



Bangladesh mourns for Palestinians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh observed a day of state mourning yesterday for Palestinians killed in recent Israeli attacks, making it one of a few countries in the world to do so.

To mark the loss of lives, including that of women and children, national flags were hoisted at half-mast atop offices of all government, semi-government, autonomous, educational institutions, and Bangladeshi missions abroad.

About 3,000 Palestinians have perished since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, when Israel launched a deadly counter-offensive.

Following the blast at the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza on October 17, which killed at least 471 people, Palestine observed a three-day period of state mourning.

Turkey also showed solidarity by observing three days of state mourning that ended yesterday.

Similarly, Egypt also observed three days of state mourning that concluded yesterday.

Immediately following the hospital blast, Foreign Minister

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BNP'S OCT 28 GRAND RALLY AL, cops won't 'allow' sit-ins, blockades

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Awami League and law enforcement agencies will use all possible means to "drive out" BNP from the streets if the opposition party tries to stage any sit-ins or blockades after its scheduled grand rally in the capital on October 28, police and Awami League sources have said.

The ruling party and police high-ups have devised their plans to counter BNP, as they think BNP might go for nonstop agitations, including cutting off Dhaka from the rest of the country, calling hartals or laying siege to key establishments, after the event.

According to the sources, police may allow BNP to hold its rally next Saturday at Nayapaltan on several conditions. These will include a specific timeframe to start and end the rally and a specific boundary for the gathering.

- AL to hold rally at south gate of Baitul Mukarram
- AL activists to take position at all unit offices, entry points of Dhaka
- Police will be deployed at entry points
- Countrywide special drive to be launched against illegal firearms
- Cops to continue arresting accused facing warrants

BNP leaders and activists will not be "allowed" at the venue after the time set by the police.

Yesterday, BNP formally sought permission from Dhaka Metropolitan Police for its Nayapaltan rally.

From a rally on Wednesday, the party announced that its October 28 grand rally is actually part of the "final phase" of its anti-government movement.

Party leaders hinted that from the rally they will announce a series of nonstop agitation programmes to realise their one-point demand – ouster of the government to pave the way for a nonparty administration to conduct the January election.

However, police sources said they will go tough if BNP engages in violence or takes any headline position against the government.

Rab has already enhanced cyber patrolling and surveillance to check rumours, Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, told The Daily Star.

"We will set up sufficient checkpoints at the entrances to Dhaka as well as at major points inside Dhaka so that no one can join the rally with illegal firearms," he said.

Adequate police forces will be deployed at the entry points so that BNP cannot stage any sit-ins, police sources said.

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South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen (L) celebrates with Marco Jansen after smashing a century against England during their 229-run victory in the World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday. Klaasen's 109 helped Proteas to 399 for seven before England were bowled out for 170.

PHOTO: AFP



SL get on the board

REUTERS, Lucknow

Sri Lanka beat the Netherlands by five wickets with 10 balls to spare on Saturday to become the final team to claim a hard-fought victory at the

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Klaasen-powered Proteas hammer England

AFP, Mumbai

Heinrich Klaasen made a brilliant World Cup century as South Africa thrashed England by a mammoth 229 runs in Mumbai on Saturday to leave the 'champions' title defence hanging by a thread as they suffered a record defeat in a one-day international.

Klaasen made 109, despite being repeatedly troubled by cramp, as South Africa posted a colossal 399-7 – the highest total conceded by England at this level.

England then collapsed to 68-6 and were 170-9, with exactly 28 overs to spare, when the match ended, with last man Reece Topley unable to bat following a hand injury suffered during South Africa's innings.

This crushing loss was England's heaviest ODI defeat following a 221-run reverse against



Australia at Melbourne in 2002. Klaasen received brilliant support from Marco Jansen in a sixth-wicket stand of 151 in just 77 balls.

Jansen finished on 75 not out – his maiden ODI fifty – having struck three fours and six sixes.

He then followed up with two early wickets in his more familiar role of left-arm quick.

Not even Ben Stokes, playing his first game of the tournament, could rescue England this time, with the talisman caught and bowled by Kagiso Rabada for just five.

England's third defeat in four games, including a shock loss to Afghanistan last time out, left them with a mountain to climb to reach the semi-finals.

By contrast, a resounding victory was just what South Africa needed after their stunning

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Winners of the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2022 at the grand gala held at the 'Hall of Fame' of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Laurels for OTT highfliers

Champions of digital content recognised in 2nd installment of Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Award; one-minute silence observed to remember Gaza victims

SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

It was a vibrant gathering of celebrities, artists and influencers at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre last evening. The star-studded affair marked the second edition of the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Award.

Organised to give due recognition to the best OTT and digital contents and those involved in those, the event began when stars stepped onto the red carpet around 6:00pm.

After they mingled with fans and partook in the stylised glam shots, the artists and content creators were called into the venue's Hall of Fame to take their seats.

A one-minute silence was observed to pay respects to the Palestinians who lost their lives in the recent Israeli attacks.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, took to the stage and requested the audience to watch a short video on worldwide protests against Israeli aggression.

At 7:00pm, the main programme started with a thematic performance by Alifia Dance Squad featuring popular actor Sohana Saba.

After the logo was unveiled, Rafsan Sabab and Amin Hannan Chowdhury came on the stage for a light-hearted segment before the award distribution.

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"The future of entertainment will be ruled by the OTT and digital content. We are really glad to recognise the talent of this emerging media ..."

Omar Hannan, general manager, Ispahani Tea Ltd



"Humayun Faridee bhai, wherever you are, I hope you are doing well and this award is for you!"

Afran Nisho, winner of best actor (popular choice)



"My father says I dedicate all my awards to my mother, so this time, my award is for my dad!"

Mehazabien Chowdhury, winner of best actress (popular choice)

Transport leaders still the stumbling block

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Transport associations, mostly led by ruling party leaders, continue to work as the main obstacle in bringing discipline in the road transport sector, leaving thousands of people to die in road crashes every year.

Powerful leaders, who represent all government bodies in the road transport sector, not only influence the government's decisions in their favour but also force the authority to change their decisions taken to improve road safety.

The associations refuse to formalise the transport workers by giving them appointment letters, halt implementation decisions and even laws, and enforce wildcat strikes holding people hostage if any decision or step goes against them.

In so doing, they make road safety a far cry.

Against the backdrop, the country is set to observe the National Road Safety Day today.

This year, at least 14 people were killed and 22 injured every day, according to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority data, which is much lower than Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity's estimate.

In the last eight years, 61,616 people were killed and 1.12 lakh injured in 44,171 road crashes, according to the Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity.

This means, more than 21 people were killed and 39 injured a day between 2015 and 2022.

Although the government has set "Let move on the streets following rules and build a smart Bangladesh" as the slogan of this year, emphasising on following traffic rules, the Road Transport Act 2018 is not being implemented fully.

"The authorities are failing to play a far cry.

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FAILED & STALLED INITIATIVES

- Appointment letters for transport workers
- Bus service franchise system
- Setting economic life of commercial vehicles
- Five working hours at a stretch for drivers as per PM's directive
- Stopping contract-base bus operations in Dhaka

| YEAR | NUMBER OF ROAD CRASHES | DEATHS | INJURIES |
|-------|------------------------|--------|----------|
| 2022 | 6,749 | 9,951 | 12,356 |
| 2021 | 5,629 | 7,809 | 9,039 |
| 2020 | 4,891 | 6,686 | 8,600 |
| 2019 | 5,516 | 7,855 | 13,330 |
| 2018 | 5,514 | 7,221 | 15,466 |
| 2017 | 4,979 | 7,397 | 16,193 |
| 2016 | 4,312 | 6,055 | 15,914 |
| 2015 | 6,581 | 8,642 | 21,855 |
| TOTAL | 44,171 | 61,616 | 112,753 |

SOURCE: JATRI KALYAN SAMITY

"The authorities are failing to play the due role because of the influence of transport associations, which, in many cases, stops the government from implementing its decisions."

MOZAMMEL HOQUE CHOWDHURY
secretary general of Jatri Kalyan Samity