



India withdraws statement on Bangladesh PM's visit an hour after issuing it

Staff Correspondent

In an unusual move, India on Friday issued a statement indicating preparations for the planned visit of Bangladesh prime minister Tarique Rahman, only to withdraw it about an hour later.

According to The Indian Express, Rashtrapati Bhavan issued the original statement at 2:00pm and recalled it at around 3:00pm.

The first statement, titled 'No Change of Guard Ceremony this Saturday', said the weekly ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan would not take place because of a full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the prime minister of Bangladesh.

'The Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan will not take place this Saturday due to the full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the

Prime Minister of Bangladesh.'

However, Tarique's visit—his first since being sworn in as Bangladesh's prime minister—has not yet been formally announced by either New Delhi or Dhaka.

The visit was widely expected to take place in the coming week.

The revised statement, issued at around 3:00pm, simply said: 'Press release issued on the subject 'No Change of Guard Ceremony this Saturday', which was issued on August 21, 2026, stands withdrawn.'

Earlier, Bangladesh said it was still awaiting a 'conducive environment' for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to India.

'We are of the view that a favourable environment needs to be created for this visit,' Foreign Ministry spokesperson and Additional Secretary (Public Diplomacy) AKM Shahidul Karim said on Sunday.

He said Bangladesh and India had been in contact for

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Cabinet expansion: Four new faces likely to take oath this evening

Staff Correspondent

Four new faces are likely to join the cabinet this evening as Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is going to expand the council of ministers.

Those who are going to be inducted into the cabinet are BNP Standing Committee member and Narsingdi-2 MP Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Chairman of Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and Bhola-1 MP Andaleev Rahman Partho, Bandarban MP Saching Prue Jerry and Gaibandha-4 lawmaker Mohammad Shamim Kaiser Lincoln, sources said.

Of them, Moyeen Khan, Partho and Saching Prue may take the oath as ministers while Shamim Kaiser may be sworn in as a state minister.

Contacted, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani told UNB that there is possibility that new cabinet members may take oath today.

He, however, could not say how many new members will be inducted or who they will be.

Meanwhile, a Bangabhaban official told UNB, on condition of anonymity, that several new

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IMF loan for Bangladesh stalled over reform measures, and climate resilience issues

Staff Correspondent

Release of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan for Bangladesh remains stalled due to pending reforms in the financial sector, conditions to cut subsidies and climate resilience issues.

The global lender has imposed nearly a dozen conditions, including reforms in the banking sector and banking laws, capacity building of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), single-click access to taxpayer information, removal of subsidies on fuel and electricity, setting a market-based foreign exchange rate and climate resilience issues.

The government is seeking US \$2.0 billion additional loan as budget support from the IMF along with the remaining tranches of the \$4.7 billion loan program.

The government is seeking to reactivate the suspended IMF loan program and secure new funding. However, the IMF has made macroeconomic reforms and climate risk management capabilities the primary pre-conditions for this financing.

A high-level delegation from the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department recently



The findings of this evaluation will also carry significant weight in discussions regarding a potential new loan program.

Led by Suphachol Suphachalasai, Senior Economist in the Climate Policy Division of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, the delegation's primary focus is the 'Climate Policy Diagnostic' (CPD). Through this diagnostic, Bangladesh's climate change mitigation policies, financing framework, and risk management capabilities will be thoroughly examined. Additionally, the team reviewed the country's overall macroeconomic situation and discussed a potential new loan program with the government.

The loan program under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) is another major topic of discussion during this visit. Under the RSF, Bangladesh received a loan facility of 1 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR), equivalent to approximately \$1.4 billion. While two-thirds of the funds have already been released, the remaining portion remains suspended. Steps have now been taken

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Drive begins to revive navigability of Old Buriganga

Staff Correspondent

A massive cleanliness drive began today at the Durani canal and adjacent areas to revive the navigability of the Old Buriganga channel, a 7-kilometre historical waterway near Kamrangirchar and Rasulpur in Dhaka.

The Dhaka district administration, along with volunteer-based youth organisation 'BD Clean', jointly launched the drive.

The drive began following the Prime Minister's directive to State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam to revive the channel after removing waste dumps.

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Amra BNP Paribar greets Ruhul Kabir Rizvi

Staff Correspondent

Amra BNP Paribar, a platform dedicated to the BNP and its supporters, has greeted newly appointed acting secretary general of the BNP Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Amra BNP Paribar Convener and Prime Minister's Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Ruman and its Member Secretary Krishibid Moksedul Momin Mithun extended their greetings to the newly appointed acting secretary general, who is also a chief adviser to the platform, said a press release issued on Thursday night.

"The appointment to such an important position in the party is a unique recognition of his long political struggle, sacrifice, sincerity, organisational efficiency and dedication to democracy. We believe that his experience and wisdom will also make the BNP more united and stronger," the release said.

Appreciating Rizvi's role, the release added that he has set a shining example of courage, sacrifice and unwavering determination in the democratic movement against authoritarianism and fascism throughout his long political journey.

His role in the struggle to establish human rights and democracy is a source of inspiration for BNP leaders and activists, said the press release.



Govt to build innovation hubs, startup ecosystem in universities: Mahdi Amin

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister's adviser on education and primary and mass education Dr Mahdi Amin today said the government plans to establish innovation hubs, incubation centres and startup ecosystems at universities across the country to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and research.

"The government wants to extend cooperation. If you can build an innovation ecosystem with each university, we can provide support and funding to turn promising ideas into startups," he said.

He was speaking at the 'Vice-Chancellors' Dialogue: Shaping the Future of Higher Education', a two-day

national policy dialogue organised under the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project of the University Grants Commission (UGC) at BRAC CDM in Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Mahdi said the government wants universities to organise innovation and idea competitions and provide grants to promising ideas

that have the potential to address national or local problems.

"We want to see whether innovation hubs can be developed and startups can emerge from universities. We can provide facilities like incubation centres," he said. He said almost every district of the country has an industrial cluster, hi-tech

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Iran's main trade partners at risk from Trump's 'economic warfare'

International Desk

US President Donald Trump has pledged "economic warfare" against Iran, threatening any country that trades with the Islamic republic following months of stop-start hostilities.

Here are the main players who could lose out if they continue to trade with Iran:

More than a quarter of Iran's trade takes place with China, with \$18 billion in imports and \$14.5 billion in exports in 2024, according to World Trade Organization (WTO) data.

Hydrocarbons and chemical compounds like industrial alcohols and plastics accounted for the bulk of Tehran's exports to Beijing. In exchange, Iran bought industrial machinery, electronic equipment, cars and metals from



China. Before it announced this week that it was suspending all trade with Iran, the United Arab Emirates was a significant trading partner. In 2024, 30.6 per cent of imports to Iran

came from the UAE, valued at about \$21 billion, according to the WTO.

According to Iranian customs authorities, in the 10 months preceding January 2026, exports from

Iran to the UAE registered \$6.4 billion, while imports from the UAE totalled \$14.81 billion -- more than those from China over the same period.

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BD targets technology-driven economy with ambitious ICT sector reforms

Staff Correspondent

Long regarded as a supporting sector rather than a primary growth engine, Bangladesh's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and telecommunications industry is now being positioned at the centre of the country's economic transformation.

With the government setting a target to increase the sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the current 1-2 percent to 10 percent within the next five years, the latest budget outlines an ambitious roadmap built around digital infrastructure, high-speed connectivity, investment-friendly policies, and a unified digital public service platform.

If achieved, the target would represent one of the most significant structural shifts in Bangladesh's economy, moving the country closer to a technology-driven growth model while creating thousands of skilled jobs and expanding exports of digital services.

To achieve the target, the government plans to develop the sector as a priority industry by expanding wireless and wireline connectivity, building digital infrastructure, producing skilled human resources, introducing a "One Citizen, One ID, One Digital Wallet" system and creating a more investment-friendly policy environment.

The government said affordable and reliable internet is essential for developing the ICT sector and transforming Bangladesh into a digital economy.

As part of a comprehensive telecommunications reform programme, it has undertaken policy initiatives to improve internet quality and bring services up to global

standards.

The reform agenda includes ensuring 5G network coverage for 90 percent of the population and providing broadband internet speeds

ment.

The government also plans to build an integrated Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) centred on the concept of "One Citizen, One ID,



of up to 100 Mbps through coordinated efforts involving mobile network operators and fixed broadband service providers.

To improve internet access in remote and rural areas, the government has also launched initiatives to expand fibre-based connectivity, including the establishment of a National Fibre Bank.

The budget document said high-speed free internet services have already been introduced at railway stations and airports across the country.

Over the past four months, the government has added 4.1 million new 4G mobile connections and 400,000 new high-speed broadband connections, according to the docu-

One Digital Wallet".

The initiative will enable citizens to access a wide range of public and private services through a single digital identity while facilitating secure digital financial transactions, including the payment of government allowances, fees and other charges.

According to the budget document, the unified digital identity and wallet system will eliminate complexities created by multiple identity platforms, improve interoperability among government databases and strengthen data exchange across public institutions.

The government expects the initiative to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency in public service delivery while making

services faster and easier to access.

Citing a projection by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), the budget document said Bangladesh is expected to become the world's ninth-largest consumer economy by 2030, making digital transformation a key component of the country's long-term economic strategy.

The government believes sustained investment in digital infrastructure, innovation and human resource development will be crucial to unlocking the sector's full potential.

It also expects the expansion of high-speed broadband, advanced mobile technologies, data centres and cloud infrastructure to strengthen the country's digital ecosystem, improve public services and support businesses and entrepreneurship.

Industry experts said Bangladesh's growing pool of young technology professionals is well positioned to meet rising global demand for software development, business process outsourcing, freelancing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital financial services.

However, they stressed that continued investment in technical education and specialised skills training will be essential to remain competitive.

The government is also focusing on developing innovation hubs, startup ecosystems and research facilities to encourage technology commercialisation, while promoting greater collaboration among academia, industry and public institutions.

The ICT sector is increasingly supporting agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, education and financial services by improving productivity and expanding access to

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US pushes allies, China to back Trump's economic war on Iran

International Desk

The United States on Thursday warned allies and China to join President Donald Trump's new campaign to isolate the Iranian economy, vowing that Washington would "collapse this regime" in Tehran.

Iran branded the US threats as "economic terrorism" and said they would fail.

Under fire at home over the impact of the war and with crucial midterm elections looming, Trump had on Wednesday promised the "most crushing" economic operation ever against Iran.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent echoed the president's comments, doubling down on economic pressure on Tehran as Trump's unpopular war drags toward the sixth-month mark.

"Any remaining tie to Tehran will hasten a nation's economic oblivion, whether that tie be purposefully constructed or willfully ignored," Bessent said on X.

Neither Trump nor his treasury chief has set out the measures they are planning against Iran. Bessent said he would give more details during a press conference on

Monday.

"We're kind of now in a new phase where the most effective tool that we have is the economic pressure that we can apply to them," Vice President JD Vance told a conservative podcast.

"This is a delicate dance because" Iran will "try to apply economic pressure to us."

Asked whether the United States would pressure China, Bessent told CNBC that "many conversations are best to have in private," but called on Beijing "to get with the program." Chinese President Xi Jinping is due to visit the White House on September 24.

Bessent's comments marked a notable return by a senior US official to talking about regime change in Iran, after months of Trump insisting that the goal of the war is to stop Tehran getting a nuclear weapon.

But the US treasury boss said the economic plan meant the United States is less likely to have to return to heavy military operations against Iran.

"If we are doing the maximum economic pressure, then that means that likely there will not

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US hits Hezbollah with more sanctions, says Iran controls it

International Desk

The United States announced new sanctions Thursday against an alleged Hezbollah financing network, while highlighting the Lebanese armed group's close ties to Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Hezbollah's legal designation as a terrorist organization has been amended to note that it operates in "service to the Iranian regime under the command of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," particularly the elite Quds Force, the Treasury Department said in a statement.

The change comes as the US facilitates direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, which remain technically at war. Hezbollah rejects these



talks.

Washington designated Hezbollah as a "foreign terrorist organization" in 1997, and in 2001 updated its label to a "specially designated global terrorist" group.

The new redesignation "specifies that Hezbollah is

an Iranian proxy, not a stand-alone operation as implied by the previous designation," a State Department official said.

"This underscores that Hezbollah operates with little to no regard for Lebanon's

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Draft of CMSF under verification of the ministry

Staff Correspondent

The government has initiated the process of enacting a new law titled Bangladesh Capital Market Stabilization Fund Act, 2026 to strengthen the country's capital market, enhance transparency, and safeguard investors' interests.

The draft law has been prepared by the Financial Institutions Division and is now undergoing verification and policy review by the Ministry of Finance.

Officials concerned said the proposed legislation aims to transform the Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) into a more effective and self-sustaining statutory institution by establishing a comprehensive legal framework for managing unclaimed cash dividends, shares, and other financial assets with greater transparency and accountability.

Market stakeholders believe the law will enable the CMSF to function as a modern, centralized digital platform for cash dividend distribution, making the process more efficient, transparent, and investor-friendly.

The proposed framework will also allow investors to obtain tax-challans and tax-deduction certificates for dividends received during a fiscal year from a single platform, significantly simplifying tax compliance.



Market stakeholders believe the law will enable the CMSF to function as a modern, centralized digital platform for cash dividend distribution, making the process more efficient, transparent, and investor-friendly

The draft of the CMSF law proposed proper management of the long-term unclaimed assets, including cash dividends, bonus shares, right shares, and IPO/QIO refunds.



Uber expands hybrid subscriptions to car drivers in Bangladesh

Staff Correspondent

Uber has expanded its hybrid subscriptions model to car drivers in Bangladesh, allowing them to choose between time-based and earnings-based subscription options to access earning opportunities on the platform.

The expansion follows the introduction of hybrid subscriptions for bike drivers earlier this year and is part of Uber's continued investment in developing products that respond to the needs of

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Govt plans 3rd-phase solar project for full electrification in hill tracts

Staff Correspondent

The government plans to launch a third-phase solar power project to achieve full electrification in the remote hill districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari.

The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs plans to implement the five-year project from 2026 to 2031 to bring electricity to remote areas where grid expansion is difficult and expensive.

Ministry officials said unreliable electricity continues to hamper education, agriculture and socio-economic development in remote hill areas, making off-grid solar power the most practical and sustainable solution.

The government is yet to decide whether the project



will be implemented by the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs or the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.

The proposal was discussed at this year's Deputy Commissioners' Conference, where the Deputy Commissioner of

Rangamati recommended a dedicated project to provide uninterrupted electricity and achieve full electrification in the hill districts.

Following the proposal, the Cabinet Division sought opinions from the relevant ministries to assess the project's feasibility.

Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Mohammad Mizanur Rahman told BSS that the project has been included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) as an unapproved "Green Leaf" project, meaning it has received preliminary policy recognition and may later be developed into a full Development Project Proposal (DPP).

"If the project is approved under the DPP, implementation will begin in 2026 and continue until 2031," he said.

Officials said both the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs have submitted separate proposals to the Planning Commission to expand electricity coverage

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Work on setting up long-awaited PET-CT lab begins in Ctg

Staff Correspondent

Efforts are currently underway to establish a state-of-the-art Positron Emission Tomography (PET-CT) laboratory for cancer diagnosis at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), located adjacent to Chattogram Medical College (CMC) Hospital.

The authorities at INMAS Chattogram are hopeful of launching the laboratory within the next two and a half months.

According to sources, work is underway to equip the bunker constructed beneath the building for the installation of a cyclotron machine to produce radioisotopes under the auspices of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

To facilitate this, the recruitment process for personnel is currently in its final stages. At present, the cost of this cancer diagnostic test ranges from Tk 50,000 to Tk 60,000 at private facilities, all of which are located in Dhaka. However, with the introduction of this service in Chattogram, the test could be offered at a government-set rate of Tk 25,000 to Tk 30,000. Moreover, several private hospitals will be able to conduct the test by acquiring PET-CT machines. This development is expected to significantly enhance Chattogram's capacity for cancer diagnosis and treatment.

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India withdraws statement

environment' for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to India.

‘We are of the view that a favourable environment needs to be created for this visit,’ Foreign Ministry spokesperson and Additional Secretary (Public Diplomacy) AKM Shahidul Karim said on Sunday.

He said Bangladesh and India had been in contact for several weeks over the possibility of the prime minister's visit.

However, Shahidul said the process was undermined by the press interaction held in New Delhi on August 5 by ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who had been convicted by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal of crimes against humanity.

On August 5, India allowed Hasina to hold a virtual press conference from New Delhi despite Dhaka's request that the event not be permitted.

Bangladesh subsequently issued a strong protest, leading to renewed tensions between Dhaka and New Delhi.

Against this backdrop, officials from both countries have been engaged in discussions aimed at easing tensions and creating conditions for a possible visit by Tarique Rahman to India.

Cabinet expansion: Four

UNB, on condition of anonymity, that several new faces may take oath in the evening.

They will take the oath at Bangabhaban in the evening following the oath-taking of newly elected President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Mirza Fakhrul will be sworn in as Bangladesh's 23rd President at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban at 7:30pm.

Acting Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal will administer the oath of the office of the President, according to Bangabhaban.

After taking the oath, the new President will administer the oath to the new ministers.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, cabinet members, and over 1,200 invited guests are expected to attend the event.

The cabinet expansion is expected to bring a major reshuffle, including changes in ministerial portfolios.

BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman took the oath as prime minister on February 17 following the victory of his party in the February 12 election.

On the same day, 25 ministers and 24 state ministers also took the oath.

However, Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Dipen Dewan resigned from his post on June 1, citing health reasons.

With Mirza Fakhrul becoming President, the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives will also fall vacant.

IMF loan for Bangladesh

the government.

The loan program under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) is another major topic of discussion during this visit. Under the RSF, Bangladesh received a loan facility of 1 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR), equivalent to approximately \$1.4 billion. While two-thirds of the funds have already been released, the remaining portion remains suspended. Steps have now been taken to reactivate the program. Notably, Bangladesh was the first country in Asia to secure this facility.

In a report on Bangladesh, the IMF noted that the RSF would complement the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) and Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The fund aims to support measures implemented by the Bangladesh government to counter the impacts of climate change, while also helping build climate resilience and mobilizing additional public and private financing.

Meanwhile, the Finance Division recently launched the ‘Public Financial Management Reform Strategy 2025–2030.’ For the first time, this strategy document includes climate-smart public financial management and gender-responsive budgeting. Furthermore, in the FY2025–26 budget, approximately Tk 42,206.89 crore has been allocated across 25 ministries for climate-related expenditures, accounting for 10.09 percent of the total budget.

The IMF delegation held a series of meetings with relevant ministries and divisions on economic matters. The mission also meeting with Finance Secretary Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Mozumder. Then the meeting was also with Bangladesh Bank, Financial Institutions Division, NBR and the Ministry of Power and Energy, Ministry of Forest and Environment and some other ministries.

Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Mozumder told UNb that the IMF held separate meetings with officials from the Macroeconomic Wing and Budget Wing of the Finance Division to review progress on climate and disaster-related initiatives.

Discussions covered the current status of the ‘Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership’ and the ‘National Strategy for Disaster Risk Financing,’ alongside a detailed evaluation of how climate risks are being integrated into macroeconomic planning, he said.

“We hope that the IMF will consider different difficulties of Bangladesh to meet cent percent of the loan conditions. Despite some challenges, we are expecting the loans will be released in favour of Bangladesh,” said the finance secretary.

Meetings with the Ministry of Water Resources addressed flood control measures, delta and coastal management, irrigation policy, and surface and groundwater management—considered key elements in assessing Bangladesh's readiness to face the long-term impacts of climate change.

According to officials, this IMF TA mission is not merely a routine evaluation; it represents a critical stage in shaping Bangladesh's climate policies, economic reforms, and future international financing framework. The evaluations and recommendations from this visit are expected to play a decisive role in setting priorities for a new loan program.

Commenting on the matter, economist Professor Abu Ahmed told UNB that reform measures must continue for the sake of the country's economy.

He added that since Bangladesh is one of the countries most affected by climate change, enhancing national capacity to manage these impacts is an urgent necessity.

Govt to build innovation

On research, Mahdi said the government expects a “significant jump” in research funding in the next fiscal year.

“We want research to solve our problems locally as much as possible,” he said, stressing the need to expand access to international journals and improve laboratory and research and development (R&D) facilities.

He also called for transforming brain drain into brain circulation by connecting Bangladeshi academics and researchers working abroad with local universities.

He proposed visiting faculty and fellowship programmes through which overseas-based Bangladeshi academics could spend two, three or six months at Bangladeshi universities, contributing to both teaching and research without requiring full-time appointments.

Mahdi said many Bangladeshi academics produce high-quality research while working abroad but face limitations in Bangladesh due to inadequate journal access, laboratory facilities and R&D support.

“If we can create global collaborations and ties, some of these problems can be solved,” he said.

The adviser also proposed introducing a summer-school culture in Bangladesh and making credit transfers between universities, including foreign universities, easier.

He said global best practices could help make the country's

higher education system more flexible, inclusive and fair.

“Quality should be given more importance than numbers,” he said, adding that the government would provide different policy support to different universities based on their respective contexts and ecosystems.

He expressed optimism that Bangladeshi universities could improve their positions in global rankings if appropriate policy support and research facilities are ensured.

“Our students are doing well at top universities around the world. They are doing well in master's and PhD programmes and as faculty members and researchers. There is no reason why we should remain behind in rankings,” he said.

Mahdi said the government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, would work with the Education Ministry, UGC and universities to improve the quality of higher education and create greater opportunities for the country's large young population.

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Secondary and Higher Education Division Secretary Abdul Khalek, UGC Chairman Professor DrMamun Ahmed, former UGC Chairman Professor Dr S M A Faiz, and vice-chancellors of public and private universities, among others, attended the programme.

The two-day dialogue brings together vice-chancellors of around 65 public and private universities, policymakers, academics and experts to discuss strategic leadership and governance, quality teaching and assessment, research and innovation, university-industry collaboration, artificial intelligence and digital transformation.

Four sessions were held on the first day, with the remaining sessions scheduled for Saturday. Education Minister Dr A N M Ehsanul Haque Milon is scheduled to attend the concluding session.

Drive begins to revive

In line with the directive, initiatives have been taken for re-excavation, eviction drives and dredging projects to revive the blocked waterway, restore navigability and build modern civic walkways.

Before starting the drive, the LGRD state minister administered an oath to stakeholders, including members of BD Clean.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Administrator M Abdus Salam, Hamidur Rahman, MP of Dhaka-7, and Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Farida Khanam were also present.

Approximately 1,000 feet of the 3.2-km-long Old Buriganga channel, the oldest water channel in Old Dhaka, located around the Durani Bridge area, as well as different parts of the channel, have become waste-dumping sites due to land encroachment.

The obstruction of water flow, along with bad smells, mosquito menace and waterlogging, has caused immense suffering to local residents.

According to experts, the normal water flow of the Old Buriganga channel was hampered following the construction of the Dhaka flood-control embankment, widely known as the Beribadh, in the early 1990s to protect the western and northern parts of the city from seasonal river floods.

Under the circumstances, the government has taken a fresh initiative to make the channel an eco-friendly and public-friendly water body.

Waste disposal inside the channel and its adjacent areas has begun, while an awareness programme is also being conducted among local people, urging them not to dump waste at the waterway.

After completion of the cleanliness drive, initiatives will be taken to restore the navigability of the channel, said DSCC sources, adding that beautification will be carried out on both sides of the channel and civic walkways will also be constructed for the recreation of local residents.

Inaugurating the cleanliness drive, the state minister said, “It is imperative to keep canals and rivers free from waste to protect the environment and public health. The joint initiative of the Dhaka district administration and BD Clean is praise-worthy.”

“We hope that the programme will be successfully completed and local people will benefit from it,” he added.

Alongside the cleanliness drive, the Dhaka district administration will maintain surveillance to ensure that the channel is not encroached upon or polluted again.

Inward remittances thru

as migrant workers send more money to their families, resulting in a slowdown in the following month, he added.

On the other hand, total remittance inflow also declined by 18.02 per cent to over \$2.82 billion in June FY 26 from \$ 3.44 billion in May.

Mobile Financial Services (MFS) have significantly expanded financial inclusion in Bangladesh by providing accessible, secure and convenient digital financial services to millions of people, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

The growing use of MFS has made it easier for migrant workers' families to receive remittances quickly and conveniently, while also reducing their dependence on traditional banking channels.

Dr Masrur Reaz, Chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, said the decline in remittances through MFS in June should not necessarily be viewed as a weakening of overall remittance inflows, as the movement of remittances between digital and traditional banking channels can vary from month to month.

He said the growing use of MFS has played an important role in expanding financial inclusion, particularly by connecting rural households and people with limited access to formal banking services to the financial system.

MFS statistics cover major providers such as bKash, Nagad, Rocket and Upay. The providers offer various services, including person-to-person (P2P), business-to-person (B2P) and government-to-person (G2P) transactions.

Meanwhile, the e-money balance held in MFS accounts declined significantly to Tk 195.07 billion in June from Tk 241.65 billion in May.

The number of MFS accounts increased marginally by 0.47 per cent to 256.97 million in June.

Total volume of MFS transactions also fell in June, standing at Tk 2.08 trillion, down 15.59 per cent from the previous month.

Despite the decline in the transaction volume and the amount of inward remittances through MFS, the continued expansion of MFS accounts indicates the growing reach of digital financial services across the country.

Dr Reaz said: “Digital financial services have become an important channel for delivering remittances to households, especially in rural areas. Therefore, any decline in MFS-based remittance needs to be assessed alongside overall remittance flows and the use of other formal channels.

Sustaining the growth of digital financial services would require greater consumer confidence, reliable digital infrastructure, competitive transaction costs and stronger safeguards against fraud and other financial risks, he said.

He further said Bangladesh needs to focus not only on increasing the number of MFS accounts but also on encouraging regular and productive use of those accounts, as deeper digital financial inclusion can help households save, make payments and access a wider range of formal financial services.

Iran's main trade partners

Turkey is also a major partner for Iran.

In the final 10 months of 2025, Iran imported \$5.6 billion worth of goods from Turkey, according to Iran's customs

authorities.

In turn, some \$7.91 billion worth of goods -- most notably hydrocarbon products -- were exported from Iran to Turkey.

Russian imports from Iran were valued at \$930 million in the last 10 months of 2025, while Russian exports to Iran amounted to \$1.36 billion, according to Iranian customs authorities.

In 2022, Russia exchanged grain, gold and timber for Iranian agricultural products.

Cooperation has only expanded, with The Telegraph reporting on a new Caspian Sea route for bilateral trade.

Ukraine in July fired at vessels transporting military cargo involving Iran in the Caspian Sea, drawing Tehran's ire.

Iran's exports to Iraq in the last 10 months of 2025 were worth \$7.91 billion, compared to about \$450 million in imports.

Bilateral trade fell from \$17 billion in 2018-19 to \$1.7 billion in 2024-25, according to India's commerce department.

India, which has sought to diversify its energy sources since the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, imported about 276,000 barrels of oil per day from Iran in mid-April, according to the maritime tracker Kpler.

Germany's exports to Iran totalled 870.5 million euros (\$1 billion) from January to November 2025, according to the country's official statistics office Destatis.

Imports were 217 million euros during that period.

Sri Lanka exported \$68 million to Iran in 2024, up from \$43 million the previous year, according to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Official imports have been zero since US sanctions on Iranian oil.

Japan's exports to Iran rose 38 percent in 2024 to \$89 million, while imports dropped 6.4 percent to \$29 million, according to the Japan External Trade Organization.

Exports included pharmaceuticals, automobiles and electrical machinery. Imports included fabric products and food-stuffs.

The Philippines exported \$66 million in goods to Iran in 2024, up from \$38 million the year prior.

Health Minister stands

underwent a caesarean operation there about three months ago. Following the operation, she began experiencing severe abdominal pain.

As her condition deteriorated, she was later admitted to Ibn Sina Hospital in Dhaka for advanced treatment. After a CT scan and other medical examinations, doctors detected gauze-like materials inside her abdomen.

The materials were subsequently removed through a surgery. Family members said a significant amount of gauze and bandage material was found inside her abdomen.

Kanika later died while undergoing treatment at the Ibn Sina Hospital.

Talking to the family, Minister Sardar Sakhawat Hossain assured them that the government would provide all possible assistance in this regard.

He said that if any negligence or medical error was found to have contributed to the patient's death, the matter would be properly investigated and necessary action would be taken against those responsible.

The minister also said the government is working to address the existing problems in the country's health sector as quickly as possible. He added that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is highly sincere about the improvement of the health sector.

Kanika's untimely death has cast a shadow of grief over her family and the local community.

Rajbari Deputy Commissioner Afroza Parvin, Civil Surgeon Dr SM Masud, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tariq-ul Hasan, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Baliakandi and other officials were present during the minister's visit.

BD targets technology-driven

digital solutions. The wider adoption of e-commerce, digital payments and online public services is also expected to strengthen financial inclusion and governance.

Despite the sector's strong prospects, experts say challenges remain, including strengthening cybersecurity, improving digital literacy, ensuring reliable internet connectivity in rural areas and maintaining a favourable regulatory environment for technology businesses.

The government documents emphasised that effective implementation of development programmes, appropriate policy measures and greater private sector participation will be critical to achieving the vision of a digitally empowered economy.

If successfully implemented, the ICT and telecommunications sector is expected to emerge as one of Bangladesh's strongest growth pillars, generating high-quality employment, attracting foreign investment, boosting exports and significantly increasing its contribution to the national economy.

US pushes allies, China

against Hezbollah's financing network in Lebanon, highlighting its close ties with Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Trump said this week that talks with Iran were on hold as the war started by the US and Israel in February appears stalemated, while Tehran is keeping the key Strait of Hormuz partially shut.

Trump's pledge on Wednesday of unprecedented "economic warfare" on Iran comes as the president grows increasingly frustrated with the lack of movement on the military front.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, the US leader said he was announcing "the MOST CRUSHING ECONOMIC OPERATION EVER TAKEN AGAINST ANY COUNTRY! This will be Economic Warfare and Isolation on an unprecedented scale."

But the US is also buttressing its military presence in the region.

A new US aircraft carrier strike group arrived in the Middle East on Wednesday, after grim conditions aboard a long-deployed carrier provoked fresh domestic criticism of Trump's war.

The USS George Washington is replacing the USS Abraham Lincoln, which had reportedly suffered food shortages, broken plumbing and a number of suicide attempts during a deployment that began in November 2025.

The United States meanwhile on Thursday approved a potential \$4.5 billion sale of refueling aircraft to Qatar, which has acted as a mediator in Washington's war with Iran.

US hits Hezbollah with

sovereignty, the Lebanese people, or the Lebanese state."

Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the broader Middle East war in March with rocket fire at Israel in support of its backer Iran.

Israel responded with a heavy air campaign and ground invasion that Lebanese authorities say have killed more than 4,300 people.

"This action builds on years of US designations that have repeatedly documented the operational, financial, and logistical integration between Hizballah and the IRGC-QF," the State Department official said, calling Hezbollah "an extension" of the latter.

"It is not a Lebanese resistance movement," as Hezbollah describes itself, the official said.

The new sanctions target 10 people who are allegedly part of a network that transfers cash to Hezbollah, which has already been punished with US sanctions many times, the Treasury statement said.

"The network utilizes couriers travelling on commercial airline flights between Lebanon, Turkey, the UAE, and Iran to move up to hundreds of millions of dollars between jurisdic-

tions, providing an avenue outside the formal financial system for Hezbollah to obtain foreign currency and evade sanctions," the statement said.

Uber expands hybrid

drivers in Bangladesh, said a Uber press release here today.

Under the expanded model, car drivers can now choose between a time-based subscription pass and an earnings-based subscription pass, providing greater flexibility in how they subscribe and earn on the platform.

According to Uber, the hybrid subscriptions model is designed to support both full-time and part-time drivers by offering them more choice in accessing the platform and enabling them to earn on their own terms.

The company said the model also supports its broader efforts to encourage more drivers to complete trips using the app, aiming to improve the experience of both drivers and riders while taking into account their safety and convenience.

Uber said trips completed on its platform include built-in safety features such as GPS tracking, transparent fares and in-app safety support to enhance accountability and provide peace of mind for both riders and drivers.

Drivers using the hybrid subscriptions model will continue to receive zero percent commission on trips, retaining all of their trip earnings while paying the applicable subscription fee separately, the company said.

It said the model is expected to reduce upfront barriers for drivers, making it easier for more people to participate on the platform and maximise their earning opportunities.

Commenting on the expansion, Country General Manager of Uber Bangladesh Redwan Rezvi said, "At Uber, we're constantly looking for ways to make driving on our platform more flexible and rewarding. Following the positive response to hybrid subscriptions for Bike drivers, we're pleased to extend the model to Car drivers in Bangladesh."

"By giving drivers more choice in how they subscribe, we're making it easier for them to access earning opportunities while continuing to deliver a reliable and safe experience for riders," he added.

Govt plans 3rd-phase

in the hill districts.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has also emphasized expanding renewable energy to address global energy challenges.

On July 26, he said the government was positively considering allowing solar power generation on uncultivable land in tea gardens and assured necessary financial support for renewable energy initiatives.

According to the latest June report of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), the second phase of the solar electrification project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has already been completed.

However, many remote settlements remain without electricity despite the completion of the project.

The report said the region's rugged topography, dense forests and poor transport infrastructure make grid expansion highly expensive and technically difficult.

As a result, off-grid solar photovoltaic systems have been identified as the most effective, practical and sustainable solution for providing electricity to remote communities.

The second-phase project, titled "Electricity Supply through Installation of Solar Panels (Phase II)," was implemented from July 2020 to June 2023 at an estimated cost of Tk 21771 lakh.

Field-level assessments found that the project significantly improved the quality of life of beneficiary households, with all beneficiaries gaining access to lighting and mobile phone charging facilities.

Work on setting up long-

Stakeholders noted that, due to the absence of a PET-CT laboratory in both the public and private sectors in Chattogram, patients are currently compelled to travel to Dhaka to undergo this advanced diagnostic test for cancer.

Currently, PET-CT is reportedly undergoing trials at the National Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (NINMAS) on the Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) campus in Dhaka, as well as at INMAS on the Dhaka Medical College Hospital campus, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Research Establishment in Savar near the capital, and three private hospitals in Dhaka.

According to information from the INMAS Chattogram campus, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission initiated a project with a budget of Tk 106 crore during the 2019-20 fiscal year. The project encompasses the construction of a six-storey building, a molecular laboratory and a cyclotron facility, in addition to the installation of a PET-CT machine.

In a statement, INMAS Chattogram Director Professor Dr Pavitra Kumar Bhattacharya said efforts were underway to establish the PET-CT laboratory alongside the cyclotron facility in Chattogram. All necessary equipment has been delivered, and activities will commence once the installation is completed.

AI drives expansion of Saudi Central Bank's US equity portfolio

RIYADH, Aug 17 (Arab News): The Saudi Central Bank increased the market value of its disclosed portfolio of stocks and exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, in the US market by 61.4 percent in the second quarter of 2026, bringing it to \$7.63 billion. The expansion included increases in the number of shares held across hundreds of US companies.

The portfolio's value rose by about \$2.9 billion from the end of March, according to a comparison by Asharq Bloomberg of the central bank's two filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

The jump does not reflect higher share prices alone. Changes in the number of shares show that the bank expanded its holdings broadly during the quarter. SAMA increased its holdings in 474 of the 493 investment positions held across both filings, without reducing the number of shares in any continuing position. It exited 21 companies during the second quarter, including Snap Inc.

The pace of increases was high across much of the portfolio, ranging between 85 percent and 90 percent in 349 positions, pointing to a systematic expansion of exposure to US equities rather than purchases concentrated in a limited number of companies.

Bigger bets on AI giants

Major technology companies accounted for a significant share of the expansion. SAMA increased its holdings in chip-maker Nvidia by about 80 percent to 1.62 million shares, bringing the position's value to about \$323 million at the end of June. It also increased its Apple holdings by about 89 percent to more than 1 million shares, with a market value of \$297 million. The purchases were not limited to the technology sector. SAMA also expanded positions in companies across financial services, energy, retail and healthcare, including JPMorgan, Exxon Mobil, Walmart and Eli Lilly.

SAMA's holdings in Coca-Cola and Berkshire Hathaway also increased, by 14 percent and 92 percent, respectively. The largest increase was in Booking Holdings, where its holdings jumped 4,507 percent.

India four wickets away from victory in Sri Lanka Test



Sports Desk

India closed on victory in the opening Test after striking twice to reduce Sri Lanka to 175-6 at lunch on the final day in Galle on Wednesday.

Set a target of 372 runs, Sri Lanka were 197 runs adrift with four wickets in hand.

A rock-solid Sonal Dinusha was batting on 65 at lunch along with Keshara Nuwantha on eight.

Resuming on an overnight score of 84-4, Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva dug deep alongside first-innings centurion Dinusha, adding 95 runs for the fifth wicket.

Their stand, lasting for over two hours, ended when De Silva attempted a sweep shot off Ravindra Jadeja but ended up getting a top edge which was caught at short fine-leg by Manav Suthar.

His 59 came off 151 balls and contained seven fours.

India's perseverance paid off when Prasadh Krishna had wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella caught behind for 10.

But the 25-year-old Dinusha, who struck his maiden Test hundred in the first innings, held firm and used his feet expertly against spin. Dinusha brought up his half-century with a six off Kuldeep Yadav.



No.1 Sabalenka slams Wang to advance at Cincinnati

Sports Desk

Aryna Sabalenka unleashed her big game with devastating effect on Tuesday, hammering China's Wang Xinyu 6-1, 6-3 to reach the fourth round of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The world number one took only 20 minutes to blow through the first set against her 36th-ranked opponent and began the second set with a break of serve.

Sabalenka kept up the pressure in the second set with Wang double-faulting on the top seed's first match point after 54 minutes.

The victory marked the 45th in a row for Sabalenka at the Masters 1000 level.

"I cannot complain. She's a tough opponent," Sabalenka said. "To win in straight sets like this in under an hour is insane.

"I'm super happy to be through. I really trusted myself and went for my shots. I wasn't over-thinking. I was able to stay focused and be in every point."

Sabalenka next plays Czech Sara Bejlek, a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 winner over Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Fourth seed Coco Gauff needed to battle following a sizzling first set in a 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) victory over fellow American Ann Li.

The 2023 champion had it all her own way in the opening set against her 29th-ranked foe, winning in 30 minutes. The pair exchanged early breaks in the second on the way to a tie-breaker, in which Gauff seized a 4-1 lead and won on her third match point.

"She played better in the second set and I missed a couple of break opportunities," Gauff said. "I tried to forget about those.

"It was hard to control the ball for both of us and it was my first time playing a day match on this center court so I had to adjust to that."

Mirra Andreeva's French Open reigning champion status counted for little as the fifth seed struggled to close out a 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) victory over Janice Tjen.

The Indonesian challenger ranked 37 was bowled over in the first set but made Andreeva work to finally advance.

"In the first I was in command and she had unforced errors here and there, but in the second after a couple of games I started getting nervous, she made fewer mistakes -- it turned into a match of mentality and physicality," Andreeva said.

Eighth seed Elina Svitolina was forced to withdraw before her match against Wang Xiyu with an ankle injury.

"I've been advised by the doctors to take a little bit of time to rest and recover completely," the Ukrainian said in a statement.

Canada's second-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime eliminated Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo 7-5, 6-1 in 90 minutes.

"It was a tricky start, finding my rhythm," the Canadian said. "Lefties are tricky, you don't play them so often. You can prepare all you want but until you step onto the court you can't find your right adjustments. Then you feel comfortable."

Maradona's doctors missed renal red flag, court hears

Sports Desk

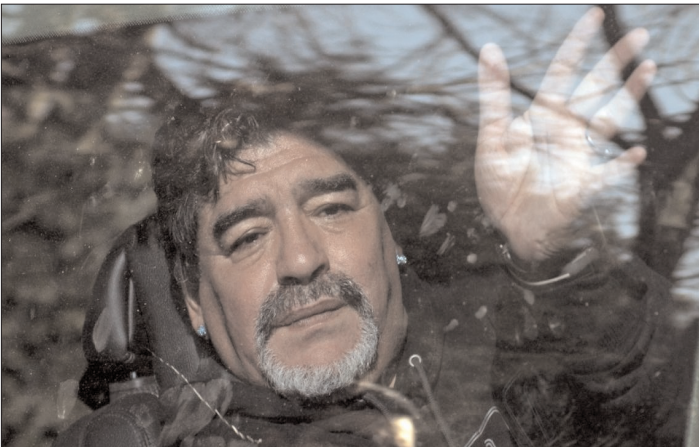
Late Argentine football legend Diego Maradona's failing kidneys should have been a red flag for his doctors, a specialist told the trial over the player's death on Tuesday.

Maradona, who died aged 60 while convalescing after surgery for a brain clot, suffered from "chronic kidney disease," nephrologist Hernan Trimarchi told a court near Buenos Aires that is trying Maradona's medical team for criminal negligence.

The 1986 World Cup star died of heart failure and acute pulmonary edema -- a condition where fluid accumulates in the lungs -- at a rented home in the Buenos Aires suburb of Tigre on November 25, 2020.

Seven healthcare professionals, including Maradona's personal physician, psychiatrist and nursing staff, are accused of providing woefully inadequate care.

The trial is also examining whether their decision to allow him to convalesce in a private home instead of a medical facility endangered his life.



He said the player's kidneys were heavy and contained lesions linked to a history of obesity, cocaine use, and hypertension.

"At a minimum," he said, the patient should have undergone "daily medical checkups, daily nursing care, blood tests and monitoring of his vital signs."

He added that there was no record of any blood test being performed during his two-week convalescence.

He added that Maradona's ballooning size and blood pressure

should also have been cause for concern.

In April, the court was shown images of the star on his death bed, his stomach grotesquely distended by edema. An autopsy showed he was in agony for several hours before his death.

Trimarchi is the third specialist to tell the court that Maradona's doctors missed crucial warning signs. The accused, who risk up to 25 years imprisonment if convicted, deny responsibility for the icon's death.

Bangladesh stars rise in ICC rankings after historic Test win over Australia

Sports Desk

Bangladesh cricketers made significant gains in the latest ICC Test rankings following their landmark nine-wicket victory over Australia in Darwin. Coming to tour for a Test series Down Under for the first time in 24 years, Bangladesh players collectively produced a memorable performance, which reflected in the ICC rankings.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto was among the biggest gainers, climbing nine places to 20th in the Test batting rankings after scoring a crucial 84 in the first innings. Veteran batter Mominul Haque also moved up five places to 31st. Bangladesh's bowlers also made notable progress. Mehidy Hasan Miraz rose three places to 24th after taking five wickets in the second innings.

Fast bowler Hasan Mahmud, who became the first Bangladeshi bowler to claim a five-for on Australian soil registered the biggest jump of the week. After snapping up nine wickets in the match and earning the Player of the Match award, he surged 26 places to 38th in the Test bowling rankings. Australia's Travis Head, meanwhile, slipped three places to fourth after scores of 22 and 17 in the two innings. England's Harry Brook reclaimed the top spot among Test batters, with teammate Joe Root second and Australia's Steve Smith third.

Entertainment



Bubly set to return to acting after motherhood break

Entertainment Desk

Popular Dhallywood actress Shobnom Bubly is preparing to make her return to acting after taking a break to focus on motherhood.

Following the birth of her daughter, Bubly largely stayed away from acting and made very few public appearances. Despite the release of several films during recent Eid festivals, the actress was notably absent from promotional events and media engagements. Now, the actress is gearing up for a comeback. If everything goes according to plan, Bubly will return to the camera in September with the shooting of "Dhakaiya Devdas", directed by Zahid Hossain. She will star opposite actor Ador Azad in the film.

Confirming the development, director Zahid Hossain said that discussions with Bubly have already taken place and that she has agreed to resume shooting in September.

"We have spoken to Bubly. She has promised to return to shooting in September, subject to some improvements in her physical condition," he told the media.

"Dhakaiya Devdas" revolves around the language, culture and lifestyle of Old Dhaka. The film explores the city's rich heritage through a romantic narrative rooted in its unique social and cultural traditions.

According to Zahid Hossain, Bubly is currently prioritising her daughter and focusing on regaining her physical fitness before returning to work. As a result, the production team will begin filming scenes that do not require her presence.

"Since Bubly needs some more time to take care of her child and herself, we are planning to start shooting the other portions first. Our goal is to make a complete and authentic film about Old Dhaka," the director said.

Although the title may suggest a commercial entertainer, Zahid Hossain revealed that the project has a broader vision. He said "Dhakaiya Devdas" is primarily being made with international film festivals in mind, with a theatrical release in Bangladesh planned afterward.

Entertainment Desk

Shakib Khan is working again with director Mehedi Hasan Hridoy. Shakib Khan recently signed a contract with Real Energy Production for a new movie. He posted a group photo on his verified Facebook page and wrote, 'Barbad Team is back - let's make history again.'

Apart from Shakib Khan, the director has not announced anything about the movie so far. Even the production house has not revealed any additional information. So speculation has started about the heroine. That is, who is going to be Shakib Khan's heroine. Rumors have arisen that Tollywood actress Idhika Pal will be seen opposite Shakib Khan again. There are also rumors about Sabila Noor. The reason why Idhika Pal's name came up is that she is the favorite heroine of



Sabila or Idhika?

Shahrin Akhter Sumi, the head of Real Energy Production.

Even before the announcement of the new film, he has been expressing his desire to work with Idhika in conversations. Because Idhika's 'professionalism' has impressed him. Besides, his previous two films with Shakib were blockbusters. He

wants that advantage again. On the other hand, the director's choice is Sabila Noor. However, neither of them wanted to say who will stay in the end. Director Mehedi Hasan Hridoy said, "I'll let you know when the time comes. Wait a few days."

Shakib Khan has worked with both of them before. Shakib first paired with

Idhika Pal in 'Priyatama'. The blockbuster directed by Himel Ashraf was Idhika's first movie. The Shakib-Idhika pair gained popularity in it. After that, they were seen together for the second time in the movie 'Barbad' directed by Mehedi Hasan Hridoy. The film, which was released on Eid-ul-Fitr last year, received a good response at the box office. On the other hand, Sabila Noor has also paired with Shakib Khan twice.

After Raihan Rafi's 'Tandav', they teamed up in Azman Russo's 'Rockstar', which was released on Eid-ul-Azha this year. Although 'Tandav' was a superhit, 'Rockstar' could not be commercially successful. Still, the producers are interested in this pair. So the presence of this pair in Mehedi Hasan Hridoy's new film is not unexpected.



Samantha reveals why she stays up all night

Entertainment Desk

South Indian actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is sharing every moment of her new chapter of motherhood with her fans. This time, she has come into the limelight by sharing her experience of insomnia during pregnancy. The actress recently took to her Instagram story to highlight the issue of sleeplessness at night, which has brought a new light to a problem that many pregnant women are familiar with.

According to experts, insomnia is a very common problem during pregnancy. During this time, hormonal changes in the body, physical discomfort, frequent urination, back or waist pain, and mental anxiety surrounding the unborn child are all reasons why many people have trouble sleeping at night. In particular, increased progesterone levels can cause excessive daytime sleepiness, but can also make it difficult to get a deep night's sleep. In addition, changes in estrogen can affect body temperature regulation, which can disrupt the natural rhythm of sleep. Doctors advise that getting enough rest during pregnancy, regular light exercise or walking, sleeping in a comfortable position, avoiding caffeine-containing drinks, and trying to reduce stress can help control insomnia to a great extent.

However, if you have long-term sleep problems, you should definitely consult a doctor. Meanwhile, Samantha has announced that she will be going on maternity leave after completing her ongoing projects. Her candid experience has received a huge response on social media. Many fans have congratulated her and praised her for openly sharing her real pregnancy experience.



Secretary, Additional Secretary (Films), Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) Managing Director, producer Sardar Saniat, former president of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies of Dhaka University Professor Dr. Saiful Islam and president of the Film Exhibitors' Association Awlad Hossain Ujjal.

According to the Government Grant Policy 2025 (Amended), based on the recommendations and review of the Full-length Film Grant Selection Committee, this committee will make the final decision on which films will receive government grants in the 2025-26 fiscal year.