

FRIDAY VIOLENCE

At least 130 Gazans hit by Israeli gunfire

AFP, Gaza City

At least 130 Palestinians were hit by Israeli gunfire Friday as thousands protested near Gaza's border with Israel, the health ministry in the enclave said.

Following calls to avoid an escalation in violence, the demonstrators largely kept their distance from the fortified frontier fence.

But at least 130 Palestinians were injured by live fire in clashes with Israeli soldiers, the health ministry said.

An Israeli army spokesman told AFP that while most of the protesters stayed back from the fence, some came close and threw explosive devices and hand grenades at troops, while burning tyres.

"The soldiers who were there responded with riot dispersal means, along with gunfire in accordance with the rules of engagement," he said.

Since March, Palestinians have moved right up to the border fence every Friday and occasionally breached it, leading to clashes in which more than 200 Palestinians and one Israeli have been killed.

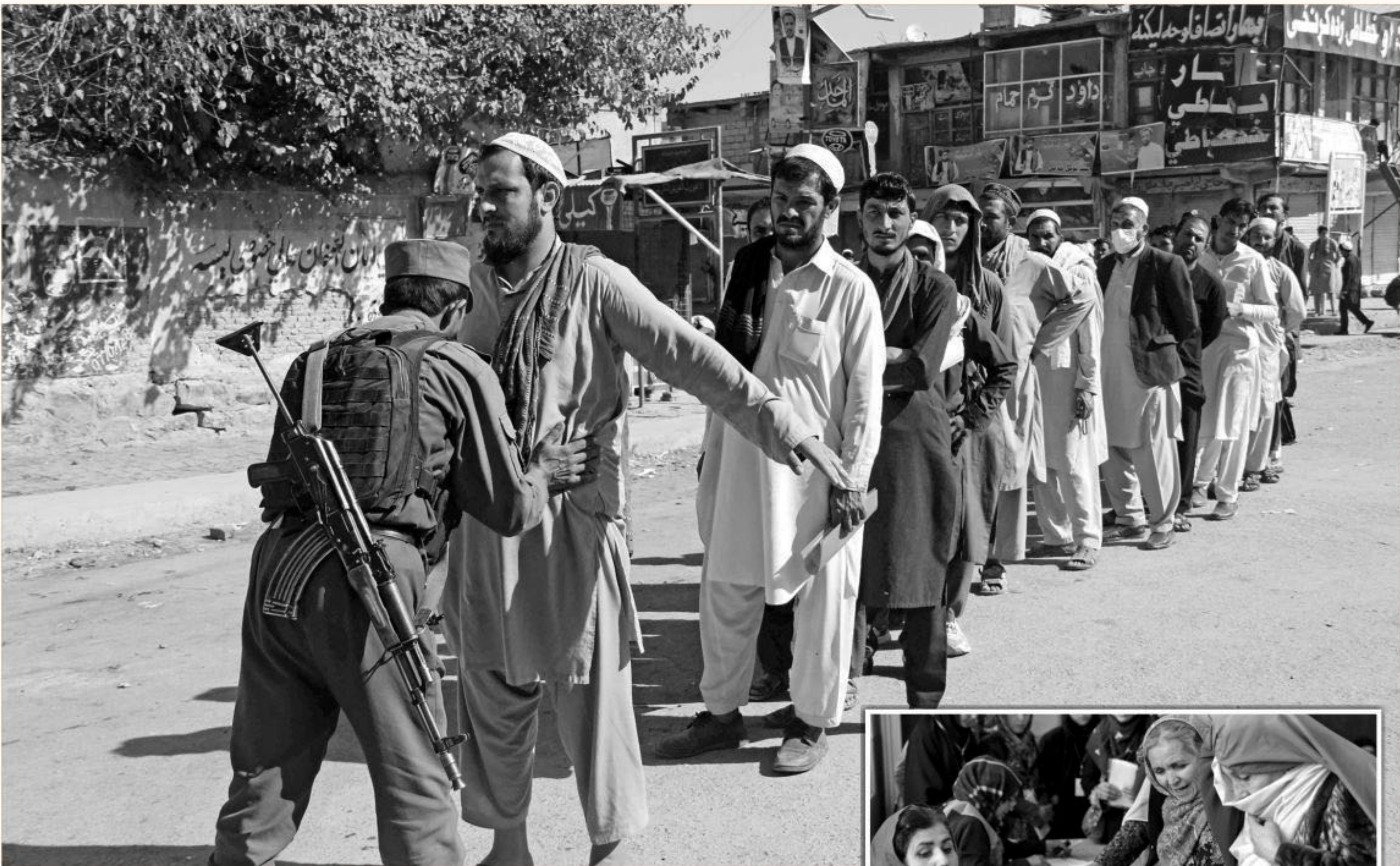
While thousands again gathered for the latest protests in northern Gaza, the demonstrators largely remained at least 100 metres (yards) from the border.

An AFP correspondent said Hamas security officials in at least one location were seen discouraging protesters from nearing the fence.

Kites and balloons equipped with incendiary devices were launched across the border into southern Israel, and the Israeli army said one of its aircraft targeted a group of men launching balloons.

An Egyptian security delegation visited the Gaza Strip on Thursday and encouraged Hamas leader Ismail Haniya to calm the protests, an Egyptian official said.

On Wednesday, two rockets were fired from the Palestinian enclave at Israel. In response Israeli air strikes targeted around 20 Hamas targets in Gaza.



An Afghan policeman searches voters before casting their votes at a polling centre for the country's legislative election in Khost Province, yesterday. Inset, Women cast their vote at a polling station in Kabul. Nearly 170 Afghans were killed or wounded in poll-related violence yesterday. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP



Next IMF loan will be 'the last'

Says Pakistan finance minister

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's finance minister yesterday promised to end the country's reliance on International Monetary Fund bailouts to shore up its shaky economy, as officials prepare to negotiate a new loan.

Asad Umar's pledge comes days after Pakistan's central bank warned inflation could double in the coming year -- hitting 7.5 percent -- while the country's growth target rate of 6.2 percent would likely be missed.

"This will be the 13th and the last IMF programme," Umar said during a speech at the Karachi Stock Exchange.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration has sent mixed messages over whether Pakistan will enter another IMF programme, with the former cricketer suggesting this week that going to the fund may not be necessary.

But Umar spoke in grave terms of the country's balance of payment crisis, which has sparked a depreciation of the rupee and sent stocks tumbling.

"We are heading towards bankruptcy very fast. We have to save the 210 million Pakistanis," Umar added.

An IMF team is set to arrive in Pakistan in early November to begin negotiations.

Similar vows to end reliance on IMF loans have been made by past governments including former premier Nawaz Sharif's administration, which received a \$6.6 billion loan to tackle a similar crisis in 2013.

Khan's new administration took office in August vowing to weigh up whether to seek an IMF bailout as it sought other avenues of financing, including from "friendly" countries such as China and Saudi Arabia.

But aid has been in short supply and economists' warnings have grown urgent.

FIGHT AGAINST 'REAL AND PRESENT' MILITANT THREAT

SE Asia nations agree to intelligence sharing

AFP, Singapore

Southeast Asian nations seeking to combat the threat of militancy have agreed to share intelligence, Singapore's defence minister said yesterday, as he warned of a "real and present" danger to the region.

More than a year after Islamic State-linked fighters seized the southern Philippine city of Marawi, the terrorist threat is as potent as ever, said Ng Eng Hen after hosting a meeting of defence ministers.

"Unfortunately even as the situation in Iraq and Syria improves, we are expecting more foreign fighters to come this way," he added.

Ng said all 18 ministers at the gathering in Singapore, from Southeast Asia and key partners outside the region, viewed "terrorism as a real and present threat".

The Southeast Asian delegates adopted an information-sharing platform called "Our Eyes" that will be used to share real-time intelligence that can immediately be acted upon, the minister added.

This came after the countries realised that they had underestimated the threat before the attack on Marawi, where the rebuilding effort could cost around \$1 billion, he said.

Proposed by Indonesia, the platform is based on an intelligence-sharing alliance set up by the United States, Britain and three other countries after World War II to monitor the former Soviet Union.

The weekend security meeting was attended by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and their counterparts from countries including China, Australia, India and Russia.

In last year's assault on Marawi, hundreds of armed militants backed by foreign IS fighters attacked and took control of the largely Muslim city in a bid to establish a base in Southeast Asia.

Philippine troops, supported by sophisticated surveillance planes from the United States, dislodged the militants after five months of heavy fighting that left more than 1,000 people dead and the city in ruins.

Militants from other Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia and Malaysia, were involved in the fighting.

Those at the meeting "felt that this must never happen again to any city within ASEAN", Ng said.

Boko Haram kill 12 farmers in Nigeria

AFP, Kano

Boko Haram jihadists yesterday hacked 12 farmers to death as they worked on their fields in the volatile northeastern Nigerian state of Borno, civilian militia told AFP.

They came in two trucks and attacked the farmers with machetes outside Kalle, a remote village 17 kilometres outside the state capital Maiduguri, the birthplace of the Boko Haram movement.

"They used machetes to kill their victims who were working on their farms," militia leader Babakura Kolo said. "So far, we have recovered 12 dead bodies from the fields and nearby bush."

Three people were injured in the raids.

The militants had guns but did not use them so as not to attract the attention of troops in nearby Molai village, said another militia leader Ibrahim Liman.

Assange sues Ecuador for violating 'rights, freedom'

AFP, Quito

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange sued the Ecuador government on Friday for violating his "fundamental rights" and limiting his access to the outside world while in asylum at its London embassy.

The 47-year-old Australian's legal action comes with speculation mounting that Ecuador is preparing to end its standoff with the British government by terminating his high-profile stay.

Assange found refuge in the embassy in 2012 after a British judge ruled he should be extradited to Sweden to face allegations of sexual assault.

That case has since been dropped but Assange fears being extradited to the United States to face charges over the WikiLeaks website's release of troves of sensitive US government files.

WikiLeaks said its legal counsel Baltazar Garzon would launch a legal case against the government for "violating (Assange's) fundamental rights and freedom."

Britain's Press Association news agency said the case is expected to be heard in Ecuador next week.

WikiLeaks said its move comes almost

seven months after Ecuador "threatened to remove his protection and summarily cut off his access to the outside world, including by refusing to allow journalists and human rights organizations to see him."

It added that the embassy was requiring Assange's visitors -- including journalists and lawyers -- to disclose "private or political details such as their social media usernames."

Quito confirmed blocking Assange's internet and mobile phone access in March after accusing him of breaking "a written commitment" not to interfere in Ecuador's foreign policies.

A protocol governing Assange's stay at the embassy -- revealed by Ecuadorian internet site Codigo Vidrio and never denied by Quito -- warns that further breaches will lead to "termination of asylum."

The website reported that the embassy intends to stop paying for Assange's food and medical care in December.

Garzon told a press conference in Ecuador on Thursday that Assange was suing Ecuador Foreign Minister Jose Valencia over his "inhuman" living conditions at the embassy. Valencia said on Friday that Ecuador would "respond in an appropriate manner, in respect of the law."



Jasbir Kaur, the wife of Balbir Singh, who was killed when a train ploughed into a crowd of revellers, cries during a cremation ceremony in Amritsar, yesterday. Around 60 people are now known to have died when a train ploughed into a crowd of revellers watching a firework display in India.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

TERROR FINANCING FLAWS

Iran given February deadline

AFP, Paris

A global financial watchdog on Friday warned Iran to clamp down on terrorism financing by February or face a deeper squeeze on its sanctions-hit economy.

The Islamic republic, already hurt by a resumption of US sanctions over its past nuclear programme, this month approved one bill to help meet demands imposed by the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

FATF, following a meeting at its Paris headquarters this week, welcomed the legislation and extended a suspension of counter-measures that has allowed Iran to escape further isolation from international finance.

But nine of the 10 "action plan" items needed to remove Iran from an FATF blacklist have yet to be adopted by Tehran, according to Marshall Billingslea, the US assistant treasury secretary for terrorist financing.

"In our plenary, here in Paris, we expressed our disappointment that the majority of the action plan remains outstanding," said Billingslea, who currently chairs the FATF, told a news conference.

"We expect that they will have adopted all these measures by February," he said.

Billingslea said if measures were not adopted by February next year, the FATF will take further steps to protect against the risks from Iran's lack of action.

For Iran, access to finance has become particularly pressing since the United States walked out of a 2015 nuclear deal earlier this year and began reimposing sanctions.

US lottery jackpot hits \$1.6 billion

AFP, Washington

Scores of American lottery players were disappointed they hadn't become an overnight billionaire yesterday -- but they'll get another chance to scoop the jackpot, with \$1.6 billion up for grabs in a few days.

The prize for Friday's Mega Millions contest had soared to \$1 billion, prompting long lines at gas stations and 7-11s across the country, the federal capital Washington and the US Virgin Islands where the lottery is held.

But, although there were 15 second-tier winning tickets of at least \$1 million across nine states, nobody won the jackpot -- putting the prize for Tuesday's draw at a record \$1.6 billion.

Russia says it killed 88,000 Syria rebels in three years

US-backed offensive kills dozens of IS fighters, civilians

AFP, Moscow

Russia's defence minister yesterday said that almost 88,000 rebels had been killed in Syria in the three years since Moscow's intervention to back government forces.

"Over the course of the operation, a total of more than 87,500 rebels have been eliminated, 1,411 settlements have been liberated and more than 95 percent of Syria's territory," Shoigu was quoted as saying at a forum in Singapore in a ministry statement.

"Most of the rebels have been liquidated," Shoigu said.

Russia launched strikes in support of President Bashar al-Assad's regime in September 2015. Russian air forces have carried out more than 40,000 bombing missions, hitting about 120,000 targets of "terrorist" infrastructure, Shoigu said.

The defence minister said that "Syrian armed forces currently control territory where

more than 90 percent of the population lives."

Meanwhile, an offensive by US-backed forces against the Islamic State group's last redoubt in eastern Syria killed 35 jihadists yesterday, a Britain-based war monitor said.

Twenty-eight IS members were killed in air strikes by the US-led coalition around the town of Hajin, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

And a further seven jihadists were killed in ground fighting with the Syrian Democratic Forces, who launched a coalition-backed offensive against the IS-held pocket in the Euphrates valley last month.

On Friday, air strikes by the US-led coalition in eastern Syria killed at least 32 civilians in less than 24 hours, the observatory said.

Since 2014 the US-led coalition has acknowledged direct responsibility for more than 1,100 civilian deaths in Syria and Iraq, but rights groups put the number killed much higher.

Zila Parishad, Manikganj
www.zpmanikganj.org.bd

Memo No: ZPManik/e-Tender/02/2018/1146

Date: 18/10/2018

e-Tender Notice No-04/2018-2019 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works packages:

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of scheme
235859	e-GP/ZPM/2018-19/04/ADP/W-01	Maintenance of flood affected road from Lowata DR-Bathaimuri road at Ch. 2030-2060m & Ch. 2134m-2295m under Harirampur Upazila, Dist-Manikganj.
235878	e-GP/ZPM/2018-19/04/ADP/W-02	Development of Proposed Zila Parishad Chairman's Quarter land north side of Circuit House at Manikganj District.
237471	e-GP/ZPM/2018-19/04/ADP/W-03	Improvement of road from Dhaka-Aricha Highway (Akij Tobaka) to Megh Shimul Nodir Par road (Ch 170-455m) by BFS under Sadar Upazila, Dist-Manikganj.
237488	e-GP/ZPM/2018-19/04/ADP/W-04	Improvement of road from Chore Ghior Pacca road to Dolil Uddin House (Ch. 00-320m) by BFS under Ghior Upazila, Dist-Manikganj.
237548	e-GP/ZPM/2018-19/04/ADP/W-05	1. Improvement of road from Butuni Govt. Pry. School to Govindo Kormokar House by RCC (Ch. 85-145m) under Shibabaya Upazila, Dist-Manikganj. 2. Improvement of Arua union Dhutrabari Pacca road to Mainuddin House (Ch 00-120m) by BFS under Shibabaya Upazila, Dist-Manikganj.
237556	e-GP/ZPM/2018-19/04/ADP/W-06	Construction of Guide wall at Kanai Nagar Bottola Bridge under Singair Upazila, Dist-Manikganj.

This is online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online from any registered banks branches up to 16.00pm on 05-11-2018. Last date and time for tender security submission 12.00 noon on 06-11-2018. Tender closing date & time 13.00pm on 06-11-2018. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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