

## ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

### World's biggest book fair hit by tensions

AFP, Frankfurt

The world's biggest book fair in Frankfurt lamented a "disaster" yesterday after publishing groups from several predominantly Muslim countries withdrew in protest at organisers' support for Israel.

Organisations that pulled out – including from the UAE, Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt – were also angered at a decision to postpone an award ceremony for Palestinian author Adania Shibli following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

Asked about the withdrawals, fair director Juergen Boos said "That's a complete disaster for us, for myself. I want people to be here, to have a (frank) discourse, to have discussions even if it might be controversial."

Indonesian Publishers Association said organisers' decision to "take sides and give Israel a platform" has undermined the ideals of dialogue and efforts to build mutual understanding.



Palestinians evacuate a victim following an Israeli airstrike on Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## DEATH OF JOURNO

### Reuters demands 'swift' Israeli probe

AFP, London

Reuters has called on Israel to conduct a quick and comprehensive investigation into cross-border fire that killed one of its journalists and wounded other reporters in Lebanon last week.

Video journalist Issam Abdallah died and six other journalists were injured in firing in southern Lebanon on Friday. The journalists believe they were hit by fire coming from the Israeli side of the border.

"I am reiterating my call to the Israeli authorities, who have said they are investigating, to conduct a swift, thorough and transparent probe into what happened," Reuters Editor-in-Chief Alessandra Galloni said in a video posted on X yesterday.

## 'Gaza food situation getting worse by minute'

Four or five days of stock left in shops, says WFP

AFP, Geneva

The UN's World Food Programme said the food situation in the besieged and blockaded Gaza Strip was worsening, with only four or five days of stocks left in the shops.

WFP said stocks were getting low in warehouses inside the Palestinian enclave, but at the shop level, the situation was even more acute.

"The situation in Gaza is getting worse by the minute: the humanitarian situation but also of course the food security situation," WFP's Middle East spokeswoman Abeer Etefa, told reporters

at the UN in Geneva via video-link from Cairo.

"The current stocks of essential food commodities are sufficient for only two weeks – and that's at the wholesalers' level," she said, with the warehouses located in Gaza City in the north of the territory and shops having difficulties replenishing supplies.

"Inside the shops, the stocks are getting close to less than a few days, maybe four or five days of food stocks left."

Etefa said that out of five flour mills in the Gaza Strip, only one was operating due to security concerns and the unavailability of fuel.

"So, the bread supply is running low and people are lining up for hours to get bread," she said.

Only five bakeries out of 23 in Gaza contracted by WFP were still in operation, she added. "Our food supplies within Gaza are running really short," said Etefa.

Aid agencies have been flying supplies into El Arish airport in Egypt – around 20 kilometres away from the Rafah border crossing and the only one into the Gaza Strip not controlled by Israel.

So far Egypt has kept the crossing closed to aid going in or foreign nationals trying to flee, as Israel has repeatedly struck the Palestinian side of the crossing.

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

### India's top court refuses legalisation

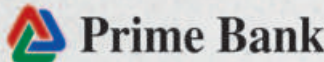
AFP, New Delhi

India's top court refused yesterday to legalise same-sex marriages but said the country had a duty to acknowledge LGBTQ relationships and to protect them from discrimination. "It lies within the domain of parliament and state legislatures to determine the law on marriage," Supreme Court Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said during his verdict. The court's ruling held that the fundamental right to marriage for same-sex couples was not guaranteed by India's constitution under existing law. It did grant marriage rights to couples where one or both members were transgender, provided one participant in the union identified as a man and the other as a woman. Chandrachud added that India still had a duty to acknowledge same-sex relationships and protect those in them from discrimination. "Our ability to feel love and affection for one another makes us feel human," he said from the bench. "This court has recognised that equality demands that queer unions and queer persons are not discriminated against." The court's ruling directed the government to form a committee that would determine the scope of rights for same-sex couples in the future, without compelling government recognition. Its verdict was greeted with sadness and disappointment by a crowd outside the court.

## Iran bans teaching kids foreign languages

AFP, Tehran

Iran has banned the teaching of all foreign languages, including English and Arabic, in kindergartens and primary schools, with immediate effect, state media reported yesterday. "The teaching of foreign languages is prohibited in kindergartens, nursery schools and primary schools, because at this age, the Iranian identity of the child is being formed," said Massoud Tehrani-Farjad, an education ministry official, according to IRNA news agency. "The ban on the teaching of foreign languages does not only concern English, but also other languages, including Arabic," underlined Tehrani-Farjad. Persian, the only official language in Iran, is strongly influenced by Arabic but also borrows from French and English.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to our data center migration, all our banking and transaction services will remain temporarily suspended as per the below schedule:

FROM	TO
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023, 2.00 am	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2023, 5.00 pm

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[www.wewb.gov.bd](http://www.wewb.gov.bd)

Memo No : 49.04.0000.009.07.005.23-333 Date: 16-10-2023

### e-Tender Notice (OTM)

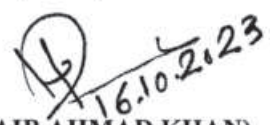
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
888100	All construction works including civil, sanitary, electrical and furniture supply for the purpose of setting up "One Stop Migrants Welfare Center" in 2,600 sft floor space at Level-8 of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban, Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka Under The Wage Earners' Welfare Board.	01-11-2023 4:00 PM	02-11-2023 11:59AM

This is an online tender, where only e-tender 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 portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branch.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
**(SHOAB AHMAD KHAN)**  
 Joint Secretary  
 Director (Finance & Welfare)  
 E-mail: [d.fw@wewb.gov.bd](mailto:d.fw@wewb.gov.bd)

GD-1615





শেখ রাসেল দীক্ষিতময় নির্ভীক নির্মল দুর্জয়

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