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CRIMES DURING GAZA CONFLICT

# UN rights body orders int'l probe

Israel's PM says decision 'shameful'; US voices deep concern

REUTERS, Geneva

The United Nations Human Rights Council has agreed to launch an international investigation into alleged crimes committed during the 11-day conflict between Israel and the Islamist group Hamas in Gaza.

The independent investigation will have a broad mandate to look into all alleged violations, not just in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, but also in Israel during hostilities that were halted by a ceasefire on May 21.

Michelle Bachelet, the UN high commissioner for human rights, earlier told the council that deadly Israeli strikes on Gaza might constitute war crimes and that Hamas had violated international humanitarian law by firing rockets into Israel.

Israel rejected the resolution adopted by the Geneva forum and said it would not cooperate.

"Today's shameful decision is yet another example of the UN Human Rights Council's blatant anti-Israel obsession," Israeli Prime Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday said in a statement accusing the forum of whitewashing "a genocidal terrorist organisation".

Israel's foreign ministry said its forces acted "in accordance with international law, in defending our

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Ainal Hossain tends to his stand where face masks are displayed for sale in front of the capital's Mugda Medical College Hospital. The 35-year-old worked in the Middle East for four years and came back home on vacation last year. Unable to return due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he has taken up selling health safety items to make ends meet. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 31 more die from Covid, 1,358 infected

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday reported 1,358 new Covid-19 cases, while the coronavirus claimed 31 more lives.

The tally of infections has surged to 7,96,343 as 1,358 new cases were confirmed in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of Directorate General of Health Services.

With the 31 deaths, the total number of fatalities from the pandemic rose to 12,511.

Around 14,606 samples were tested in 24 hours at 497 authorised medical laboratories across the country.

The recovery count rose to 7,36,221 after another 1,064 patients were discharged from hospitals during the period.

The DGHS statistics showed of the people infected from the beginning, 92.45 percent recovered, while 1.57 percent died.

Ten out of the 31 died in Dhaka division alone, said the DGHS release.

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## Khaleda running a fever

Doctors to examine her, says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who tested negative for novel coronavirus 20 days ago, has caught fever.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the former prime minister suddenly showed symptoms of fever on Thursday night.

Khaleda, 76, has been undergoing treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital since April 27. Speaking at a press

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## Giant tortoise still alive 100 years after 'extinction'



CNN ONLINE

Ecuador confirmed that a giant tortoise found in 2019 in the Galapagos Islands is a species considered extinct a century ago.

The Galapagos National Park is preparing an expedition to search for more of the giant tortoises in an attempt to save the species.

The turtle was found two years ago on Fernandina Island, one of the youngest and most pristine in the archipelago, during a joint expedition between the Galapagos National Park and the Galapagos Conservancy.

Scientists from Yale University then identified it

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## KHAGRACHHARI JAIL

### Prisoner found dead in bathroom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A 26-year-old Tripura youth, who was arrested on May 16 in a case filed under the pornography act, was found dead inside the Khagrachhari district jail early yesterday.

The dead is Milon Bikash Tripura of remote Arun Para in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila, Executive Magistrate Sajjad Hossen of Khagrachhari district administration, who is also the Khagrachhari jail super, told The Daily Star.

Quoting the jailer Didarul Alam, the jail super said, "Milon was found hanging from an iron rod at the bathroom of an isolation ward around 4:00am. Some 22 inmates are kept at the ward."

He was later taken to Khagrachhari Sadar hospital.

The jail super said three

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Battle of Bhomra

MAY 29, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN



**TAJUDDIN'S INTERVIEW** Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad said he failed to understand how the democratic governments of the world could support the dictatorial regime of Pakistan, which was crushing the democratic aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

Tajuddin told a foreign correspondent in an interview, broadcast by the Swadhin Bangla Kendra: "We wanted to establish the democratic rights of the people of Pakistan and to that end, we tried our best. We made all peaceful attempts in this direction but Yahya's army, most shamelessly cracked down on the unarmed people of Bangladesh. We had no other alternative but to proclaim independence for the 75 million democratic Bangalees of Bangladesh."

The radio station, quoting Awami League leaders, said "Bangladesh is a free and sovereign country today and there is no scope for talks."

The AL leaders were commenting on a statement by the spokesman of the US state department about a formula suggested by an emissary of Pakistan President Yahya Khan for a settlement of the issue.

#### BHOMRA BATTLE

A heavy fight broke out today between Bangladesh Liberation fighters and Pakistan army at Bhomra, Satkhira. Mahbub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, then chief of police in the subdivision of Jessore, fought valiantly in the battle. He shares his memory in

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## COVID VACCINE PRODUCTION

### Momen seeks global support for LDCs

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has sought financial and technical support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to produce Covid-19 vaccines and other lifesaving medicines.

"Meaningful transfer of technology, access to aid for trade, exemption from intellectual property rights so that LDCs can produce Covid-19 vaccines and other life-saving medicines," he said.

The foreign minister delivered a statement virtually at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Thursday, a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

Momen was the keynote speaker at the thematic discussion on enhancing international trade and regional integration for the LDCs.

The foreign minister highlighted the importance of providing support to the graduating LDCs, including providing them with continued LDC-specific support for 12 years after graduation.

He called on the Developed and Developing country Member States of the UN to help the graduating LDCs for their smooth and sustainable graduation.

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## NARADA CASE

### All 4 TMC leaders get interim bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Eleven days after their arrest by CBI in Narada sting operation case relating to alleged graft, senior West Bengal ministers Firdhad Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee, ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislator Madan Mitra and former Kolkata mayor Sovan Chatterjee were granted interim bail by the Calcutta High Court yesterday.

The interim bail was given by a five-member bench of the High Court with condition that it is valid till the bench gives a final order in this case. The

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A craftsman weaving baskets to be used for storing food items and also for children to play with in South Alekanda of Barishal yesterday. He roams around selling these baskets and earns around Tk 1,200 a day, of which around Tk 300 is his net profit.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# South Asia crosses 30m Covid cases

Delhi declares black fungus epidemic; UK approves J&J vaccine

AGENCIES

Coronavirus infections in the South Asia region surpassed 30 million yesterday, according to a Reuters tally of official data, led by India which is struggling with a second Covid-19 wave and a vaccine shortage across the region.

India, the second most-populous country in the world, this month recorded its highest Covid-19 death toll since the pandemic began last year, accounting for just over a third of the overall total.

The South Asia region - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka - accounts for 18% of global cases and almost 10% of deaths.

But there is growing suspicion that official tallies of infections and deaths are not reflecting the true extent of the problem.

The country's official tally of daily coronavirus infections has been falling in the past few days, offering hope that its second wave is ebbing. But there are serious concerns that many new infections are not being reported, largely due to a dearth of testing in the countryside.

As of yesterday, India has reported nearly 27.6 million cases and 318,895 deaths. Daily infections reported across India have more than halved from more than 400,000 earlier this month, according to official statistics.

Meanwhile, amid rising incidents of black fungus in the national capital, the Delhi government on Thursday

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## PRAYER TIMING MAY 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-43 8-05  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-47 8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION