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16 PAGES : Tk 15.00



P11 Bangladesh clinch World Cup Qualifiers spot



P8 Why CPD's minimum wage proposal is not acceptable



P7 Gaza food situation worsening by minute: WFP



P6 A man from Chattogram conquers Busan

Israeli air strike kills 500 in Gaza hospital

Palestinian authorities say scores more wounded; condemnation pours in; 6 killed as strike hits UN-run school

AGENCIES

An Israeli air strike yesterday killed about 500 Palestinians at a Gaza hospital crammed with patients and displaced people.

The strike was the bloodiest single incident since Israel launched an unrelenting bombing campaign against the Palestinians in Gaza on October 7.

Sources at the Gaza Ministry of Health told Reuters that around 500 Palestinians were killed in the air strike on Al-Ahli al-Arabi hospital.

The victims included patients, women, and children.

"Hundreds of victims are still under the rubble," a statement from the health ministry said, calling it a war crime.

The strike comes on the eve of US President Joe Biden's visit to the Middle East amid fears that escalating war may spiral into a wider conflict.

Arab countries, Iran and Turkey swiftly condemned the attack. The Palestinian prime

minister called it "a horrific crime, genocide" and said countries backing Israel also bore responsibility.

Video obtained by Reuters showed several ambulances arriving at another Gaza hospital carrying people injured at Al-Ahli al-Arabi hospital. One man was bleeding heavily from the head. A boy was being carried on a stretcher.

The Israeli military said it did not have any details about the reported bombing, but was checking.

In Washington, the Pentagon said it was aware of the reports about the hospital being hit but had no details. The Pentagon, which has sent five C-17 aircraft with military assistance to Israel so far, reiterated that there were no preconditions on the aid being provided and added: "We expect all democracies like Israel to uphold the law of war."

Separately, the United Nations agency supporting Palestinian refugees said six people



PHOTO ON PAGE 12

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

BNP'S 'FINAL PHASE' OF MOVEMENT Non-stop agitation to start in end-Oct

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Later this month, the BNP wants to announce non-stop agitation programmes, which may include blockades and sit-ins, to realise its one-point demand for election under a non-partisan interim government.

The party will hold a rally, likely on October 28, in Dhaka from which its leaders may announce a series of Dhaka-centric programmes, said BNP insiders.

During the Durga Puja next week, there will be no demonstrations on the streets, but there will be a nationwide campaign at the neighbourhood level to drum up support for BNP's demand. The BNP has already formed committees in districts for the mass-contact campaign during the puja.

"The final phase of the movement will be launched after Durga puja... And at one stage, the government's plan to announce the election schedule will be foiled," Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, a standing committee member of the BNP, told The Daily Star last night.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on October 14 also warned of going for tougher programmes after Durga Puja. "Release of Khaleda Zia and restoration of democracy are interconnected. Keeping in mind these two demands, fresh programmes will be announced after Durga Puja," he said.

The BNP has scheduled a rally at 2:00pm today in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters to press home the two demands. Sources said the party plans to show off its support at the rally and may call for the rally on October 28.

A senior leader wishing not to be named said the non-stop agitation programmes would aim at creating a situation for which the Election Commission would not be able to announce the polls schedule.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

EC wants cops on ground for 15 days from election day

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Keeping in mind the possibility of post-polls violence, the Election Commission wants to have the law enforcers deployed for 15 days after the 12th parliamentary election, if needed.

The commission yesterday finalised its work schedule for the upcoming polls with the option that it would ask local police and the administration to take special measures to maintain law and order for 15 days after the polls, if needed.

Several EC officials said following the decision, they could direct local police and the administration to keep law enforcers on the ground for the period.

Usually, the law enforcers stay on the ground for two days from election day, they said.

Talking to this newspaper yesterday, Election Commissioner

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



From left, Selim RF Hussain, MD of Brac Bank; AKM Mosharrar Hussain, MD of Standard Group; Tipu Munshi, commerce minister; Mosammat Shirajum Munira, founder and CEO of Sutar Kabbo; Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Apex Footwear Limited; and Md Miarul Haque, MD of DHL Express Bangladesh, pose for a photo at the 21st DHL-Star Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Sheraton Dhaka last night.

PHOTO: STAR

Trailblazers in business feted

3 business persons, one financial institution get 21st DHL-Star Bangladesh Business Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bank, a business tycoon, a woman entrepreneur and a celebrated industrialist were felicitated yesterday at the 21st Bangladesh Business Awards for their pioneering efforts and outstanding achievements.

The award ceremony was hosted by DHL Express and The Daily Star at Sheraton Dhaka. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi was the chief guest at the event.

Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Apex Footwear, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Brac Bank got the Best Financial Institution of the Year 2022 award.

AKM Mosharrar Hussain, managing director of Standard Group, picked up the Business Person of the Year Award, while Shirajum Munira, founder of Sutar Kabbo, a jute goods maker, got the Outstanding Women in Business of the Year award.

Since the inception of the awards, The Daily Star and DHL have recognised business icons and entrepreneurs who have employed millions

of people and put the country on track to becoming a trillion-dollar economy, said Munshi, who handed out the awards to the winners.

He also touched upon the critical period that the Bangladesh economy is passing through.

"It is said that the darker the night, the brighter and closer the dawn is. So, we are confident that we will overcome the difficulty," he added.

Elahi, who won the Business Person of the Year Award in 2002, recalled his journey to become an industrialist after starting his career in the corporate sector.

"I always had a dream of owning factories - factories that are good and have good working conditions. But I kept the dream to myself, because I would be frowned upon for the dream as no one in my family had ever been in business."

At the age of 38, he left his comfortable job at a multinational company and got into the tannery sector. Elahi went on to set up some of the respected companies under Apex Group

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

BECOMING TRILLION-DOLLAR ECONOMY

Manzur Elahi suggests checking red tape, graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has the potential to have a trillion-dollar economy by 2041 with the help of readymade garment, leather, and other industries, Syed Manzur Elahi, a leading entrepreneur in the footwear sector, said yesterday.

"To achieve the dream, cut down red tape and corruption," he said while delivering a speech at the 21st Bangladesh Business Awards at the Sheraton Dhaka.

DHL Express and The Daily Star organised the event to recognise outstanding businesses and entrepreneurs and their contribution to the economic development of the country.

He said the leather sector is labour intensive

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Shakib and Co prepare for biggest test yet

MAZHAR UDDIN from Pune

After two days of rest, sandwiched by Liton Das' outburst and unclear status of skipper Shakib Al Hasan's injury, Bangladesh



Netherlands' Logan van Beek celebrates the dismissal of South Africa batter David Miller during a 38-run victory in their World Cup fixture at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Netherlands humiliate South Africa

AFP, Dharamshala

Netherlands defeated mighty South Africa by 38 runs at the Cricket World Cup on Tuesday as the European outsiders humiliated the Proteas for the second time in a year.

Chasing 246 to win from a rain-reduced 43 overs after Dutch captain Scott Edwards made a crucial 78 not out, South Africa, one of the tournament favourites, were bowled out for 207 in the shadow of the Himalayas.

In November last year, the Dutch sent South Africa crashing of the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia.

The victory was the World Cup's second major shock in three days after Afghanistan defeated defending champions England on Sunday.

"When we came into the tournament we wanted to have a chance at playing semi-finals and if you want to do that you've got to beat teams," said Edwards.

"Obviously South Africa are probably one of the favourites the way they are playing so it is a big win for us."

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma admitted it was a painful defeat.

"There is no point trying to forget what happened. It will hurt and it should hurt. Tomorrow we'll get back on the journey, our campaign is by no means over," added Bavuma whose indiscipline side earlier conceded 32 extras, including 21 wides.

There was no hint of the drama to come as South Africa eased comfortably to 36-0 in their pursuit.

However, four wickets then fell for the addition of just eight runs.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



returned to action with all smiles at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune yesterday.

The Tigers appeared as a rejuvenated pack following two heavy defeats against England and New Zealand. The training session began with all players and the coaching staff huddled for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Experiencing cricket like never before: priceless