

"We will make our methods much tougher in order to dismantle everything that fuels Kyiv's war machine from the West."

Russian FM **Sergei Lavrov** on Ukraine war

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Toxic gas kills 9 at shipbreaking yard in Ctg

The yard flouted safety standards, ignored repeated warnings; victims had no protective gear





Firefighters, aided by volunteers, recover bodies and rescue the injured after they were exposed to toxic gas inside a scrap vessel at Ferdous Steel, a shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda of Chattogram, yesterday morning. *Inset:* the vessel MT Rasi, an LNG tanker that's a little under three football pitches in length, arrived at the Chattogram anchorage in July 2025 and was officially beached for demolition on July 13, 2025. The ship was being dismantled for months prior to yesterday's incident. PHOTO: STAR

STAR REPORT

Nine workers and employees died after inhaling toxic gas inside a scrap vessel at a shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda of Chattogram yesterday morning.

The incident occurred around 9:00am at Ferdous Steel, located in the Station Road area under Bhatiari union.

Last month, the yard was sued by the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) for failing to ensure occupational safety.

The vessel MT Rasi, an LNG tanker that's a little under three football pitches in length, arrived at the Chattogram anchorage in July 2025 and was officially beached for demolition on July 13, 2025. The ship was being dismantled for months prior to yesterday's incident.

Md Selim, a worker who survived, said, "Some of us went inside the vessel, while others were outside. Suddenly, we heard screams of 'gas, gas'. We rushed in to rescue them, but the fumes were so overpowering that we had to retreat," recalled Selim, lying in the casualty ward of Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

"I've worked here for 18 years but never faced such horror before," he remarked.

On information, firefighters responded to the scene and recovered the bodies and rescued injured workers from the vessel, said Md Mamun, a senior officer at the Kumira station of the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

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A child will be fatherless at birth

SIFAYET ULLAH, *Ctg*

Palash Jaladas, 35, was only weeks away from becoming a father. His wife, Bhumika, is seven and a half months pregnant, and the couple had been waiting for the arrival of their first child, imagining how their lives would change once the baby came.

However, in a cruel twist of fate, Palash died yesterday morning after inhaling toxic fumes while working inside a scrap vessel at a shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram.

And so by the afternoon, the home in Jaladas Para -- where the couple had been preparing for a new beginning -- had turned into a place of mourning.

His father, Harendra Jaladas, sat with relatives, struggling to come to terms with the loss of the son who carried the family on his shoulders.

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Tarique likely to visit India between August 20 and 25

Say diplomatic sources

PORIMOL PALMA

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is likely to visit India between August 20 and 25, with Dhaka and New Delhi discussing the specific dates within the timeframe, diplomatic sources said.



The development follows Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi's one-to-one meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 11, a day after he met Tarique in Dhaka.

Several Indian media outlets have also reported on the possible visit.

"Both sides have been interested in a bilateral visit, but the schedule was an issue. After weighing various schedules, the top officials of both countries have come close to a schedule between August 20 and 25," a diplomatic source in New Delhi told The Daily Star.

One schedule under consideration is August 20-21, while another is August 21-22.

This will be finalised once Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi resumes work in Dhaka, the source said.

Trivedi landed in Dhaka yesterday evening.

Another diplomatic source said Dhaka and New Delhi agreed to proceed with a bilateral visit after it was decided that Tarique would not attend the BRICS summit scheduled for September 12-13 in New Delhi.

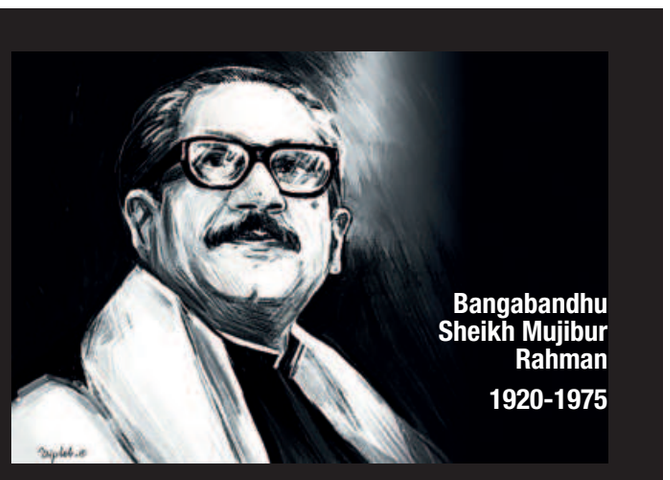
Dhaka had initially preferred a date towards the end of August. However, the Indian side sought a different schedule because of Modi's planned visit to Kyrgyzstan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State summit on September 1.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman is also expected to travel to New York in early September to assume his role as president of the UN General Assembly.

Thus, both sides wanted the visit to be between August 20 and 25, the source said.

This would be Tarique's first visit to India since he assumed office in February. This could help improve relations, which have been strained since the ouster of the Awami League government in August 2024.

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The day before his assassination

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

It was like any other day.

On August 14, 1975, the president's office carried out its routine functions. Officials exchanged pleasantries, ministers held meetings, decisions were taken and instructions were given. Preparations were also under way for Bangladesh's founding president to visit Dhaka University the next morning.

No one knew it then, but it would be remembered as the last day in office for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Amid the bustle, Mujib's thoughts turned to the failing health of a man he knew. At around 11:00am, he told his assistant private secretary, Shahriar Iqbal, that Ataur Rahman Khan had gone to London for treatment and asked that his daughters be requested to come over.

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Khaleda's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 80th birthday of former BNP chairperson and prime minister Khaleda Zia will be observed today with a series of programmes announced by the party.

Born in 1946, Khaleda was 79 when she passed away last year on December 30, five days after her son Tarique Rahman returned home from exile.

This will be the first time in 17 years that Tarique observes his mother's birth anniversary while in Bangladesh, and the first since her passing.

Tarique, who assumed

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Bangladesh opener Tanzid Tamim celebrates his maiden Test ton against Australia on Day 2 of the first Test at Marrara Stadium in Darwin yesterday. Tanzid's historic 101 made him the first Bangladesh player to score a Test century in Australia. Supported by a crucial 84 from skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, his milestone helped the Tigers continue to dictate terms and surge into the lead. The visitors ended the day firmly in control at 351-6, taking a 153-run lead. PHOTO: AFP

Summit LNG back online; Excelerate FSRU now offline

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Just as the Summit LNG terminal resumed feeding the national grid yesterday, Excelerate Energy's terminal went offline following another technical fault, prolonging the severe gas shortage that has stifled economic activities.



Excelerate's terminal, the Excellence, had a fire incident on July 21 and went offline. It resumed operations at half the capacity on August 6. It tripped again around 4:00pm yesterday, The Daily Star has learnt from Petrobangla officials.

The terminal was expected to resume supply later last night, but at the time of filing the report at 10:30pm, it was offline.

About two hours after the Excellence went offline, Summit's terminal, which had stopped operating from 5:00pm Thursday as it ran out of gas, began feeding the national grid again.

However, the resumption was not without drama.

The terminal was scheduled to receive a shipment from Saudi Aramco on Wednesday via the Al Hamra tanker. But the vessel was not

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