

Speaker Hafiz Uddin serves as Acting President

Staff Correspondent

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, has assumed the responsibilities of the Acting President in accordance with the Constitution after accepting the resignation of Mohammed Shahabuddin.



"Under Article 50(3) of the Constitution, President Mohammed Shahabuddin submitted his signed letter of resignation to the Speaker at 5:01pm on Friday. After accepting the resignation, I have assumed the responsibilities of the President in accordance with Article 54 of the Constitution", the speaker disclosed it at a press conference held at the oath room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban this afternoon. He said Mohammed Shahabuddin, in his resignation letter, stated that he was suffering from serious health complications, including heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and kidney-related ailments.

Mohammed Shahabuddin had previously undergone coronary bypass surgery, while recent medical examinations diagnosed him with autonomic neuropathy, a condition that occasionally causes him to lose consciousness, the speaker said. "Due to these physical complications and resulting mental incapacity, it has become impossible for him (Mohammed Shahabuddin) to discharge his constitutional responsibilities as President.

He has, therefore, resigned as he requires long-term medical treatment," Hafiz Uddin Ahmad said, referring to the contents of the resignation letter.

He said that under the Constitution, when a Speaker takes oath, it also includes the oath required to discharge the responsibilities of the Acting President whenever necessary.

He added that if the office of the Speaker falls vacant, the Deputy Speaker will perform the duties of the Speaker in accordance with the constitutional provisions.

Referring to public discussions over the President's resignation, the Speaker said it was now clear that the resignation was solely due to health reasons. **Continued to page 2**



President Sahabuddin resigns due to illness

Staff Correspondent

President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mohammed Sahabuddin today submitted his resignation to Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram, citing his health complications.

The Speaker accepted his resignation at 5:01 pm, said a press release signed by President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam.

In his resignation letter addressed to the Speaker, the President said, "I am seriously ill. I am suffering from heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and kidney complications. I have undergone bypass surgery. Recently, medical tests detected a disease called Autonomic Neuropathy. Due to this illness, I sometimes lose consciousness briefly. Because of the prevalence of these diseases, I am physically and

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Accurate flood forecasting, planned urbanisation essential to reduce flood losses: experts

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh needs a more accurate flood forecasting system, increased investment in disaster management and better urban planning to minimise losses from increasingly frequent floods driven by climate change and rapid urbanisation, experts have said.

Professor Dr. Md. Humayun Kabir, Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Dhaka, said strengthening the country's flood forecasting and early warning system should be a priority as timely forecasts can significantly reduce casualties and economic losses.

"If reliable forecasts are available in advance, authorities can operate drainage pumps before water accumulates, emergency services can be mobilised and people can take precautionary measures to protect their lives and property," he said.

He stressed that forecasting should be supported by modern weather monitoring technology, including fully functional weather radars, real-time rainfall and river monitoring and stronger coordination among agencies responsible for weather forecasting, water resources and disaster management.

Professor Humayun Kabir also called for increasing budgetary allocation for disaster management to improve forecasting capacity, strengthen preparedness and enhance emergency response.

He said the government should adopt long-term urban water management strategies by reconnecting Dhaka's canals, wetlands and surrounding water bodies so that excess rainwater can be drained naturally during heavy rainfall.



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According to him, years of unplanned urbanisation have disrupted the city's natural drainage system through the encroachment of canals and wetlands, indiscriminate filling of ponds and low-lying areas and the loss of open green spaces.

To mitigate waterlogging in Dhaka, he suggested improving the drainage system, restoring degraded wetlands, maintaining and creating retention ponds, and promoting rainwater harvesting.

He also emphasised the need to promote rainwater harvesting as part of the country's climate adaptation strategy.

"Rainwater should be treated as a resource rather than waste. If rainwater harvesting is promoted in public and private buildings, it will not only reduce waterlogging but also ease pressure on groundwater," he said.

He suggested that the government begin implementing rainwater harvesting systems in major public institutions, including the University of Dhaka, before expanding the initiative nationwide.

He also emphasised the need to promote rainwater harvesting as part of the country's climate adaptation strategy.

Professor A.K.M. Saiful Islam of the Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), said Bangladesh experiences different forms of flooding, including urban floods, river floods, flash floods, hill-torrent floods and floods in low-lying plains, each requiring different management approaches.

Explaining the recent flooding, he said the event was triggered by a monsoon depression that transported a large

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India protest leaders agree to meet with govt after PM Modi promises action

Staff Correspondent

Leaders of India's youth-led 'Cockroach' movement said they would meet the government on Friday after prime minister Narendra Modi pledged legal reforms and swift punishment for those involved in exam paper leaks.



The social media-driven Cockroach Janta Party has led protests calling on education minister Dharmendra Pradhan to quit over the failures.

"We hope that the government comes with an open mind and it will listen to the people of this country who have been out on the roads for so long," CJP spokesman Saurav Das told reporters.

"We will explain our demands to them in detail. And we hope that the government will listen to us."

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Take toughest possible measures against drugs to protect youth: Tuku

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sultan Salauddin Tuku today called for the toughest possible measures against drugs, urging everyone to remain vigilant from their respective positions to protect the younger generation and help build a prosperous nation.

He made the remarks while addressing a function as the chief guest at Sonar Bangla Community Centre on District Sadar Road in Tangail this afternoon.

On the occasion, he distributed scholarships, crests and certificates among around 500 meritorious students from playgroup to Class

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PM's pledge fulfilled: 3 slum communities receive free treatment at Kurmitola Hospital

Staff Correspondent

In line with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's election pledge, free medical services have already been launched for low-income and marginalised residents of the Korail, Sattala and Bhashantek slums under the Dhaka-17 constituency. Beneficiaries are receiving specialist consultations, diagnostic tests and medicines free of charge at Kurmitola Multicare Specialized Hospital.

Guided by the principle that "Healthcare is everyone's right," the hospital has opened its modern facilities, including the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), to these underprivileged

communities. A dedicated ticket counter has been introduced for slum residents, while two separate wards—one for male patients and the other for female patients—have been established on the eighth floor.

Speaking to the state-run news agency BSS, Director of Kurmitola Multicare Specialized Hospital Brigadier General Md. Saidur Rahman said that over the two and a half months since the programme was launched, 610 patients had received treatment at the outpatient department.

A total of 23 patients suffering from various complex illnesses have been admitted to the hospital. **Continued to page 2**

Bangladesh's leather sector eyes fresh 'hope' even as Savar's old troubles persist

Staff Correspondent

Exporters and market analysts have found reason for optimism in the latest leather export figures, even as old problems at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate remain unresolved.

The sector earned \$1.23 billion in the 2025-26 financial year, the third-highest in Bangladesh's history, and up 7.07 percent from the previous year.

Leather is the only sector besides ready-made garments to bring in more than a billion dollars in export earnings for Bangladesh, yet its progress has stalled due to a host of constraints.



The industry posts its third-highest annual export earnings, with June shipments surging nearly 48 percent

It has been nearly a decade since tanneries relocated from Hazaribagh to Savar, where the tannery

estate now stands, but the shift has yet to pay off.

With the estate still not fully ready, international bodies are withholding certification from factories there, complicating exporters' efforts to sell processed leather and leather goods produced at the site.

Industry figures say export earnings could climb further if the government offers proper policy support and gets the Savar estate fully operational.

Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data show Bangladesh earned a record \$1.25 billion from leather and leather goods exports in

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Frequent thefts leave Padma rail signalling system in disarray

Staff Correspondent

Repeated theft of important signalling equipment on the Dhaka-Bhanga section of the Padma railway line has disrupted train operations and raised serious safety concerns, forcing railway authorities to operate trains manually in parts of the route.

The Dhaka-Bhanga-Jashore railway line, a 236-kilometre mega project built at a cost of around Tk38,629 crore, has come under increasing threat from organised theft, particularly in the Shibchar section, where expensive signalling components and electrical equipment are being stolen repeatedly.



Railway officials said the computer-based automatic signalling system has become partially inoperative after repeated thefts of track pots and other essential equipment, causing delays in train movement.

Padma Railway Station Master Md Khairul Islam said theft of signalling equipment, particularly track pots, is increasing alarmingly, posing risks to train operations. He warned that failure to strengthen security could result in a major accident.

According to Shibchar Railway Station authorities, nine of the 13 track pots at the station's northern

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RCC intensifies drain cleaning to ease water-logging in Rajshahi

Staff Correspondent

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has intensified ward-level drain cleaning and mud removal activities to improve the drainage system and mitigate waterlogging during the ongoing monsoon season.

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Govt advances Tk 11.22b gas exploration projects

The government has advanced two major natural gas exploration and production projects worth Tk 11.22 billion, seeking to increase domestic gas supply, curb costly liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports and reinforce the country's long-term energy security.

The projects -- one to expand production at the Titas Gas Field by Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL) and the other to drill nine wells by Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX) -- were reviewed by the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) of the Planning Commission (PC).

The initiatives form part of the government's broader strategy to increase domestic gas production and strengthen energy security amid rising demand from power plants and industries, according to minutes of the PEC meetings.

The meetings, however, stressed the need for proper implementation planning, realistic cost estimates and timely execution to maximise the economic benefits of the proposed investments.

The committee also recommended forming a committee comprising representatives from the relevant ministries and divisions to ensure project costs are reduced to justified levels.



PC reviews BGFCL, BAPEX initiatives aimed at boosting domestic gas production

Under the BGFCL project, two appraisal-cum-development wells -- Titas-32 and Titas-33 -- will be drilled at the Titas Gas Field in Brahmanbaria.

The Tk 6.32 billion project is scheduled for implementation by December 2028. Of the total cost, Tk 4.42 billion will come from

government funding, while BGFCL will contribute Tk 1.90 billion from its own resources.

Once completed, the two wells are expected to add around 60 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas to the national grid, with each well contributing about 30 mmcf. Oil & Gas

The project also includes the construction of a two-kilometre gas gathering pipeline to connect the new wells to the existing transmission network.

According to project documents, expanding the Titas Gas Field will help meet growing domestic demand and reduce pressure on foreign exchange reserves caused by LNG imports.

A feasibility study found the project to be economically viable, estimating its economic internal rate of return (EIRR) at 258 per cent.

Meanwhile, BAPEX has proposed a nine-well drilling programme with an estimated cost of Tk 4.90 billion to explore new gas reserves and enhance production from existing structures.

The project includes drilling one appraisal-cum-development well at Semutang-7, one appraisal well at Begumganj-9, and seven exploration wells, including Char-Lakshya-1.

The PEC advised BAPEX to ensure effective exploration planning, strengthen technical capacity and complete drilling activities within the project schedule to achieve the expected outcomes.

The committee also highlighted the importance of comprehensive geological assessments before exploration activities to reduce the

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BNP Secretary General and Local Government Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir delivered the chief guest speech at the Bengal Delta Conference-2026 at a hotel in the capital on Friday.

Govt striving to strengthen democracy, revitalise economy: Fakhrul

Staff Correspondent

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir today said the government is working to strengthen democratic institutions, revive the economy and improve the people's living standards.

"The incumbent government is making efforts to build Bangladesh into a democratic, inclusive and exploitation-free state," the LGRD minister said while addressing the Bengal Delta Conference 2026 at a city hotel.

The conference, organised by the Dhaka Institute of Research and

Analytics (DAIRA), was held under the theme: 'Bangladesh and a Changing World: Uncharted Times, Emerging Orders, and the Politics of Care'.

Speaking at the conference, Mirza Fakhrul said Bangladesh is currently at an important juncture, as the student-people's movement, the aspiration to restore democracy, and the expectation of political change have created new possibilities for the country.

Paying tribute to the martyrs and freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives in the 1971 Liberation War, he said Bangladesh achieved independence through their sacrifices.

He also paid homage to the students and people who laid down their lives during the 2024 movement to restore democracy in the country.

The minister said he is not a professional analyst but a grassroots political activist.

"Through my long political career, I have gained an understanding of the country's politics and the people's aspirations," he said, referring to his participation in various movements against dictatorship.

Presenting the country's current economic situation, Mirza Fakhrul said the impact of global conflicts

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Bangladesh gets lowest US tariff, retains competitive edge

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has secured the lowest tariff rate of 10 per cent under a new US trade measure, helping the country retain a competitive edge over major apparel-exporting rivals, including China, Vietnam and Thailand.

The US government on July 23 announced tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 on 60 economies representing 86 countries globally following investigations by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) into the use of forced labour.

The new tariffs, ranging from 10 percent to 12.5 percent, took effect at 12:01 am [Washington DC time] today, replacing the temporary 10-percent global tariff previously imposed under Section 122.

Under the decision, imports originating from Bangladesh will face a 10-percent tariff, in addition to the existing Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) tariff rates, said the foreign ministry here today.

Bangladesh is among only 17 of the 86 countries placed in the lower 10-percent tariff tier, a position expected to help preserve its competitiveness in the US apparel and broader export market. In contrast, several of Bangladesh's major

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Persistent bottlenecks hit traders at Bhomra Land Port

Staff Correspondent

Importers and traders at Bhomra Land Port in Satkhira are facing mounting difficulties due to a series of operational and infrastructural challenges that continue to hamper the clearance and transportation of imported goods.

Business leaders and stakeholders say inadequate infrastructure, slow customs procedures, labor shortages, and rising operational costs have significantly disrupted activities at one of the country's important land ports, forcing many importers to shift to alternative ports.

The port has been struggling with the absence of adequate warehouses, delays in customs assessment and document verification,



a shortage of truck parking facilities, excessive traffic congestion, slow loading and unloading operations, and periodic labor and transport strikes.

Local extortion and inconsistencies between Bangladesh and Indian customs procedures have further slowed cargo movement.

"Bhomra is a highly promising port, but the lack of modern facilities and proper management has prevented it from reaching its full potential," said importer Anwar Hossain.

He noted that delays in cargo clearance increase transportation, labor, and

port handling costs, placing additional financial burdens on traders.

Another importer, Md. Mohsin, said that businesses naturally prefer ports where goods can be cleared quickly and at lower costs.

According to him, congestion, labor shortages, and prolonged customs procedures at Bhomra have forced many traders to look elsewhere. Leading importer-exporter Dipankar Ghosh stressed the need for modernization at the port.

He said many operations are still conducted manually due to the absence of automation, causing unnecessary delays. He also pointed to shortages of modern cranes, truck

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US imposes new forced labour tariffs on BD, 59 other trade partners

Staff Correspondent

The United States has imposed new tariffs on imports from Bangladesh and nearly 60 other major trading partners, citing their alleged failure to take sufficient action against forced labour in supply chains.

The new tariffs took effect on Friday, the same day a temporary 10% tariff introduced earlier this year expired. The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) said the measure aims to strengthen enforcement against goods produced with forced labour.

The new tariff rates range from 10% to 12.5%, depending on each country's efforts to prevent imports of goods made with forced labour.

Bangladesh joins countries including the United Kingdom, China, the European Union, Canada, Japan, India and Pakistan on the list of affected trading partners.

The latest move marks another step in President Donald Trump's trade agenda after the US Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that the administration could not rely on emergency powers to impose broad global tariffs. The administration subsequently turned to other legal authorities to pursue its trade policies.

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Electricity trapped in old frames

Staff Correspondent

On paper, the country's electricity generation capacity is about 28,000 megawatts. But in reality, only 14 to 15,000 megawatts are being generated on average every day. As a result, load shedding returns whenever demand increases, causing consumers to suffer, and the explanation from the power department is almost the same - energy crisis, foreign exchange pressure and financial constraints. Despite the change of government, there has been no major change in the picture of this crisis in the power sector. Although the infrastructural capacity has increased, the main obstacle to utilizing that capacity is the long-standing weakness of the energy supply, financing, transmission and distribution system. As a result, the country is not getting the full benefit of the generation capacity built up through huge investments over more than a decade.

Experts say that the country's power sector is no longer in a crisis of production



capacity; rather, it is stuck in a crisis of energy security, financial capacity and infrastructure constraints. Due to declining domestic gas production, dependence on expensive LNG imports, foreign exchange pressure,

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BB launches pilot framework for digital trade document processing

Staff Correspondent

The central bank has launched a pilot framework to enable digital processing of trade documents under documentary collections and letters of credit (LCs), aiming to modernise cross-border trade operations.

The framework will allow electronic submission, transmission, and verification of trade documents across approved international trade corridors, according to a notification issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Wednesday.

The initiative covers both export and import transactions governed by Uniform Rules for Collections (URC), Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits (UCP) and their electronic versions (eURC and eUCP).

The central bank officials, however, said the framework introduces the use of Electronic Transferable Records (ETRs) as legally reliable alternatives to paper documents, subject to compliance with applicable standards.

It emphasizes interoperability, technology neutrality, data privacy,



and decentralized verification using secure digital mechanisms, they added.

Under the framework, authorised dealer (AD) banks need to seek the BB's approval to participate in the

pilot by specifying trade corridors, counterparties, transaction types,

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Speaker Hafiz

He wished Mohammed Shahabuddin a speedy recovery and good health.

Replying to questions from journalists, the Speaker said a President could fall ill and the written resignation itself clearly explained the medical reasons behind the decision.

“In such a case, no additional medical certificate is required,” he said, expressing hope that the resignation would remove all confusion, speculation and uncertainty surrounding the issue.

He further said the office of the President never remains vacant under the Constitution.

“As the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, I accepted the resignation and have accordingly begun discharging the responsibilities of the President,” he added.

Jatiya Sangsad Chief Whip Md Nurul Islam, Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal and senior officials of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat were present at the press conference.

President Sahabuddin

mentally incapable of discharging the responsibilities of such an important constitutional post of President. I need long-term treatment."

"In this situation, in accordance with the provisions of Article 50(3) of the Constitution, I am resigning from the President's position," the resign letter reads.

As per Article 54 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad will discharge the duties of the President until a new President is elected and assumes office.

Mohammed Sahabuddin assumed office as the 22nd President of Bangladesh on April 24, 2023.

Govt striving to strengthen

and economic instability has also affected Bangladesh.

International crises, including tensions between Iran and the United States and the Russia-Ukraine war, have created major challenges for developing countries, he said, adding that Bangladesh's economy is under pressure due to long-standing corruption, money laundering and financial irregularities.

However, he expressed optimism that Bangladesh would recover by harnessing the strength of its people and emerging opportunities.

Referring to the government's various initiatives, the minister said it is working to restructure the economy, increase investment, generate employment and strengthen the banking sector.

He said several development programmes have been undertaken to boost the rural economy.

Mirza Fakhrul said the government is giving special importance to industrial development, agricultural advancement and the growth of the creative economy.

He also said the recent budget includes a number of measures to promote investment and industrialisation.

On democratic reforms, the minister said initiatives have been taken to build a consensus on constitutional reforms through consultations with political parties.

He stressed the need to build strong institutions to make democracy sustainable.

Highlighting the importance of regional cooperation, Mirza Fakhrul said the engagement of international partners in Bangladesh's economic development should be strengthened.

He expressed hope that the country's people would build a new Bangladesh through their courage, unity and resilience, where everyone would have the opportunity to lead a better, safer and more dignified life.

Local and foreign researchers, policymakers, diplomats, development experts, business leaders and civil society representatives attended the conference.

Accurate flood forecasting,

volume of moisture from the Bay of Bengal into the eastern region of the country. As the moisture-laden air rose over the hills, it produced intense orographic rainfall.

"Chattogram recorded about 413 millimetres of rainfall in a single day recently and nearly 850 millimetres over three days, exceeding the carrying capacity of rivers and drainage systems," he said.

Professor Saiful Islam said such extreme rainfall is becoming more common as climate change increases atmospheric moisture, resulting in more intense downpours.

He said heavy rainfall alone does not explain the severity of urban flooding. Rapid and unplanned urbanisation, encroachment on wetlands and canals, obstruction of natural drainage and poor solid waste management have significantly increased flood risks in cities, he said.

noted that many drains have already lost a large share of their carrying capacity because they are clogged with garbage.

"No matter how many new drains are constructed, they will not function effectively unless existing drains are cleaned regularly and solid waste is managed properly with active public participation," he said.

The experts also stressed the need for strict implementation of urban master plans, building regulations and zoning policies, alongside improved maintenance of drainage infrastructure and embankments.

They said accurate forecasting, science-based urban planning, restoration of natural water bodies, wider adoption of rainwater harvesting and stronger institutional coordination would together help Bangladesh better cope with the increasing risks posed by floods in a changing climate.

PM’s pledge fulfilled

Of them, seven have already undergone surgery, while three more are scheduled to undergo operations within the next few days, he said.

On May 5, Prime Minister's spouse and Vice President of the Ziaur Rahman Foundation Dr Zubaida Rahman inaugurated a 50-bed ICU at Kurmitola General Hospital. On the same day, she also inaugurated the Pathology Pavilion and the Gastro Liver Centre alongside the ICU unit.

Following the inauguration, Dr Zubaida Rahman formally announced free medical treatment for residents of the three slums. Since then, low-income slum dwellers have been receiving the benefits of the initiative.

Earlier, during the national parliamentary election campaign, BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman had pledged to ensure free healthcare services for slum dwellers. The initiative has been undertaken in line with that commitment.

During a visit to the hospital, BSS spoke to several patients who said that free treatment had relieved them of long-standing financial hardships. They said that those who previously could not afford treatment at major hospitals or consultations with specialist physicians were now receiving free specialist consultations, necessary diagnostic tests and medicines.

They added that all this had become possible due to the initiative of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

Amena Begum, a resident of the Bhashantek slum who came to the hospital for treatment, told BSS that she had spent Taka 6,000 about three months ago for cataract surgery on one eye. She has now been admitted for surgery on her other eye, but this time she will not have to pay anything for the treatment, she added.

Emotionally overwhelmed after receiving such advanced treatment free of cost, Amena Begum said, "We are fortunate to be receiving this free service. This government initiative has brought enormous benefits to poor people like us."

Kamrul Islam, a resident of the Korail slum, told BSS,

"During the election campaign, current Prime Minister Tarique Rahman pledged to ensure free medical treatment for slum dwellers. In line with that pledge, I am now receiving all treatment free of cost at Kurmitola Hospital."

He added, "We are treated with great respect at this hospital. The food provided to us is of very good quality."

Hospital officials said that residents of the three slums are also receiving free treatment for complex diseases such as cancer and heart disease. To receive the services, they only need to purchase a ticket costing Taka 10, after which all remaining treatment is provided completely free of charge.

Volunteers have been appointed in the three slums to identify genuine patients. Through an association, these volunteers bring patients to the hospital. Upon arrival, patients are provided with access to a separate ticket counter and immediate medical services.

Hospital Director Brigadier General Saidur Rahman said, "In line with the pledge made by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, we have been providing completely free treatment to low-income and marginalised people from the Korail, Sattala and Bhashantek slums in the capital."

"People from these three slums only have to come and purchase a ticket for Taka 10. We take care of everything else."

He said, "People from these slums are also receiving free treatment for complex diseases such as cancer and heart disease at this hospital. We have arranged the entire system free of charge through our own personnel. Everyone has equal access here, so we cannot identify slum residents on our own. Therefore, volunteers have been appointed in the slums. Through an association, they bring patients to us. Even if patients coming from the slums have no attendants of their own, hospital staff take responsibility and provide them with complete care."

Take toughest possible

10 of schools and madrasahs under an initiative of the Tangail unit of the Teachers Foundation Central Committee.

Presided over by President of the Teachers Foundation Central Committee, Tangail, Dr. Khandakar Anisul Haque, the function was also addressed by Tangail district BNP President Md. Hasanuzzamil Shaheen, former Member Secretary of Tangail district BNP Mahmudul Haque Sanu and Instructor of UPTC, Ajmiriganj, Habiganj, Md. Islam Mia, as special guests.

Tuku said everyone has a responsibility to remain vigilant from their respective positions to prevent the spread of narcotics and guide the younger generation in the right direction.

He said nation-building is a shared responsibility and emphasized that protecting young people from drug abuse is essential for developing skilled, moral and patriotic citizens.

The state minister said Prime Minister has already introduced the "Notun Kuri" competition so that students can develop themselves as skilled and competent individuals by participating not only in academic studies but also in co-curricular activities.

Tuku said today's meritorious students would lead the way in building a prosperous Bangladesh in the future. Therefore, families, teachers and society must work together to nurture their talents, he added.

He said students should not only excel in examinations but also grow into ideal citizens enriched with morality, human values and patriotism.

General Secretary of the Teachers Foundation Central Committee, Tangail, Mamunur Rashid, Literary Affairs Secretary Babu Bhubesh Mukut Pal, along with teachers, students, guardians and distinguished guests, were present at the programme.

India protest leaders agree

In a late-night social media post, Modi said his cabinet would discuss measures on Friday to speed up court proceedings against those involved in examination leaks.

After ‘incorporating the suggestions of my cabinet colleagues’, draft legislation would be given ‘its final shape’, he said.

‘We will make every effort to have the bill introduced and passed by the House at the earliest,’ Modi added.

The prime minister’s intervention followed mounting pressure from protesters and civil society groups demanding education reform.

Prominent activist Sonam Wangchuk, who ended a 26-day hunger strike in support of the movement late Thursday, said the government had assured him that no action would be taken against peaceful demonstrators.

‘They also assured us that parliament would hold a full debate on the issue and on improving accountability in the education and examination system,’ he said on social media.

The protests escalated on Monday when police fired tear gas and used batons against tens of thousands of demonstrators in New Delhi, the capital’s largest street rally in five years.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke welcomed Wangchuk’s decision to end his hunger strike but said the movement would press ahead with its campaign until the education minister resigns.

‘By putting your own life on the line, you awakened the conscience of an entire nation,’ Dipke, 30, said in a social media post.

The protests have emerged as one of the biggest political challenges facing Modi since he secured a third term in office in 2024.

Bangladesh's leather sector

FY22, before earnings fell over the following two years.

The figure dropped to \$1.18 billion in FY23 and further to \$1.04 billion in FY24.

The sector staged something of a comeback in FY25 despite political instability and uncertainty following the change of government, earning \$1.15 billion, with year-on-year growth of 10.20 percent.

That upward trend held through FY26, the fiscal year that ended on Jun 30.

Export earnings from leather rose 47.68 percent in June alone, bringing in \$128.85 million, compared with \$87.25 million in the same month last year.

Of the \$1.23 billion earned across the full year, leather goods exports contributed \$400.4 million, up 16.13 percent.

Leather footwear brought in \$691.7 million, up nearly 3 percent from the previous financial year.

Other leather exports earned \$134.14 million, a rise of 4.63 percent over FY2025.

‘Opportunity Must Be Seized’

Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), a private think tank, attributes the rising earnings mainly to three factors.

The first, he said, is the geopolitics of the global trade war.

After Donald Trump began his second term as US president and imposed retaliatory tariffs on China, American importers started looking for alternative sourcing destinations, with some of the orders shifting away from China landing in Bangladesh, creating an opening for the country's leather and footwear industry.

Second, Europe and the US have increased imports as they recovered from the shock of inflation, he said, and third, because Bangladesh's export base is comparatively small, even modest gains show up as large percentage increases.

"Sustaining this positive trend will require expanding infrastructure and port facilities, arranging faster clearance of goods, and focusing on securing environmental certification," Razzaque said.

Exporters say the US is now the biggest market for leather footwear and leather goods, and that the recent surge in earnings is largely down to Trump's tariff policy.

Shaheen Ahamed, chairman of the Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA), recalled that many orders had shifted to

Bangladesh from China even during the COVID-19 pandemic, raising hopes for the leather sector at the time, hopes that were dashed by the Russia-Ukraine war.

He said Europe is a key market for leather goods, and the war hit

RCC intensifies drain cleaning

RCC Administrator Mahfuzur Rahman Riton has directed officials and employees at all levels to strengthen civic services by accelerating city cleanliness, mosquito control, drain maintenance, tree plantation, greening and beautification programmes.

As part of the initiative, mud removal from drains was carried out in Ward No. 11 on Thursday.

RCC cleaned and removed accumulated mud from several econdary drains that had remained almost non-functional for a long time.

The cleaned drains include those stretching from the area adjacent to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to Sabjipara, Sahajipara, the Harijan Palli Temple area and the secondary drain along the southern boundary wall of Hetemkhan Graveyard.

According to RCC officials, prolonged accumulation of garbage and mud had severely hampered water flow in the drains, causing frequent waterlogging in the locality even after light rainfall.

Following the cleaning operation, the drainage system has become functional again, substantially reducing waterlogging and restoring normal movement and daily activities for local residents.

Besides the drain cleaning, RCC restored the long-disconnected water supply at Hetemkhan Graveyard.

Frequent thefts leave

end have already been stolen, with the latest incident occurring on Saturday night. Earlier, miscreants stole track pots from Padma Railway Station on 19 June, removed all track pots at the Shibchar end of the same station on 9 June, and damaged the signalling system on 18 March. As a result, trains approaching home signals are now required to wait for manual clearance, significantly slowing operations and increasing operational risks.

Railway sources said the Dhaka-Bhanga railway line via the Padma Bridge, inaugurated on 10 October 2023, has been serving thousands of passengers daily. However, inadequate security has made the costly infrastructure vulnerable to theft.

Among the stolen items are track pots, track transformers, signal cables, guard rail screw spikes, axle counters, point machines, steel gratings, handrails, electric cables, distribution boards, fish bolts, fish plates, elastic rail clips and gauge plates.

Govt advances Tk 11.22b

risks associated with unsuccessful drilling.

The drilling programme will cover prospective gas structures in the Chattogram and Noakhali districts.Project Management

Of the project cost, Tk 4.08 billion will be financed through the Gas Development Fund (GDF), while BAPEX will provide Tk 820 million from its own resources.

The BAPEX project aims to identify new gas reserves, assess existing fields and strengthen the capacity of the state-owned exploration company.

The move comes as the government seeks to revive domestic gas exploration after years of increasing reliance on imported energy.

Officials said increasing domestic gas production through projects such as the Titas expansion and BAPEX's drilling programme would help ease pressure on the national budget by reducing the need for LNG imports.

Fruit imports fall as high

on imported fresh fruits and rationalise the overall tax structure.

The association submitted a written proposal to the chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

However, traders noted that previous reductions in import taxes had little impact on wholesale and retail fruit prices.

According to the BFFA, gradual increases in SD and RD over recent years have significantly raised import costs, with the additional burden ultimately being passed on to consumers.

The association warned that the existing high tariff regime is pushing up consumer prices, reducing the competitiveness of legal importers and encouraging smuggling through border areas.

It proposed removing fresh fruits from the luxury goods category and reclassifying them as essential commodities.

The association also recommended reducing the Regulatory Duty from 20% to zero and lowering the Supplementary Duty from 30% to 20%.

According to an analysis by the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC), imports of fresh fruits have declined sharply over the past four fiscal years.

Compared with FY22, imports in FY25 fell by approximately 37.35% for apples, 42.77% for oranges, 35.11% for grapes, 24.70% for pears and 94.38% for pomegranates.

The commission estimated that an apple imported at Tk86 currently attracts around Tk105 in taxes and duties.

It also observed that fruits such as apples, oranges, grapes and pears have limited domestic production, reducing the need for high protective tariffs.

US imposes new forced

Last month, the White House proposed tariffs of between 10% and 12.5% on goods imported from dozens of countries, arguing that many trading partners had failed to adequately address forced labour.

On Thursday, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer confirmed that the tariffs would take effect under President Trump's directive.

"Today's action begins to address human rights abuses and trade distortions that undermine workers' welfare," Greer said in a statement.

The tariffs rely on Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974, which authorises Washington to respond to foreign trade practices that it considers unfair or harmful to US commerce.

Earlier this week, the Trump administration invoked Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to impose a 50% tariff on certain Canadian goods.

The USTR said the new tariffs apply because trading partners have failed to ban and effectively enforce restrictions on imports produced through forced labour.

According to the agency, the measures cover the United States' top 60 trading partners, which account for about 99.4% of total US imports.

The office also said the Trump administration has made restrictions on goods produced with forced labour a key element of reciprocal trade agreements during the president's second term.

Countries that have banned imports of goods made with forced labour, committed to enforcing such bans through reciprocal trade agreements, or introduced partial measures to curb those imports will face a 10% tariff.

Those that have not taken comparable steps will face the higher 12.5% rate.

Countries subject to the 10% tariff include Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.

For products not covered by other exemptions, selected goods from the European Union, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and

Switzerland will face an additional Section 301 tariff of either 10% or 12.5% above the existing most-favoured-nation tariff rate, with further details to appear in a Federal Register notice.All other economies covered by the investigation will face a 12.5% tariff.

Greer said he was encouraged that some trading partners had moved quickly to prohibit imports made with forced labour and expressed hope they would fully implement those commitments.

Trump's tariff strategy

President Donald Trump has consistently argued that tariffs protect American workers, create more manufacturing jobs and strengthen the US economy.

After returning to the White House last year, Trump imposed tariffs of up to 50% on imports from global trading partners, saying the measures would counter what he described as decades of unfair treatment of the United States in international trade.

However, the US Supreme Court struck down the policy in February, ruling that the president had exceeded his authority by imposing the tariffs without congressional approval.

Following the ruling, the government refunded billions of dollars in tariff payments to affected companies.

The White House has since explored alternative legal mechanisms to maintain its trade agenda, including the temporary tariff framework that now imposes rates of 10% to 12.5% on imports from dozens of countries.

Washington has also introduced separate tariffs on countries including Brazil and Canada, while its tariff dispute with China remains unresolved despite a temporary pause in retaliatory measures.

Economists have warned that higher tariffs could raise prices for everyday consumer goods, including coffee and microwave ovens, in the US market.

Because importing companies pay the tariffs, they often pass the additional costs on to consumers through higher retail prices.

Trump has also used tariffs to pressure trading partners, including Mexico, on issues beyond trade, such as labour standards.

Several trading partners are now considering legal challenges or retaliatory tariffs in response to the latest US measures.

Meanwhile, the Office of the US Trade Representative is investigating 16 countries over allegations of excess industrial capacity. The inquiries cover economies that account for a large share of US imports and could pave the way for additional tariffs later this year.

Several countries, including Brazil, have criticised the United States after Washington imposed new tariffs linked to forced labour concerns.

Brazil described the measure as "unfair" and "arbitrary", accusing Washington of using workers' rights to justify a protectionist trade policy.

In a statement, the Brazilian government said the United States had chosen to use the important issue of labour rights to support its own protectionist agenda.

Brazil, which faces the new 12.5% tariff, said it would respond in accordance with its domestic laws and explore alternative export markets for its products.

Earlier this month, the United States imposed a separate 25% tariff on Brazilian furniture, machinery, sugar and other goods, although it exempted products including beef and coffee.

Japan also expressed disappointment over the latest US tariffs. The Japanese government said on Friday that its trade practices comply with international rules.

Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell called the tariffs "completely unfair" and said Canberra would continue pressing Washington to remove all duties on Australian exports.

China has repeatedly opposed unilateral tariffs and rejected allegations that it uses forced labour.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "There is no so-called forced labour in China, and we oppose the use of this issue as a pretext for political manipulation."

Persistent bottlenecks hit

sheds, fire safety services, accommodation, and medical facilities.

"Without these basic facilities, it is difficult to maintain smooth trade operations at such an important land port," he said.

Business leaders have also proposed the construction of a railway link connecting Bhomra with Benapole or Navaron, arguing that rail transport would reduce transportation costs, save time, and ease cargo congestion.

Stakeholders say operating costs at Bhomra remain higher than at several competing ports.

Unlike other ports where certain incentives are available for importing raw materials, traders at Bhomra receive no such benefits while facing higher truck fares, labor expenses, and port charges.

Shahinur Islam, a C&F agent at the port, said many traders are incurring losses due to rising operational costs.

"If businesses continue to suffer losses instead of making profits, importers will naturally move to other ports," he said.

Ramkrishna Chakraborty, president of the Bhomra Port Importers and Exporters Association, warned that the current situation is affecting not only traders but also government revenue.

He said declining import and export activities have reduced investment opportunities and employment while causing significant revenue losses.

"The government is losing substantial revenue because of declining trade activities," he said, urging policymakers to adopt effective measures and improve infrastructure to restore the port's competitiveness.

Abu Musa, general secretary of the Bhomra Port C&F Agents Association, expressed optimism that the government would take necessary steps to create a more favorable business environment.

He emphasized that warehouses, truck terminals, modern equipment, automation, and improved security systems are essential for revitalizing the port.

Attempts to obtain comments from customs officials were unsuccessful, as no official agreed to speak on the issue.

However, Md. Atikul Islam, Assistant Director (Traffic) of Bhomra Port, said that development projects worth approximately Tk 11 billion are currently underway to expand the port's capacity.

He said land acquisition and sand-filling work have already been completed, although some projects have been delayed due to funding complications.

He expressed hope that once the ongoing development projects are completed, cargo clearance operations will become faster and more efficient, allowing traders to import and export goods more easily and restoring momentum to the port's activities.

Bangladesh gets lowest US

competitors in global apparel manufacturing, including China, Vietnam and Thailand, have been placed under the maximum 12.5-percent tariff rate.

The tariff differential is expected to reinforce Bangladesh's comparative advantage in the US market relative to competitors facing the higher rate.

Meanwhile, the USTR is considering establishing a three-year Tariff-Rate Quota (TRQ) for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia that could waive Section 301 tariffs on goods manufactured using US cotton and textile inputs.

If implemented, the facility could provide Bangladesh with an additional competitive advantage while encouraging greater use of US textile inputs and supporting further expansion of Bangladeshi exports to the American market.

The government reaffirmed its commitment to upholding international labour standards and continuing close engagement with international partners to ensure robust growth, compliance and sustainability of the country's critical export sectors.



Brian Lara Stadium hosts maiden Test as West Indies face Pakistan

Sports Desk

West Indies and Pakistan meet at Test cricket's newest venue in Trinidad on Saturday at the start of a two-match series in which the home side will be enjoying rare favoured status against the unsettled visitors.

Brian Lara Stadium, located in the south of the island, has previously hosted one-day and T20 internationals along with regional first-class fixtures.

It becomes the nation's second Test match venue and 13th in the West Indies, drawing it alongside Queen's Park Oval in the capital, Port of Spain, the venue of the second Test a week later.

Roston Chase enjoyed his first match and series wins as West Indies Test captain just three weeks ago when the Caribbean team demolished Sri Lanka by an innings and 217 runs and then played out a draw in the second and final Test, both matches played in Antigua.

Chase missed the recent ODI series loss to New Zealand with an injury to his right index finger.

"Roston is a fighter. I know he's not going to want to miss any Test cricket," West Indies head coach Daren Sammy said.

"I'm pretty sure Dr. Byam (team physio Denis Byam) has a way of keeping guys on the park, so I'm pretty sure Roston will be ready for the first Test."

It was their first home Test series triumph since a 2-0 sweep of Bangladesh in 2022, a result which also gave them their last consecutive series wins anywhere as the whitewash of the Bangladeshis was preceded by a notable 1-0 home triumph over England in a three-Test contest.

West Indies are not expected to make significant alterations to the winning combination from the Sri Lankan series, although left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican is likely to come into consideration at the expense of fast-medium bowler Anderson Phillip given the expectation of a pitch favouring spin later in the match.

In stark contrast, Pakistan have once again revamped their squad in the aftermath of a 2-0 series loss in Bangladesh two months ago with senior batsman Babar Azam returning as captain in place of Shan Masood in hope of reviving their Test fortunes.

Babar and opening batsman Azan Awaish both compiled hundreds in the lone warm-up match against a West Indies Select XI at the weekend while

most of the other main batsmen also got confidence-boosting runs.

However the most encouraging aspect of the match in batting-friendly conditions for the tourists was the bowling of pacer Mohammad Ali, who took five wickets in the first innings and will be relied upon, together with the other members of the restructured pace armoury, to give Pakistan a chance to end a miserable run of seven consecutive Test match losses away from home.

Their last visit to the Caribbean in 2021 finished in a 1-1 draw after two Tests in Kingston while the teams' most recent Test encounters were in the spin-dominant Multan in January of 2025 when the West Indies trumped Pakistan at their own game in the second match to also leave that series at 1-1.

This meeting of two unpredictable sides carries the additional dimension of intervention by the elements as the July/August period is usually one of significant rainfall in the southern Caribbean.

While Trinidad has enjoyed hot, sunny conditions in the days leading up to the first Test, there is certainly no guarantee that such pleasant cricketing weather will be sustained over the fortnight of this short series.

Klopp handed task of reviving Germany's football fortunes

Sports Desk

Jurgen Klopp was named as the new head coach of the German men's national football team on Friday, replacing Julian Nagelsmann who left after the team's disappointing World Cup.

"We're very happy to be able to present Jurgen Klopp today as the new coach," German Football Association (DFB) President Bernd Neuendorf told a press conference in Frankfurt.

Neuendorf said Klopp's contract would run until "summer 2030, so until the next World Cup in Morocco, Spain and Portugal," adding that the contract would begin on August 15.

Klopp, 59, had spoken publicly of his desire to take on the role after



Nagelsmann left earlier in July. Germany crashed out of this summer's World Cup after losing to Paraguay on penalties in the round of 32.

mer's World Cup after losing to Paraguay on penalties in the round of 32.

It was the third successive World Cup failure for the Germans since winning their fourth title in 2014.

Germany failed to make it past the group stage in both 2018 and 2022. They have won just one knockout match at the past five major tournaments, reaching the quarter-finals as hosts at Euro 2024.

Klopp had successful coaching tenures at German clubs Mainz -- where he was a player for more than a decade -- and Borussia Dortmund before turning round the fortunes of English giants Liverpool.

Spain coach blasts 'unacceptable' Argentina behaviour

Sports Desk

Spain head coach Luis De la Fuente has blasted the "unacceptable" behaviour of several Argentina players and their coaching staff after losing the World Cup final.

Some Argentina players and staff confronted their Spanish rivals after the final whistle of last Sunday's game in New York which Spain won 1-0 after extra time. Argentina players including Atletico Madrid defender Nahuel Molina and former Paris Saint-Germain player Leandro Paredes were involved in the incidents."At the time, I didn't realise it. I was celebrating, hugging teammates," De La Fuente told Spanish television."But in any case, it is intolerable, unacceptable, it cannot be allowed. Players of that stature, whom I praised in the days leading up to the match and continue to praise, who are great players with a tremendous coach, surely they must have felt just as bad as we did seeing those reactions."

Sports Desk

International Master (IM) Md Minhaz Uddin of Bangladesh Navy emerged as the undefeated champion of the Manha's Castle 29th International Rating Chess Tournament held at Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room Thursday night.

IM Minhaz secured the title with 7.5 points from nine games. FIDE Master (FM) Syed Mahfuzur Rahman of Manha's Castle also finished with 7.5 points, but IM Minhaz was declared champion on the tie-break system, while FM Mahfuzur finished as the runner-up.

FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Bangladesh Navy finished third, Candidate Master Md. Masum Hossain of SSPL Sporting Club became fourth, FIDE Master Subrato Biswas of City Club finished fifth, FIDE Master Mohammad Javed of Bangladesh Navy became sixth and Candidate Master Md. Jamal Uddin of City



Club became seventh with seven points each after their position was decided by tie-breaking systems.

Sarwar Hossain Ullash finished eighth with 6.5 points, Candidate Master Mahtabuddin Ahmed of Bangladesh Navy became ninth, Candidate Master Avik Sarker of 64 Square Chess Club became tenth,

Md. Abu Hanif of Sadharan Bima Corporation Sporting Club became eleventh and Tashriq Saihan Shan of Bangladesh Police Chess Club became 12th.

Following the conclusion of the tournament, Lokeman Hossain Mollah Lovelu, president of Manha's Castle, distributed the prizes among the winners.

Entertainment



I am proud of India's young generation: Twinkle Khanna

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood actress Twinkle Khanna has expressed her support for the ongoing student movement in Delhi. She took to social media to express her solidarity with the protesters after the police lathicharge incident at the 'Chalo Sangsad' programme of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP). She also praised the courage of the youth and said that she is proud of the students.

Twinkle shared several pictures from the protests in Delhi and Mumbai on her Facebook account. In one of the pictures, 27-year-old model Rhea Ahir is seen standing in front of a police prison van carrying detained protesters during a protest in Mumbai's Shivaji Park. In another picture, a woman is seen protecting other protesters during a lathicharge.

Twinkle captioned the pictures, "I am proud to be a citizen of a country where our young generation still has the courage to protest, resist and endure tear gas and

batons. But sadly, they are forced to face all this."

Many Bollywood stars have already expressed their support for the students' movement. Among them, veteran actress Shabana Azmi, actor Prakash Raj and some other stars expressed solidarity with the protesting students in Delhi. Many others, including Sonakshi Sinha, Salman Khan, Alia Bhatt, Imran Khan and Rajkummar Rao, have expressed their support on social media.

Students, parents and the general public from different parts of the country have gathered at Jantar Mantar in Delhi to ensure transparency in the examination system and demand necessary reforms. The movement is being led by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP). The protesters' demands include the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, compensation to the families of students who committed suicide due to stress, and ensuring accountability in the education system.

Sydney court dismisses defamation case against film star Rebel Wilson

Entertainment Desk

A Sydney court dismissed on Wednesday a defamation case against Australian film star Rebel Wilson by another actor.

Charlotte MacInnes, who had featured in Wilson's directing debut "The Deb", accused the star of defaming her in 2024 by suggesting she had changed an account of having been a victim of sexual harassment in order to advance her career.

The federal court case focused on an incident where MacInnes, who was 25 at the time, and the producer and financier of the film, Amanda Ghost, then 49, had shared a bath in an apartment after swimming at Bondi Beach. Wilson alleged that MacInnes had complained to her the next day about being uncomfortable that she was asked by Ghost to take the bath. Justice Elizabeth Raper on Wednesday dismissed the case against Wilson -- star of Hollywood hits including "Bridesmaids" and "Pitch Perfect" --



and ordered MacInnes to pay costs.

"To say that the circumstances surrounding how they came to be in the bath are unusual would be an understatement," Raper said in the

judgement. The court found that while one of Wilson's 2024 Instagram posts had suggested MacInnes "changed her story about feeling uncomfortable about what happened in the bathroom", this was not defamatory and was also "substantially true".

"It is obvious that Ms Ghost, a 49 year old woman, should have appreciated the inappropriateness of her conduct regardless of whether there was any sexual motivation or conduct," the judgement read.

On Instagram, Wilson thanked the judge and Australian legal system for a "substantial win today". "I'm looking forward to getting back to what I love most, my family and my work," she wrote.

"Thank you to the Judge and the Australian legal system who I have the utmost respect for."

Nusrat Faria will be in Dubai

Entertainment Desk

Amid the turbulent situation in the Middle East, Bangladeshi actress Nusrat Faria will be visiting Dubai. She will be accompanied by actor Zayed Khan. They will participate in a grand gala event and international real estate sales exhibition in Dubai. In addition, music stars from various Asian countries will also participate in this gala event. This grand event will be held on May 17. This international real estate sales exhibition will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dubai, organized by Desert Rise Real Estate, the exclusive channel partner of Dubai's renowned real estate company Azizi Developments, and Rover Cyber. The country's real estate industry is taking new initiatives to overcome the recent global and regional turmoil. Part of this is the International Real Estate Sales Exhibition. Nusrat Faria and Zayed Khan will be seen at the cultural event of this exhibition. After Qatar, Bollywood sensation Nora Fatehi is all set to shine again on the world stage of the FIFA World Cup in Canada. The star has been finalized to perform at the grand opening ceremony of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The event, to be held at BMO Field in Toronto, Canada on June 12, will mesmerize the world with the magic of Nora's dance and voice. FIFA has planned three opening ceremonies for this year's World Cup in the three host countries - the United States, Mexico and Canada. Nora will be joined by international music stars such as Alanis Morissette, Michael Bubl  and Elleana at the Canadian event, while the US opening ceremony will feature global icons such as Katy Perry, Lisa and Tyla.

