

(14th February 2026)

International

BNP poised to form government after landslide win in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party is set to form the next government after securing a sweeping victory in the 13th parliamentary elections, crossing the two-thirds majority mark.

Voter turnout stood at 59.44 percent in the peaceful polls.

Party chief Tarique Rahman thanked supporters as preparations began for government formation, with MPs likely to be sworn in on 16 February.

US NSF announces first grants under Quad-backed AI agriculture initiative.

The US National Science Foundation has announced the first awards under the Quad-supported AI-ENGAGE programme to modernise agriculture using artificial intelligence. With an investment of \$2.4 million, the initiative will fund six international research projects across the United States and the Indo-Pacific.

The programme involves partner agencies and researchers from Quad countries, including Australia, India and Japan.

US and Taiwan finalise major trade agreement.

The Trump administration has concluded a trade deal with Taiwan under which Taipei will remove or reduce 99 percent of its tariff barriers.

Signed in Washington, the agreement sets a 15 percent or MFN tariff rate on Taiwan's exports to the US and includes \$250 billion in Taiwanese investments in sectors like semiconductors, AI and energy. The pact will also ease US exports to Taiwan, deepening bilateral economic ties.

Important Days

World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day: 14th February.

World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day is observed annually on February 14, to symbolize love and heart health.

This global observance raises awareness about congenital heart defects (CHDs), the most common birth defect affecting nearly 1 in 100 newborns worldwide.

It honours those living with CHDs, remembers the lost, supports families, and highlights the need for early detection, advanced treatments, research, and lifelong care to improve outcomes and quality of life.

National

C-DOT, RRU sign MoU to boost telecom and cybersecurity innovation.

The Centre for Development of Telematics and Rashtriya Raksha University have signed an MoU to collaborate on telecom and cybersecurity technologies.

Under the agreement, an Innovation-cum-Experience Centre will be set up at RRU's Gandhinagar campus to drive research and development in areas such as cybersecurity, AI, quantum technologies, IoT and 5G. The partnership will also focus on training and skill development, supporting self-reliant innovation and an industry-ready workforce.

Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 concludes in New Delhi.

The Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026, organised by the Ministry of Education, concluded in New Delhi after bringing together policymakers, educators and technology leaders.

The two-day event showcased AI-enabled innovations and reaffirmed a shared commitment to responsible use of artificial intelligence in education.

Discussions focused on improving foundational learning, teacher effectiveness, governance efficiency and multilingual inclusion through AI-driven solutions.

CSR conclave explores partnerships for farmer prosperity.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, along with UNDP India and the Gates Foundation, held a high-level CSR Conclave in New Delhi to leverage the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana for farmer prosperity.

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The event brought together government, corporates, banks and farmer groups to explore collaboration.

Officials emphasised deeper private sector engagement beyond CSR funding, focusing on farmer education, climate-resilient practices, and stronger financial inclusion through schemes like KCC and PMFBY.

India inaugurates Waterjet Production Facility in Goa.

Indian Coast Guard Director General Paramesh Sivamani inaugurated a Waterjet Production and Testing Facility in Goa, marking a major milestone in defence manufacturing.

With this facility, India becomes the third country after the US and South Korea to host such advanced infrastructure. Established under the manufacturing and transfer of technology framework, it will strengthen indigenous maintenance, boost MSMEs, generate employment and position India as a regional hub for waterjet systems.

Ministry of Textiles & External Affairs organises BRICS cultural evening at National Crafts Museum.

The External Affairs Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, hosted a special cultural evening for BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas at the National Crafts Museum in New Delhi. Held after the first BRICS Sherpa meeting under India's Chairmanship, the event highlighted India's rich crafts, art, music and cuisine.

Delegates from BRICS nations and partner countries explored museum galleries and artisan stalls showcasing traditional handicrafts from across India.

Government approves export of 30 LMT wheat to support farmers and markets.

The government has approved the export of 25 lakh metric tonnes of wheat and an additional 5 lakh metric tonnes of wheat products after reviewing domestic availability and prices.

The move aims to stabilise markets, improve liquidity, ensure efficient stock rotation and provide better returns to farmers.

The decision is backed by comfortable supplies, with private wheat stocks at around 75 LMT and increased Rabi 2026 acreage compared to last year.

Business and Economy

RBI approves reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as AU SFB CEO.

AU Small Finance Bank has received RBI approval for the reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as Managing Director and CEO for a three-year term starting 19 April 2026.

The decision follows earlier approvals by the bank's board and shareholders. Agarwal has led the institution since its transition into a bank in 2017, and the latest clearance marks his third consecutive RBI-approved term, reflecting regulatory confidence in his leadership.

Reliance gets US nod to import Venezuelan crude.

Reliance Industries Limited has received a general licence from the United States to buy Venezuelan oil, signalling easing sanctions on Caracas.

The approval allows RIL to source heavy crude for its Jamnagar refinery, the world's largest single-site complex.

Global traders like Vitol and Trafigura have also secured licences. Indian refiners are exploring Venezuelan oil amid expectations of steep discounts, despite processing challenges due to its viscous and acidic nature.

BHIM emerges as sixth-largest UPI App.

Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) has climbed to become the sixth-largest UPI app, surpassing platforms like Cred, Amazon Pay and WhatsApp. In January, BHIM processed 172.07 million transactions worth ₹22,025.89 crore.

This marks a five-fold rise in volume from 33.88 million transactions a year ago, while transaction value nearly doubled, reflecting growing user adoption of the government-backed digital payments app.

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RBI allows NBFCs to factor DLGs in credit loss provisions.

The Reserve Bank of India has allowed non-banking financial companies to factor in default loss guarantees provided by lending apps while computing provisions under the Expected Credit Loss framework. Effective immediately, the move applies across all stages of loan default, subject to compliance with Ind AS norms.

The RBI said ECL must be recalculated as DLG cover reduces, aiming to ensure uniform provisioning while maintaining prudent risk recognition amid the growth of digital lending partnerships.

RBI proposes 60% CD ratio norm for rural banking expansion.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued draft revised guidelines to strengthen the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) and deepen financial inclusion in rural areas.

State-level convener banks have been asked to identify and regularly update lists of unbanked rural centres and display them on SLBC websites to guide branch expansion.

Banks must ensure that at least 25 per cent of new outlets are opened in Tier-V and Tier-VI centres, prioritising villages with populations above 5,000 and CBS-enabled services.

Coverage in Tier-VI centres will be monitored through District Consultative Committees.

Introduced in 1969, the LBS coordinates banks and agencies to promote rural credit. The RBI has invited public comments on the draft by March 6.

Sports

Indian athletes shine in hammer throw at Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi.

Indian athletes impressed in the men's hammer throw at the Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026.

Kishorakumar Chandira Mogan won gold in the 30+ age category with a best throw of 37.92 metres, while Mohammad Ansar secured bronze.

The event, hosted in West Asia for the first time, follows an inclusive open format for athletes aged 30 and above.

India finish Asian Shooting Championships 2026 with 33 medals.

India concluded their Asian Shooting Championships 2026 campaign in New Delhi with a strong final-day performance, adding seven medals to finish with 33 in senior rifle and pistol events.

Amanpreet Singh won gold in the 25m centre fire pistol as India swept the podium. In women's events, Sift Kaur Samra secured silver and team gold, while Tejaswini Sawant added bronze, capping a dominant showing.

India crush Namibia by 93 runs in T20 World Cup Record win.

India registered their biggest-ever victory by runs in T20 World Cup history, defeating Namibia by 93 runs in a Group A match in New Delhi.

Batting first, India posted a formidable 209 for 9, with Ishan Kishan smashing 61 off just 24 balls.

In reply, Namibia were bowled out for 116 in 18.2 overs. Hardik Pandya was named Player of the Match.