Tarique to visit Türkiye for COP31 summit

May meet Erdoğan, says foreign secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will leave Dhaka today for a three-day official visit to Türkiye to attend the World Leaders' Summit of COP31, where he may also meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The summit will be held in Antalya on November 11-12.

"There is a possibility of a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the sidelines of the conference," Foreign Secretary Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury said while briefing reporters on the prime minister's upcoming visit at the foreign ministry yesterday morning.

The foreign secretary also confirmed that Tarique is expected to hold meetings with the Australian prime minister, the president of Uzbekistan, China's deputy prime minister and the British foreign secretary during the visit.



Vehicles travelling with their headlights on through dense fog, signalling the arrival of winter. Fog blankets the Rangpur region since early morning, significantly reducing visibility on the roads. The photo was taken in the Rangpur city's Satmatha area around 7:00am on Saturday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Iran war 'highly unlikely' to resume

Says Trump ahead of talks with Qatar's PM

AGENCIES



US President Donald Trump on Sunday cast doubt on renewed fighting with Iran, telling CNN that it was "highly unlikely" so long as talks progressed.

In recent weeks, Trump has threatened to renew strikes with US media reports suggesting that hostilities could resume after the US midterm elections this week.

"The answer is highly unlikely it's going to be necessary... I would if necessary, but we hit them really hard. I hit them so hard. You don't know how hard I hit them," Trump said, while warning that any decision to resume hostilities "depends on whether or not they sign a very strong agreement."

Trump previously acknowledged that the highly unpopular war with Iran was at least partially responsible for the stinging defeat that his Republican Party suffered in Tuesday's vote.

In the CNN interview Sunday, he once again suggested that the economic pressure Iran is under will force its leaders into accepting a peace deal on the United States' terms.

Trump was due to meet with Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, who also serves as Qatar's foreign minister, in a closed-door meeting yesterday. Vice President

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600 fertiliser bags looted from dealer's warehouse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

More than 600 bags of fertiliser were looted from a dealer's warehouse after farmers became agitated during a distribution drive in Pabna's Chatmohar upazila yesterday.

The incident took place at the house of local fertiliser dealer Pradip Kumar in Chaikola Bazar under Chaikola union.

According to the upazila agriculture office, Pradip is responsible for supplying fertiliser to farmers in wards 4, 5 and 6 of the union. But farmers from different areas also gathered at his premises demanding fertiliser in the morning.

Md Monirul Islam, an official at the Chatmohar Upazila Agriculture Office, said Pradip had stocked 1,181 bags of fertiliser.

"After 170 bags had been sold against distribution slips, farmers waiting there suddenly became agitated, staged a protest and began looting the stock, damaging the shop," he said.

The farmers looted more than 611 bags of urea, diammonium phosphate and muriate of potash, Monirul added.

Distribution was suspended as the law and order situation deteriorated, he said.

Chatmohar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Oliur Rahman said police brought the situation under control.

Several farmers told journalists that people from different areas had gathered at the dealer's premises to collect fertiliser. They said the announcement that distribution would be restricted to farmers from wards 4, 5 and 6 triggered the agitation.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Agitated farmers in front of the dealer's warehouse.

"Farmers from other areas became angry when they were denied fertiliser," one farmer said.

The farmers said two other dealers in the union had not started distribution on Monday, putting further pressure on Pradip's outlet.

"We are spending a considerable amount of time trying to collect fertiliser. As the other two dealers were not distributing it, we came to this dealer's shop," another farmer said.

However, Md Jahangir Alom Pramanik, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Pabna, said, "There is no fertiliser shortage in the district. There are other dealers in the union, and it is not mandatory for all dealers to distribute fertiliser on the same day. Farmers do not normally vandalise a shop in this manner. We suspect this may have been pre-planned."

Jahangir said a probe committee would be formed to investigate the incident.

Hasina 'seeks' passport, Dhaka her extradition

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questions about whether the firm is genuinely authorised by Sheikh Hasina to make such a request," the official added.

Asked how she could return to Bangladesh without a valid travel document, the official said a passport was a state privilege, not a right, and that governments could revoke passports to prevent criminals from fleeing.

"To repatriate or extradite someone, our missions normally issue a one-way travel pass. Once India completes Hasina's legal process, we will be able to issue that pass," the official added.

Hasina has been staying in India since fleeing Bangladesh in the face of a mass uprising in August 2024. In November 2025, she was sentenced to death in absentia by the International Crimes Tribunal for crimes against humanity.

Dhaka first formally sought her extradition through a diplomatic note verbale in December 2024 and renewed the request following her conviction.

Hasina has lately reiterated her resolve to return to Bangladesh this December.

Dhaka's extradition request included the required legal documents under the 2013 India-Bangladesh Extradition Treaty. The treaty provides for the surrender of individuals charged with or convicted of offences, while excluding certain political offences. However, it lists serious crimes, including murder, manslaughter, assault and incitement to murder, that cannot automatically be treated as political offences.

Meanwhile, Humaiun Kobir, state minister for foreign affairs, said yesterday afternoon that Bangladesh would not issue a passport or NID to Hasina, describing her as a "terrorist".

"Bangladesh does not issue passports to terrorists. We have asked for them to be handed over," he told journalists in response to a question at the foreign ministry.

Humaiun described the application as "utterly ridiculous", questioning its legal and ethical basis. He also criticised the firm's decision to represent Hasina, saying any law firm should know who its client is.

"Their client is someone who fled Bangladesh after killing more than 1,500 people," he said, adding that such representation of a "fugitive terrorist" would bring shame upon the firm internationally.

Humaiun Kobir described the application as "utterly ridiculous", questioning its legal and ethical basis. He also criticised the firm's decision to represent Hasina, saying any law firm should know who its client is.

The state minister reiterated that Bangladesh wanted Hasina returned from India under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries.

"Why did she flee if she wanted to return? Not only she, but all her family members fled."

He said the treaty contained provisions for handing over fugitives, including criminals and terrorists, and that countries could follow different procedures to extradite them.

"Under the extradition treaty, some countries hand over fugitives in handcuffs and put them on a plane, while others send them under surveillance. There are provisions for handing over criminals and terrorists under extradition treaties. We want her to be handed over," he said.

Humaiun said Hasina could return through the extradition process, surrender to a court and serve her sentence. He added that an ordinary passport application would not apply in the case of fugitive criminals.

NIDS 'LOCKED'

On February 16, 2025, the Election Commission's National Identity Registration Wing locked the NID cards of Hasina and nine of her family members, effectively rendering the cards unusable for official purposes.

The NIDs of Hasina's son and former ICT affairs adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy; daughter Saima Wazed; sister Sheikh Rehana; Rehana's daughter and UK MP Tulip Rizwana Siddiq; and Rehana's children Radwan Mujib Siddiq and Azmina Siddiq were among those locked.

The decision also covered Maj Gen (retired) Tarique Ahmed Siddiq, Hasina's security adviser, his wife Shaheen Siddiq and their daughter Bushra Siddiq, according to an official letter dated February 16 and signed by ASM Humayun Kabir, then director general of the NID Registration Wing.

The interim government initially revoked Hasina's diplomatic (red) passport on August 22, 2024, according to foreign ministry officials. The decision was officially executed and announced by the Department of Immigration and Passports on January 7, 2025.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a foreign ministry official said Hasina had surrendered her ordinary passport after assuming office in 2009 and had been issued a diplomatic passport as prime minister.

"The government revoked all the red passports issued to ministers, MPs and others, including Hasina, after August 5, 2024," the official said.

Drone attack on Iraq gas complex cuts supply

AFP, *Sulaimaniyah*

An Emirati-owned gas complex in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region was attacked on Sunday, disrupting the gas supply to the region's power plants, local Kurdish authorities said.

"At 11:00 pm (2000 GMT), the Khor Mor gas field came under a terrorist attack," the regional natural resources and electricity authorities said in a statement, without elaborating.

A Kurdish security source told AFP that an "explosive-laden drone" hit the field.

The Khor Mor complex, which supplies most of Kurdistan's power stations and is owned by the United Arab Emirates firm Dana Gas, has been hit several times in recent years.

Omed Ahmed, the regional electricity authority spokesperson, said the attack against Khor Mor halted the gas supply.

Authorities said they were taking all necessary measures to reduce the impact of the attack on the region's power grid.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Long-plagued by conflict, Iraq frequently suffers such attacks.

For years, the Kurdistan region has repeatedly been targeted by rocket and drone strikes mostly against its oilfields, and local authorities have previously blamed Iran-backed Iraqi armed groups.

During the Middle East war, it became a frequent target for such attacks carried out by Iran or its allied Iraqi armed groups.

Washington has long pressured Iraq to disarm Iran-backed groups.

RMG workers pitch Tk 32,000

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would need Tk 45,000 to Tk 60,000 a month to cover essential expenses, including housing, healthcare, and children's education.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, he said the workers' side scaled back its demand after considering the industry's situation. "Our wages started from a low base in 2006, and we are still bearing the consequences."

Under the proposed structure, grade 4, the lowest grade, would receive Tk 32,000 a month, while wages for grades 3, 2, and 1 would be Tk 38,000, Tk 43,000 and Tk 48,000, respectively. The proposed wage for apprentice workers is Tk 30,000.

Employers' representative ABM Shamsuddin, a director ofBangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said owners had been occupied with addressing labour unrest and could not finalise their proposal in time.

He said they would submit it within the stipulated period and that the revised wage structure would take effect in December, regardless of when the employers submitted their proposal.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, Minimum Wages Board Chairman Syed Azad Subhani said the owners initially sought seven working days, citing difficulties visiting factories amid unrest in several industrial areas.

He said the workers' proposal had been formally received. The justification for the amount, wage grades, and job classifications would be discussed the following week.

According to Subhani, the workers' side considered their circumstances, purchasing power, the industry's financial capacity, and relevant national and international provisions.

The board also unanimously decided to visit factories of different categories in major industrial areas before its next meeting.

Several workers' organisations and federations have separately submitted memorandums and wage proposals, some of which were discussed at yesterday's meeting, the chairman said.

On November 1, the government formed the wage board amid protests for increasing RMG workers' pay.

The latest negotiations concern a sector employing around 40 lakh people, according to Subhani.

The current minimum wage of Tk 12,500 was fixed in 2023, up from Tk 8,000 in 2018. The 2023 revision also reduced the number of wage grades from five to four.

The minimum wage was Tk 627 in 1986 and Tk 930 in 1994. It rose to Tk 1,662 in 2006, Tk 3,000 in 2010, and Tk 5,300 in 2013.

Meanwhile, workers' representatives Babul called on the government and its intelligence agencies to determine whether outsiders or political forces were influencing the protests.

He said different individuals, political parties, and labour organisations might be pursuing their own agendas. Even factory owners could be encouraging or opposing the protests to serve their interests, he added.

Babul said many workers returned to work, while those still absent might have grievances arising from strained relations with factory owners.

He urged all to resume work.

In another development, Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday deployed its 34 platoons in the industrial areas of Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj to maintain law and order amid the protests.

In a statement, BGB said its personnel were coordinating with local administrations and police, while headquarters monitored the situation through a dedicated cell using live footage from drones, body-worn cameras, and other devices.

Bangladesh in debt for others' climate crimes

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fossil fuels," he said.

Major lenders include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), European Investment Bank (EIB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Germany's KfW.

Grant support, meanwhile, has come from institutions such as the European Union, Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Climate Investment Funds and various bilateral development partners.

Some initiatives combine both grants and loans. The EU-EIB Renewable Energy Facility, for example, pairs a €350 million loan with €45 million in EU grants.

Zakir, however, said the central issue is not the source of financing but the financial burden it creates.

"Our concern is not simply who provides financing, but whether the terms increase public debt or deliver affordable, sustainable energy," he said.

Climate-vulnerable countries should not have to accumulate debt merely to survive a crisis they played little role in creating, he added.

The CI study highlights the disparity between Bangladesh's climate vulnerability and its contribution to global emissions.

In 2024, the world emitted about 38.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. Bangladesh accounted for only 108 million tonnes, or about 0.24 percent of global annual emissions. Its historical contribution to cumulative fossil-fuel and industrial carbon dioxide emissions is estimated at just 0.11 percent.

"That is precisely why climate finance must prioritise justice, grants and sustainable investment over additional sovereign debt," Zakir said.

Dr Moazzem Hossain, president of the Knowledge Hub Institute, said Bangladesh, as a climate-vulnerable nation, deserves grant-based support.

"But if grants are not available, joint investment is a better option for such projects because it avoids adding to the country's debt burden," he said.

He added that even concessional borrowing for renewable energy was preferable to continued dependence on fossil fuels.

The study estimates that Bangladesh is now borrowing the equivalent of $29.52 for every tonne of carbon dioxide it emits annually, slightly below the average of $30.49 among least-developed countries.

As COP31 opened yesterday, Zakir called on developing countries to push for unconditional grants, climate-linked debt relief, transparent accounting of climate finance and renewable-energy financing that does not increase sovereign debt.

"Support should follow climate vulnerability, not income classification. Climate finance is an obligation, not charity," he said.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, minister for the environment, forest and climate change, said Bangladesh will seek grant-based climate finance and effective support to tackle loss and damage at the COP31 summit.

In a press conference before leaving for Antalya, Turkey, he said Bangladesh will emphasise ensuring adequate grant-based climate finance at the COP31 summit.

In particular, demands will be made to increase grants without adding to the debt burden to address adaptation and climate-induced loss and damage and to simplify the application and approval process for climate funds.

'Both my sons are gone. Who will I live for now?'

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He was then shifted to Imperial Hospital's ICU for another four days. As his condition deteriorated further, Kabir took him to Chattogram Ma-O-Shishu General Hospital last Monday. He died there on Friday.

A similar ordeal followed with Abu Bakkar, who was treated in the ICUs of three hospitals before being admitted to Ma-O-Shishu Hospital in critical condition.

He was put on life support on Saturday morning, but his condition did not improve. He died early yesterday.

Kabir works as a goods loader at a private establishment and lives with his wife, a homemaker, in a rented house in Chattogram city's Hillview area.

The couple spent more than Tk 3 lakh on their sons' treatment, exhausting their savings and borrowing from relatives. Yet, neither child survived.

Arafat, a third-grader at Hillview Public School in Panchlaish, was good at studies and the centre of his parents' dreams.

Prof Dr Didarul Alam, a paediatric specialist and head of the hospital's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), said both children had arrived in extremely critical condition.

According to the district Civil Surgeon's Office, Chattogram has recorded 41 dengue-related deaths so far this year, including 21 women and 11 children.

Since March 15, another 50 people have died with measles-like symptoms, including 35 in the city and 15 in different upazilas. Three more children died after testing positive for measles.