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BNP chief Tarique Rahman sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh



- Tarique Rahman was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Bangladesh on February 17, 2026.
- His appointment followed a landslide victory in the 13th Parliamentary Elections.
- Tarique Rahman officially became Bangladesh Prime Minister 2026 after taking oath at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad.
- The oath was administered by President Mohammed Shahabuddin in a ceremony attended by national and international dignitaries.
- The ceremony marked a departure from tradition, as it was held outside Bangabhaban to accommodate nearly 1,200 guests.
- Tarique Rahman is the son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and late President Ziaur Rahman, founder of the BNP.
- Rahman's party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), secured 209 out of 297 seats, ensuring a clear parliamentary majority.
- Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami won 68 seats in the election. The Awami League was barred from contesting the election.

- The decisive victory reshapes Bangladesh's political landscape and signals a major shift after years of Awami League dominance.
- Tarique Rahman replaced interim government chief Muhammad Yunus, who had taken charge in August 2024 after the collapse of the Awami League government.
- This marks Rahman's first term as Prime Minister.
- Tarique Rahman begins his leadership at a critical time when Bangladesh faces economic pressure, weakening institutions, and law and order challenges, and he has called for national unity and political reconciliation to address these issues.
- India was represented at the swearing-in ceremony by Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, along with senior officials including Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.
- The development holds regional significance, particularly in the context of recent strains in Dhaka–New Delhi relations during the interim government period.

About Bangladesh:

- **Capital:** Dhaka
- **Currency:** Bangladeshi Taka
- Bangladesh gained independence in 1971 after a nine-month-long Liberation War against Pakistan, with victory achieved on December 16, 1971.
- The nation declared its independence on March 26, 1971, which is celebrated as Independence Day, while December 16 is recognized as Victory Day.

Smriti Mandhana Wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025



- Smriti Mandhana was named the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 for her outstanding contribution to India's historic Women's World Cup victory.
- The award was presented at a grand ceremony in New Delhi on February 16, 2026.
- Smriti Mandhana was honoured with the BBC ISWOTY 2025 for scoring 434 runs as vice-captain in India's 2025 International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's World Cup triumph.
- She was also recognised for captaining Royal Challengers Bengaluru to their second Women's Premier League (WPL) title.
- She holds the record for the fastest 50-over international century (50 balls) by an Indian, surpassing Virat Kohli's previous record.
- Hailing from Sangli, Maharashtra, her cricket journey was guided by her father and brother, both district-level cricketers.

Other Significant Awards from the Ceremony:

- **BBC Emerging Player of the Year 2025:** Divya Deshmukh was awarded the BBC Emerging Player of the Year 2025 in recognition of her landmark Women's World Cup triumph.
- **BBC Para-Sportswoman of the Year 2025:** Preethi Pal was recognised as the BBC Para-Sportswoman of the Year 2025 for her outstanding Paralympic performance.
- **BBC Lifetime Achievement Award 2025:** Anjali Bhagwat was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 in recognition of her trailblazing contributions to Indian shooting.

About British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC):

- Director-General – Tim Davie
- Headquarters – London, United Kingdom (UK)
- Established – 1922

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually inaugurated India's first private-sector helicopter manufacturing facility

- Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron virtually inaugurated India's first private-sector helicopter manufacturing facility on 17 February 2026.
- The Final Assembly Line (FAL) for H125 helicopters has been set up at Vemagal Industrial Area in Kolar, Karnataka, near Bengaluru.
- It is a joint venture between Airbus and Tata Group.
- The facility will initially produce 10 H125 helicopters per year, with plans to scale up production to meet a projected demand of 500 helicopters over the next 20 years.
- The first "Made in India" H125 helicopter is expected to fly by early 2027.

H125 Helicopter India: Features and Uses

- The H125 helicopter India project focuses on producing a globally recognized single-engine helicopter.
- The H125 is famous for its "hot and high" performance and holds the record for landing on Mount Everest.
- It will be used for civil missions, tourism, emergency services, and disaster response.
- Plans are also underway to produce the H125M (military variant) at the same facility to support Indian Armed Forces.



C295 Aircraft India:

- Alongside the helicopter project, India-France cooperation is advancing fixed-wing aircraft manufacturing through the C295 program.
- The first “Made in India” C295 military transport aircraft is expected to roll out from Vadodara, Gujarat by September 2026.
- Out of 56 C295 aircraft ordered by the Indian Air Force, 16 have already been delivered from Spain, and the remaining 40 are being manufactured in India.
- Around 70% of C295 components are sourced domestically, with 37 Indian suppliers participating in production.
- The dual manufacturing model—C295 aircraft in Gujarat and H125 helicopters in Karnataka—strengthens India’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission in aerospace.
- The collaboration is expected to create over 10,000 jobs and build a high-tech aerospace ecosystem in India.
- It will promote domestic component manufacturing and strengthen India’s defence export potential
- India and France elevated their bilateral ties to a Special Global Strategic Partnership during this engagement.
- A total of 21 major outcomes were announced across defence, technology, innovation, health, skilling, and critical minerals.
- The India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership signals a new phase in diplomatic, defence, and industrial cooperation.
- India-France defence ties already include cooperation on Rafale fighter jets and submarine programs.
- The partnership is expanding into joint helicopter manufacturing, advanced materials, missile systems, and aerospace technology.
- A National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Indo-French Centres for AI and Digital Science were also announced to deepen technological collaboration.

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Centenary Celebrations of Ol Chiki Script in New Delhi



- Droupadi Murmu formally launched the 100-year celebrations of the Ol Chiki script in New Delhi.
- The centenary event, commemorating the period 1925–2025, was organised by the Ministry of Culture.
- The Ol Chiki script was created in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath Murmu specifically for writing the Santhali language.
- The Ol Chiki script was developed to provide a standard writing system for the Santhali language
- Earlier, Santhali was written using Roman, Devanagari, Oriya and Bengali scripts, which did not accurately represent its pronunciation
- The invention of Ol Chiki ensured accurate phonetic representation of the Santhali language
- Over the last century, the script has strengthened Santal cultural identity and language preservation
- Members of the Santal community in Nepal, Bhutan and Mauritius also benefited from a unified script system

- Pandit Raghunath Murmu invented Ol Chiki in 1925.
- He was a writer and teacher from Mayurbhanj (now in Odisha).
- Ol Chiki is also known as Ol Cemet', Ol Ciki, Ol, or Santali alphabet.
- The script has 30 letters and is fully phonetic in nature.
- It was first publicised in 1939 at the Mayurbhanj State Exhibition.
- Pandit Murmu authored over 150 works in Santhali using Ol Chiki, including novels, poetry, dramas, grammars, and dictionaries.
- Santhali belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family.
- It is spoken mainly in Jharkhand and West Bengal, and also in parts of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- Santhali was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in 2003, with Ol Chiki as its official script.

PM Narendra Modi Approves Launch of 'PM RAHAT Scheme' for Road Accident Victims

- In February 2026, Narendra Modi approved the launch of the Pradhan Mantri RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme.
- The scheme aims to provide immediate and life-saving medical care to road accident victims across India.
- It focuses on ensuring assured and timely treatment for accident victims.
- The approval was given from his newly inaugurated office Seva Teerth in New Delhi.
- The scheme focuses on delivering cashless treatment up to **Rs 1.5 lakh per victim** for 7 days from the date of accident.
- This new scheme is integrated with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) **112 helpline** ensures victims reach hospitals within the Golden Hour.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) oversees the policy implementation of the scheme and manages coordination through the eDAR platform.
- National Health Authority (NHA) examines and processes claims and handles payments through the TMS 2.0 system.



Global Tourism Resilience Day 2026 – February 17

- United Nations observes Global Tourism Resilience Day (GTRD) every year on February 17.
- The day highlights the need for a resilient tourism sector worldwide.
- It emphasizes the sector's vulnerability to crises such as natural disasters, pandemics, and economic shocks.
- It also stresses the importance of preparedness, adaptability, and sustainability in tourism development.
- On February 6, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared February 17 as Global Tourism Resilience Day (GTRD).
- The inaugural Global Tourism Resilience Day (GTRD) was observed on **February 17, 2023**.
- In February 2024, the UNGA decided to proclaim 2027 as the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.
- The 4th **GTRD Conference and Expo** is being held from February 16–18, 2026 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi (**Kenya**), bringing together global tourism leaders to discuss key challenges facing the sector.



Magnus Carlsen Wins Inaugural FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship in Germany

- Norwegian Grandmaster (GM) **Magnus Carlsen** won the the first-ever International Chess Federation or Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) **Freestyle Chess World Championship 2026** held in **Weissenhaus, Germany** from 13–15 February 2026.
- He defeated Fabiano Caruana (United States of America) in the final with a score of **2.5–1.5**.
- This victory marks Magnus Carlsen's 21st world title across various formats (Classical, Rapid, Blitz, and Freestyle/Chess960), further consolidating his position as one of the greatest players in the history of the sport.

About FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship 2026:

- **Organiser:** FIDE and Freestyle Chess Operations GmbH
- **Prize Fund:** The total prize fund was USD 300,000, with Magnus Carlsen receiving USD 100,000 for first place, Fabiano Caruana receiving USD 60,000 for second place, and Nodirbek Abdusattorov receiving USD 40,000 for third place.
- **Qualification:** The top three finishers Carlsen, Caruana, and Abdusattorov directly qualified for the 2027 Freestyle World Championship.



Narendra Modi Inaugurates Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu, Northeast India's First Extradosed Bridge in Assam

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated a six-lane bridge built over the Brahmaputra River in **Assam**.
- The bridge, named Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu, has been constructed at a cost of ₹3,030 crore.
- The 1.24-kilometre-long structure links **Guwahati** with North Guwahati, improving regional connectivity.
- It is the first extradosed bridge in Northeast India.
- An extradosed bridge is designed with external support cables and relatively low towers, which enhance its strength and allow for a longer span.

