhancement of all aspects of defence cooperation among the three states," according to a statement released by all three countries.

More specifically, the pact gives Saudi Arabia a powerful new layer of protection beyond its longstanding security partnership with the United States amid growing regional doubts over whether Washington can still be relied upon to protect its oil-rich Gulf allies.

Turkey has the second-largest military in Nato, behind only the US, while Pakistan is the only nuclear-armed Muslim nation.

Such powerful allies strengthen Saudi deterrence and present a united Sunni-led military front against a mounting Iranian threat, though a Turkish official told CNN the agreement isn't directed against any specific actor and the Saudi foreign ministry insisted this "does not represent an effort to establish a military axis or a sectarian bloc."



Other regional countries can also join, the Turkish official added, raising the prospect of the alliance drawing in new members much like Nato.

The statement did not give specifics on the commitments each had accepted, and it is unclear how far the agreement would bind the three countries to any particular military action in each other's defence.

The pact also comes as Israel expands its military reach across the region and Riyadh's relations with the neighbouring United Arab Emirates fray.

Pakistan and Turkey each share a border with Iran and both have strong reasons to prevent the conflict from spiralling. Pakistan

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# New BTV DG appointed under dormant law

## JS passed act 25 years ago, but no activation gazette was issued

BAHARAM KHAN

Questions have been raised over the legality of appointing the new director general (DG) of Bangladesh Television (BTV).

Although media personality Kazi Jesin was appointed BTV DG last Thursday under the "Bangladesh Television Authority Act, 2001", neither the Ministry of Information nor the Ministry of Public Administration could provide information on whether the law is actually in effect.

BTV's website features at least 22 documents on its rules and regulations but makes no mention of the act, which was passed by parliament during the tenure of the then Awami League government to grant autonomy to BTV, according to sources.

However, no gazette notification to bring the act into force has been issued over the past 25 years, as required by the act itself. This means that although parliament passed the act, it has not yet taken effect. Yet the Ministry of Public Administration appointed the new DG by citing the same law.

Harun-or-Rashid, a former additional secretary who served as BTV director general from 2016 to 2021, told The Daily Star yesterday, "Although the 2001 law was formulated to run BTV, it was not in effect during my tenure. I have not heard

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# Iran, Oman 'very close' to deal on Hormuz

REUTERS, *Cairo/Washington/Riyadh*

Iran yesterday said that a deal with Oman on control of the Strait of Hormuz was close but would not be enough to free up the waterway, and the United Arab Emirates said Iran had hit another ship there.

A US official, who declined to be identified, said on Friday that Washington anticipated an agreement soon between Iran and Oman, which sit on either side of the strait, so that normal oil traffic could resume.

US official says deal to reopen strait close | IRGC says US must accept conditions to open waterway | UAE says Iran struck a ship in strait with a missile

Oman also said that negotiations with Iran about the future administration of the Strait of Hormuz were "positive and constructive".

Agreement between the two countries over control of the strategic waterway is seen as crucial to a wider agreement to end the conflict that began with US and Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran and Oman were "very close" to agreement on a new shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz but that reopening

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PHOTO: AFP

**A building burns after being hit by a Russian ballistic missile in the Kyiv region yesterday. Russian strikes killed at least four people, including a child, in a district northeast of Ukraine's capital. Ukraine retaliated by striking two oil refineries in Russia.**

# Infantino bins claims of employee favouritism

AGENCIES



FIFA president Gianni Infantino has strongly denied allegations that UEFA made a six-figure severance payment to a woman with whom he was alleged to have had a relationship while he was secretary general of European football's governing body.

The allegations, reported by the Daily Telegraph, claim the payment was made during Infantino's time at UEFA, where he served as secretary general from 2009 to 2016 after joining the organisation in 2000.

An Infantino spokesperson described the allegations as "categorically untrue" and

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