

MOVE TO DEFUSE TENSIONS

Jordan hosts Israeli-Palestinian talks

REUTERS, Amman

Jordan hosted a meeting between top Israeli and Palestinian officials yesterday to try to halt surging violence, an official said, as Washington and its Arab allies seek to defuse tensions that have led to concern of a wider escalation.



Police use water cannons and tear gas shells to disperse activists of the opposition National People's Power (NPP) party during a protest held to urge the government to hold local council election as scheduled in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Four killed, 14 hurt in Pak market blast

DAWN ONLINE

At least four people were killed and 14 wounded in an explosion inside the Rakhni market in Balochistan's Barkhan yesterday morning, police and health officials said.

Barkhan District Health Officer Dr Abdul Hameed confirmed the death toll to Dawn.com, adding that the injured persons had been moved to the Rakhni Hospital.

According to Barkhan Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khoso, the blast occurred when an improvised explosive device (IED), planted on a motorcycle, exploded.

Khoso said the police have arrived at the site and cordoned it off. "Teams have begun collecting evidence from the site," he added.

Unverified videos making the rounds on social media show volunteers carrying bloodied victims away as a crowd gathers at the purported site of the blast.

Mangled motorcycles and charred vegetables can be seen strewn about on the road. There was no claim of responsibility as yet.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Prakashin University (BUET) featuring a logo, text in Bengali, and a website URL (www.buet.ac.bd). It includes details about online applications and exam schedules.

It forces' monitoring won't do any good

FROM PAGE 1 Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection (DNCRP) with businesses and other stakeholders to discuss ways to curb the spiral of essential commodities.

abnormally but the entire business community is held responsible." Businessmen who view Ramadan as a month to bag higher profits should leave this mentality, Uddin added.

"So, there is nothing to stress about the price increase of these products. There is no shortage of products, but there is a shortage of management," he added.

5-6 privately-owned oil and sugar refinery mills in Bangladesh and all are under the control of the government, said Kazi Salahuddin Ahmammad, senior general manager of S Alam Group.

A year on, EC yet to earn trust

FROM PAGE 1 in up to 150 constituencies. However, the government in January shelved a plan to buy two lakh EVMs that would be needed to use in 150 constituencies.

Election Commissioner Awal urged political parties to stay in the election race. However, the current election commissioners on several occasions said it was not their job to ensure all parties participated in polls.

the EC to hold a free and fair election under the incumbent government, he added. In June, the EC asked Awami League MP AKM Bahauddin Bahar of Cumilla-6 to leave the constituency for allegedly violating the electoral code of conduct by joining the campaign trail of an individual running for mayor.

talked about allegations that many officers were biased, and they did not properly spend the government funds. Contacted, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) Ahsan Habib Khan said, "The controversies that are being talked about are no big deal. In some cases, misunderstandings led to controversies."

Govt doing its best to keep the economy

FROM PAGE 2 Hasina said her government has been building Bangladesh with the ideals of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

said. The PM recalled the contribution of Dr Malek in implementing the ideology of Bangabandhu and spreading the spirit of the Liberation War.

Bangabandhu Parishad was formed to protest the assassination of Bangabandhu and raise his ideology before the people after the 1975 15th August carnage.

UKRAINE INVASION Blinken eyes US inroads in Central Asia

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is heading to Central Asia hoping that greater US engagement will reassure former Soviet republics rattled by the Ukraine war, although Russia's historic clout limits the extent of cooperation.

Bangladesh to pay through the nose

FROM PAGE 2 practical point is missing in the resolution." The UN General Assembly last week adopted a new resolution calling for Russia to withdraw immediately from Ukraine, in line with the UN Charter, and end the war.

against. Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Pakistan and 27 other states abstained from voting. The Russian embassy in Dhaka later tweeted: "The non-binding 'anti-Russian' resolution of the #UNGA will not bring the world closer to ending the #Ukraine conflict, and bear the spirit of the Liberation War," she said.

to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine, particularly the loss of lives, the deteriorating humanitarian situation in conflict zones and consequential socio-economic fallout around the globe, Sabrin said.

Days after the anniversary of the Ukraine invasion, the top US diplomat will hold talks Tuesday in Kazakhstan and then Uzbekistan and meet jointly with foreign ministers of all five ex-Soviet Central Asian states in Kazakhstan's capital Astana.