





## Investigate reports of violence

### White House calls on Bangladesh

REUTERS, Washington

The White House has called on the government of Bangladesh to fully investigate reports of violence against journalists and human rights activists and urged all parties to refrain from violence.

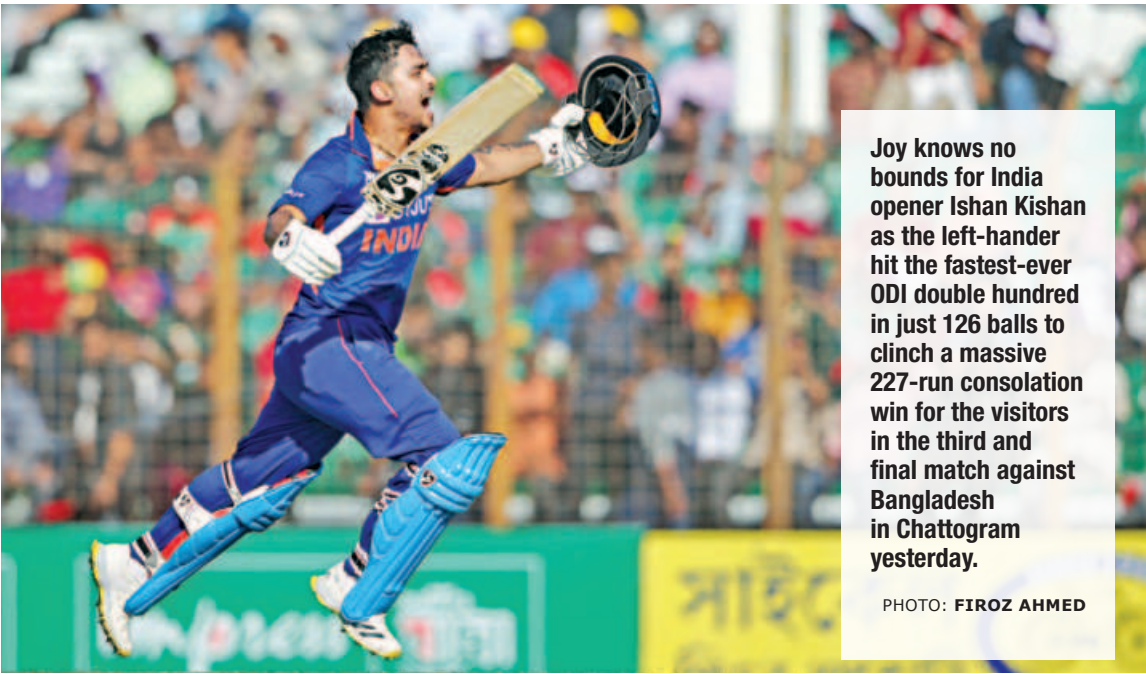
Local media in Bangladesh this week reported police killed one person and wounded more than 60 people in Dhaka when they fired upon activists and members of the BNP. The Voice of America, meanwhile, reported that thousands of BNP members had been arrested over the past month ahead of yesterday's protest.

The United States is concerned about the reports and is monitoring developments in Bangladesh "very, very closely," national security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters on Friday.

Kirby said the United States was continuing to call for the right of Bangladesh citizens to engage in peaceful protests without fear, intimidation, harassment or violence.

"We call on all parties in Bangladesh to respect the rule of law, to refrain from violence. We want to see them refrain from harassment, intimidation, and we call on the

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Joy knows no bounds for India opener Ishan Kishan as the left-hander hit the fastest-ever ODI double hundred in just 126 balls to clinch a massive 227-run consolation win for the visitors in the third and final match against Bangladesh in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Many suffer at police checkpoints in city

ARAFAT RAHAMAN and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Abdul Khalek was heading for an office in the capital's Agargaon where he was to sit for an exam for a government job at 11:00am yesterday, but he could not sit for the test as police asked him to go back after stopping him at a checkpoint in Aminbazar.

He was heading towards the capital from Nabinagar in Savar on a bus, Khalek was questioned for around five minutes after he reached Aminbazar around 9:30am.

"Don't you see that we are not allowing any vehicle or transport with passengers to enter [the

city]. You better go back home and prepare for your next exam," Khalek quoted a member of police as saying at the checkpoint.

This was just one of many instances of law enforcers making people get down from vehicles, interrogating them, checking their phones and detaining some at checkpoints set up at city entry points at Savar, Gabtoli, Abdullahpur and Tongi since early yesterday morning.

Many of those who were stopped, searched and interrogated had said the police did it to deter people from joining BNP's rally in the capital. But police said they set up the checkpoints to ensure security.

Law enforcers detained at least 35 people – 23 at Aminbazar and 12 at Abdullahpur – who were entering the capital yesterday.

These correspondents visited checkpoints in Gabtoli, Aminbazar and Abdullahpur and saw police stopping and searching vehicles since before dawn yesterday.

They made people get down from buses, CNG-run auto-rickshaws, motorcycles, human hauliers, and interrogated them. They also checked their bags and luggage.

During questioning, police forcibly took away mobile phones from some people and went through their photo galleries,

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## Kishan scripts history as India avoid whitewash

OUR CORRESPONDENT

There were records galore at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday as Ishan Kishan smashed the fastest ODI double century to ensure the visitors avoided a whitewash with a thumping 227-run win against Bangladesh in the third and final ODI.

Courtesy of Kishan's maiden double hundred, India registered a mammoth 409 for eight. In reply, Bangladesh were bundled out for just 182, succumbing to their second biggest ODI defeat in terms of runs – only behind a 233-run loss to Pakistan in 2000.

The Tigers, who had already claimed the series with wins in the first two games, found themselves on the receiving end ever since Liton Das elected to field, with Kishan's rampage keeping the bowlers occupied for a majority of the first innings.

The dashing left-hander made and broke records as he hit the fastest double hundred in the history of ODI cricket, taking just 126 balls to get to the mark. It was the ninth double hundred in ODI cricket overall, with the 24-year-old becoming the youngest to the feat in this format.

Kishan and Virat Kohli's

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## POLICE-CRIMINALS 'GUNFIGHT'

## Two Rohingya men killed in Cox's Bazar



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two Rohingya men were killed in a "gunfight" between policemen and a group of criminals at a camp in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar on Friday night.

Salim Ullah, 33, and Mohammad Redwan, 27, were inhabitants of the Balukhali refugee camp, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station.

A locally-made gun and 70 bullets were recovered from the camp, police claimed.

"The incident [of gunfight] took place between block B-62 and block B-49 of Balukhali-8 East Rohingya camp," said the OC.

A team of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) conducted a raid in the camp area on information that 40-50 armed men had gathered there to kill Mohammad Rafiq, chief community leader of Balukhali East Rohingya Camp, the OC said.

"As the APBn members reached the spot, the armed men opened fire at them. The APBn members retaliated in self-defence. Two Rohingya men died on the spot after being hit by bullets fired by the Rohingya men," he said, quoting APBn members.

The bodies were sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies yesterday morning.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

Machines at the Karnaphuli Paper Mills, in Chattogram's Kaptai, have been lying idle since it stopped producing papers with locally procured raw materials in 2017 due to poor quality of equipment and material. Though the machines were used for a short period to produce papers with internationally procured pulp wood, that has also been stopped due to various issues with the suppliers. The photo was taken recently.

## Law minister saddened by conduct of diplomats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq today expressed disagreement with some foreign diplomats on their concerns about Bangladesh's human rights situation.

"Holding rallies by blocking roads is not a sign of human rights protection. Their [the diplomats'] countries have provided refuge to human rights violators. As a result, bringing them back to the country is extremely difficult. Nonetheless, we are trying ...."

He made the remarks at a programme organised by the National Human Rights Commission on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 2022, at a hotel in the capital.

"Of course, as a Bangladeshi citizen, I am saddened by their [the diplomats'] conduct. I hope they will consider the position of their own states as well as the depth of friendship that Bangladesh has with their countries before making

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## A year only lasts 17.5 hours on 'hell planet'



CNN ONLINE

The exoplanet 55 Cancri e goes by several names, but the rocky world located 40 light-years from Earth is most known for its reputation as a "hell planet."

This super-Earth, so named because it's a rocky planet eight times as massive and twice as wide as Earth, is so scorching hot that it has a molten lava ocean for a surface that reaches 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit (1,982 degrees Celsius).

The exoplanet's interior might also be full of diamonds.

The planet is hot enough that it has been compared to the Star Wars lava world of Mustafar, site of the battle between Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi in "Revenge of the Sith," and where Darth Vader later establishes his castle, Fortress Vader.

The planet, formally named Janssen but also referred to as 55 Cancri e or 55 Cnc e, orbits its host star Copernicus so closely that

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### Congratulations Paramount Family



We are proud to be recipients of the Gold award for four consecutive years of the **ICMAB Best Corporate Award** under **Textile Category** for ensuring good governance & best presentation of the annual report of the company. We would like to dedicate this prestigious award to the 5000 members of the Paramount family and its stakeholders for their persistent and meticulous hard work which made this incredible achievement possible. Mr. Shakhawat Hossain, Managing Director and Mr. Alock Kumar Das, Director of the Company have received the award from the Honorable Commerce Minister Mr. Tipu Munshi MP on behalf of the Company.

