



A group of Indonesians takes part in a candlelight vigil yesterday in support of the victims and their relatives following a series of bomb attacks in Surabaya and Jakarta.

PHOTO: AFP

## Nine killed in Ctg stampede

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She said, "I came here at 9:00pm on Sunday and found thousands of women already waiting outside the gate.

"In the morning, when the gate was opened, all the women tried to enter hurriedly, leading to the accident," said the injured woman.

Another victim Monwara Begum, 45, said no policemen were there when it happened. Only some female officials of KSRM along with some hijras were there to maintain security, she said.

Imam Mahmudul Hasan Ansari of Anis Bari Jame Mosque, also a witness, said the ground could hold 3,500 people at best but the crowd was of over 30,000.

Mohammad Imtiaz, Satkania upazila health and family planning officer, said six injured were taken to the upazila health complex. All of them had injury marks usually seen in stampede victims.

"One of the critically injured women was referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital," he said.

Interestingly, Nur-e-Alam Mina, Chittagong superintendent of police, told The Daily Star, "The cause of the death might be heatstroke while one or two of them might have been trampled."

A large number of people gathered in a small space, possibly leading to suffocation, said the SP, adding that almost all the women had burqas on.

Mina said, "We did not see signs and symptoms of stampede in the bodies during inquest."

"I visited the spot and I felt very uncomfortable due to severe heat and all the police personnel who went there also felt very uncomfortable due to the scorching heat. Moreover, there were structures around the ground that hindered smooth air flow.

"However, injury marks were seen on one or two bodies," he said.

The SP said there would not be any autopsy on the bodies as it was "not murder" rather "an accident".

Asked how police would proceed without autopsy reports if a case was filed, the SP said post-mortem was "not essential" in every case.

"Do you think, the organisers gathered the people there to kill them?" he asked The Daily Star correspondent.

Meghnath Tangchangya, assistant

met officer of Chittagong Met Office, said the highest temperature in Chittagong was only 23 degrees Celsius at 9:00am.

Asked if people could suffer a heatstroke and die at 23 degrees, Civil Surgeon Azizur Rahman Siddique of Chittagong said people do not usually die of heatstroke at 23 degrees in an open space. "When the temperature rises over 35 degrees, people are likely to be sick or may die," he said.

According to locals and media reports, some eight to 10 people were killed in another stampede in October 2005 at the same place for the same things and distributed by the same company.

Chittagong SP Mina said he heard about such an incident from locals but could not confirm whether any legal action was taken. "But this time action will be taken against the people responsible," said the SP.

Chittagong District Administration formed a five-member probe-body to investigate the matter, said Md Ilias Hossain, deputy commissioner of Chittagong.

The committee, led by an additional deputy magistrate of Chittagong, has been asked to submit its report within seven working days.

DC Ilias said their primary assumption was that the incident happened due to "mismanagement".

"They did not inform me about their distribution among so many people," he said, adding, "Had they informed us, we would have not given them permission to arrange the programme for thousands of people in that small place."

SP Mina said KSRM authorities did not take permission from police to arrange the programme. "Had we known, we would have stopped the programme," he said.

Meherul Karim, chief executive officer of KSRM, said the women died of heatstroke.

When asked to explain the injury marks on the bodies and the injured, he said he was not sure whether there was a stampede or they had died of heatstroke as he was not at the scene.

He said Tk 3 lakh would be given to families of each deceased in addition to their burial costs.

The deceased were identified as Rashida Akter, 50, Hasina Akter, 40,

from Khagaria of the upazila, Rina Begum, 30, from South Dhemsha of Satkania, Jyotsna Begum, 25, from Kalauzan of Lohagara upazila, Tuntuni Begum, 13, from North Kalauzan, Anwara Begum, 60, from Chandanaish upazila, Nur Jahan, 18, from Lohagara upazila, Saki Begum, 22, from Dhemsha of Satkania, and Bulu Akter, 35, from Puntibila of Lohagara upazila.

Stampedes are all too common in Bangladesh.

Ten people died and about 40 others were injured in a stampede at the kulkhwani of former Chittagong mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury in December.

At least 27 people died in a stampede in July, 2015, during the distribution of zakat in Mymensingh town.

## War crimes

FROM PAGE 2  
Set up in 2002 in The Hague, the ICC acts to prosecute the worst abuses including genocide in places where national tribunals are unwilling or unable to act.

The Myanmar army in the mainly Buddhist nation has denied any allegations, saying its campaign has been a legitimate response to Rohingya militant attacks last year that killed about a dozen border guard police.

The Southeast Asian nation has voiced "serious concern" over the move at the ICC.

"Nowhere in the ICC Charter does it say that the court has jurisdiction over states which have not accepted that jurisdiction," Myanmar said in a statement.

The special court examining Bensouda's request has also asked Bangladesh to submit any written observations it may have on the case by June 11.

## Torun League

FROM PAGE 2  
two Awami League groups for the past five to seven years. They added that the conflict, over establishing domination in the area, has also been the reason for the growing extortion in the area.

A police operation to arrest the criminals was underway last night.

## Israeli troops kill 55 in Gaza

FROM PAGE 1  
a final peace settlement and that moving their embassies now would prejudice any such deal.

Peace talks aimed at finding a two-state solution to the conflict have been frozen since 2014.

Trump, in a recorded message, said he remained committed to peace between Israel and the Palestinians. He was represented at the ceremony by his daughter Ivanka and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

Kushner said it was possible for both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to gain more than give in any peace deal. "Jerusalem must remain a city that brings people of all faiths together," he said in a speech.

But Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the United States had opened an "American settlement outpost in East Jerusalem". He called the deaths in Gaza a massacre and announced a general strike on Tuesday.

South Africa said it was withdrawing its ambassador to Israel until further notice following what it called the "indiscriminate and grave" attack on Monday.

### BORDER BLOODSHED

In Gaza, Palestinian protests quickly turned into bloodshed. Tens of thousands had streamed to the edge of the coastal enclave's land border, some approaching the Israeli fence.

"Today is the big day when we will cross the fence and tell Israel and the world we will not accept being occupied forever," said Gaza science teacher Ali, who declined to give his last name.

Clouds of black smoke from tyres set alight by demonstrators rose in the air. Demonstrators, some armed with slingshots, hurled stones at the Israeli security forces, who fired volleys of tear gas and intense rounds of gunfire.

The protests are scheduled to culminate today, the day Palestinians mourn as the "Nakba" or "Catastrophe" when, in 1948, hundreds of thousands of them were driven out of their homes or fled the fighting around Israel's creation.

Netanyahu took to Twitter to direct the blame at Hamas.

"Every country has an obligation to

defend its borders," he wrote. "The Hamas terrorist organisation declares it intends to destroy Israel and sends thousands to breach the border fence in order to achieve this goal. We will continue to act with determination to protect our sovereignty and citizens."

Hamas denied instigating the violence, but the White House backed Netanyahu. "The responsibility for these tragic deaths rests squarely with Hamas. Hamas is intentionally and cynically provoking this response," White House spokesman Raj Shah told a regular news briefing.

The Israeli military said in a statement: "Rioters hurled firebombs and explosive devices at the security fence and Israeli troops". The soldiers' response, it said, was in accordance with "standard operating procedures".

The 55 deaths included at least six people under 18 years of age, including one girl. The total number of fatalities since a series of protests to demand Palestinians' right to return to their ancestral homes in Israel is now 100.

They also included a medic and a man in a wheelchair who had been pictured on social media using a slingshot. The Israeli military said three of those killed were armed militants who tried to place explosives near the fence.

Throughout the day sirens of ambulance vehicles carrying casualties to hospitals wailed almost non-stop. In Gaza mosques, loudspeakers mourned the dead, who were carried for burial in funeral marches.

The Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC has strongly condemned the deplorable action of the United States to open its Embassy in Jerusalem.

As Chair of the 45th CFM of OIC, Bangladesh in a statement yesterday said the US administration unlawfully opened its embassy in Jerusalem, in clear violation of international law and legitimacy and is in clear contempt of international community position regarding Jerusalem.

### RESTRAINT

Trump's recognition of contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December outraged Palestinians, who said the United States could no longer

serve as an honest broker in any peace process with Israel.

A senior Hamas leader, Khalil Al-Hayya, said at a border encampment that Monday's protest was timed to coincide with the "deplorable crime of moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem".

He said: "Our people went out today to respond to this new Zionist-American aggression, and to draw by their blood the map of their return."

France and Britain called on Israel to show restraint, with French President Emmanuel Macron planning to talk to all involved parties in the region over the next few days. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply concerned" by the events in Gaza and said it showed the need for a two-state political solution.

Britain said it had no plans to move its Israel embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and it disagreed with the US decision to do so. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the US move flouted international law.

Other responses to the violence were stronger. Regional power Turkey accused Israeli security forces of carrying out a massacre and said the US Embassy move had encouraged them.

More than 2 million people are crammed into the narrow Gaza strip, which is blockaded by Egypt and Israel.

"The policy of Israeli authorities to fire irrespective of whether there is an immediate threat to life on Palestinian demonstrators in Gaza, caged in for a decade and under occupation for a half century, has resulted in a bloodbath that anyone could have foreseen," Human Rights Watch said.

The Trump administration says it has nearly completed a new Israeli-Palestinian peace plan but is undecided on how and when to roll it out.

Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, in a statement on Monday, accused the United States of "blatant violations of international law".

"Choosing a tragic day in Palestinian history (to open the Jerusalem embassy) shows great insensitivity and disrespect for the core principles of the peace process," Hamdallah wrote.

## Traffic flow improves

FROM PAGE 16  
between Chittagong and Comilla on Sunday.

Although the congestions reduced, tailbacks persisted on about an eight-kilometre stretch of road near Lalpur bridge in Feni and another 12-kilometre stretch of road near Comilla yesterday, highway police said.

The gridlocks started on Wednesday on both sides of the construction site.

As part of the four-lane highway was closed to traffic at the site, the tailbacks stretched from Feni to Chittagong's Mirsarai upazila to Comilla's Choudadagram.

Vehicles started moving early yesterday as Chittagong-bound vehicles began to use a three-kilometre long bypass road near Feni.

Most of the Dhaka-bound vehicles used Feni-Noakhali-Companyganj roads easing pressure on the main highway, said police.

Nazrul Islam, superintendent of highway police in Comilla, said, "There was one and a half kilometres of traffic jam on both sides of Fatehpur till 5:00pm on Monday. Police are working relentlessly to keep the traffic moving."

The authorities are trying to improve the shape of the road near the construction site, he told The Daily Star.

The eight-kilometre tailback was seen between Feni's Lemuya Bazar and Fatehpur around 10:30pm.

Some vehicles took the wrong side of the road to avoid being stuck.

Mohammad Ali, a truck driver heading to Dhaka from Chittagong port, said there was no traffic jam from Chittagong.

At Fatehpur construction site, brick chips and sand were dumped on large potholes yesterday morning to let vehicles use the road.

Mahadi Hassan, traffic Inspector of Feni, said, "There were 26 large potholes that obstructed traffic. The authorities had filled them up now."

Police sources added that the Feni bypass road where vehicles were diverted was also in a bad shape with as many as 76 large potholes.

### INEXPERIENCE CAUSES SUFFERING

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal at a press briefing at his office blamed inexperience of engineers and contractors for public sufferings on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

"We are learning from our failures," he said.

The traffic jam is being created due to construction of the flyover. The issue should have been considered while designing the flyover.

Roads and highways all over the country are in very bad shape, the minister admitted.

## Probe all cases properly

FROM PAGE 16  
various sectors.

Raising the governance issues, the UN body called for urgent action by the government to guarantee freedom of association, increase transparency in the recruitment of migrant workers to combat forced labour and human trafficking, protect female workers from exploitation in the informal sector, and eradicate child labour, according to the tweets of the UNHRC Secretariat.

The UPR working group recommended that Bangladesh should continue fighting violence against women and children, guarantee the full realisation of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights, and end all forms of discrimination and violence against LGBT people.

It said Bangladesh should make primary and secondary school compulsory irrespective of gender, ethnicity; explicitly prohibit corporal punishment, and amend the child marriage restraint act prohibiting child marriage without exception i.e. "special circumstances".

The HRC members urged Bangladesh to review the media law, including the digital security and ICT acts, to decriminalise defamation and ensure freedom of expression. They recommended protecting journalists and human rights defenders from harassment and investigating violations against them.

The UPR is a unique mechanism of the HRC aimed at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 193 UN member states.

Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN members is reviewed every five years. Forty-two states are reviewed each year during three Working Group sessions dedi-

cated to 14 states each. These three sessions are usually held in January/February, May/June and October/November.

Bangladesh's first and second UPR reviews took place in February 2009 and April 2013, respectively.

### FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

The Bangladesh foreign ministry in a press release yesterday said the international community has highly appreciated the remarkable humanitarian role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in providing shelter to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas and continuing humanitarian assistance to them.

During the third cycle UPR at the 30th session of HRC, the UN member states also commended Bangladesh for its efforts in promoting and protecting human rights.

Law Minister Anisul Huq led the Bangladesh delegation to the session. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, Senior Secretary of Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division Mohammad Shahidul Haque, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to UN in Geneva Ambassador Shameem Ahsan and representatives from various government offices participated in the event.

The law minister highlighted Bangladesh's achievements in promotion and protection of human rights and socio-economic advancements.

Representatives of some 107 countries praised Bangladesh's endeavours in fulfilling its human rights commitments. They also put forward recommendations for continuing the initiatives in many areas, said the foreign ministry statement.

Bangladesh's comprehensive and informative national report submitted

in February has been widely acclaimed. The HRC members highly praised Bangladesh's constructive engagement with the UN Human Rights mechanism, particularly with the UPR process.

Bangladesh's remarkable social and economic progress over the last decade, especially in the field of women empowerment, social security, health, sanitation, education for all and usage of ICT have been well recognised by the member states.

They made recommendations on continuing Bangladesh's good practices in upholding human rights and strengthening efforts in few areas such as accountability of law enforcement agencies, protecting freedom of expression, eliminating child marriage, addressing human trafficking, capacity building of national institutions, and removing discriminations by enacting an anti-discrimination act.

They acknowledged that Bangladesh made progress in ensuring labour rights and workplace safety and recommended improving labour issues. A report on Bangladesh's UPR will be finalised on Thursday.

According to the HRC Secretariat, the law minister stressed the need for cooperation between Bangladesh and various international committees on the rights of women and migrant workers.

He said the country was facing global challenges, including terrorism and violent extremism. Climate change also impacts human rights and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina therefore established a climate trust fund, he added.

The minister informed that Bangladesh launched massive reforms to the labour and industrial sector following the collapse of Rana Plaza.



## Bangladesh Tourism Board

(National Tourism Organization)

Level-3, Building-2, Hotel InterContinental, 1, Mintu Road, Shahbagh, Dhaka

## Open Tender Notice

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.										
2.	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB).										
3.	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of Digital Interactive Kiosks.										
4.	Invitation Ref. No.	BTB(Digital Marketing)/2018(599)										
KEY INFORMATION												
5.	Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).										
FUNDING INFORMATION												
6.	Budget & source of funds	GOB.										
PARTICULAR INFORMATION												
7.	Tender publication date	May 15, 2018.										
8.	Last selling date and time of tender document	May 28, 2018, 5.00pm.										
9.	Last date and time of submission of tender documents	May 29, 2018, 2.30pm.										
10.	Tender opening date and time	May 29, 2018, 3.30pm.										
11.	Place of submission	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Tourism Board, Level-3, Building 2, BSL Office Complex (Hotel InterContinental), 1, Mintu Road, Dhaka-1000.										
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER												
12.	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 07 (seven) years experience of supply, installation, commissioning, testing and maintenance of Digital Interactive Kiosks.</li></ul>										
13.	Brief description of goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of Digital Interactive Kiosks.</li></ul>										
14.	Brief description of related service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Software Solutions, Content Management and Device Maintenance.</li><li>● Software Solution and content creation.</li></ul>										
15.	Price of tender document (Tk)	5000/- (five thousand) Taka non-refundable.										
16.	<table><tr><th>Item No.</th><th>Supply identification</th><th>Tender security</th><th>Mode of submission</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of Digital Interactive Kiosks</td><td>Tk 2,00,000.00 (two lac)</td><td>In the form of Pay Order</td></tr></table>	Item No.	Supply identification	Tender security	Mode of submission	1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of Digital Interactive Kiosks	Tk 2,00,000.00 (two lac)	In the form of Pay Order			
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1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of Digital Interactive Kiosks	Tk 2,00,000.00 (two lac)	In the form of Pay Order									
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS												
17.	Name & designation of official inviting tender	Nikhil Ranjan Roy, Chief Executive Officer (Additional Secretary).										
The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or annul the tender proceedings without assigning any reason.												
<div>Nikhil Ranjan Roy Chief Executive Officer (Additional Secretary) Bangladesh Tourism Board Phone: (02) 58315954-55</div>												
GD-1310												