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## Tigers stoop to their lowest

MAZHAR UDDIN from Kolkata

The enthusiastic Bangladeshi fans who came in numbers at the iconic Eden Gardens stadium in Kolkata yesterday were in utter disbelief as the Tigers succumbed to a humiliating 87-run defeat against the Netherlands in the two sides' sixth match of the ongoing ICC World Cup.

Bangladesh batting was shambolic once again as the top-order crumbled under pressure and the lower-middle order only delayed the inevitable. Shakib Al Hasan's team were all out for 142 runs, chasing 230 after the Netherlands elected to bat.

The Dutch may have been the inferior side on paper but they were able to outclass their relatively far experienced counterparts, who suffered their fifth straight defeat in the prestigious tournament.

The dejected Bangladeshi fans, who perhaps had anticipated a win, had left the stadium before the game wrapped up. The time they started to leave, the fate of the game hinged on a miracle from the tail-enders, who showed more application than the specialist batters.

One unprecedented scene was on display as Shakib was on the receiving end of jeers from a section of Bangladesh fans while the Bangladesh skipper was returning to the pavilion, with his side reeling at 63 for four.

Shakib has not, on record, received such treatment from Bangladesh fans in a match during his stellar career and his controversial Dhaka trip did not bear fruit as he brought his downfall in familiar circumstances, cutting a short-pitched ball that was too close to his body.



Experiencing cricket like never before: priceless

Josh Inglis runs out New Zealand batter James Neesham during Australia's five-run victory in a thrilling World Cup match at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala yesterday.

PHOTO: ICC

## Head ton helps Australia beat NZ in thriller

REUTERS, Dharamshala

Travis Head's rapid hundred trumped Rachin Ravindra's gallant 116 as Australia survived late drama against New Zealand before winning the highest-scoring match in World Cup history by



five runs to close in on a semifinal spot on Saturday.

Head smashed 109 in his first match of the World Cup and forged a breakneck 175-run opening stand with David Warner (81) to propel Australia to a commanding 388 all out at the Himachal Pradesh

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## UNGA RESOLUTION Bangladesh votes in favour of humanitarian truce in Gaza

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a humanitarian truce in Gaza and unhindered provision of essential goods and services to the civilians.

The resolution was adopted on Friday with a two-third majority at the 10th emergency special session of the UNGA, in which 121 countries voted in favour of the resolution and 14 against it while 45 countries abstained.

The resolution also calls for protection of civilians and civilian objects, as well as the protection of humanitarian personnel, injured soldiers, humanitarian facilities and assets.

It also called for the rescinding of the order by Israel for Palestinian civilians and UN staff to evacuate all areas in the Gaza Strip north of the Wadi Gaza and relocate to southern Gaza.

It called for the immediate and unconditional release of all civilians who are being illegally held captive.

The resolution referred to the two-state solution as a basis of just and lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

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## Situation dire in 'blackout Gaza'

Israel steps up ground, air assault as UN warns 'thousands more to die' in the enclave

AGENCIES

Gaza was largely cut off from the outside world yesterday as Israel rained more bombs from the air and suggested its long-promised ground offensive in the Palestinian enclave was underway.

Israel said troops sent in on Friday night were still in the field whereas previously it had made only brief sorties during three weeks of bombing of Gaza.

"We attacked above the ground and under ground, we attacked terror operatives of all ranks, everywhere," Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said in a video statement.

"The operation will continue until a new order."

Gaza has been under an almost complete communications blackout since Friday evening, which the Palestinian Red Crescent blamed on Israel.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk yesterday warned there was the

Gaza death toll hits 7,703, including more than 3,500 children

Blackout disconnects Gazans from world and each other

Israeli military says entered north Gaza overnight, still 'in the field'

potential for thousands more civilians to die if Israel presses a major ground offensive in Gaza.

Israel's army relentlessly hammered the territory yesterday after a fierce overnight bombardment that rescuers said destroyed hundreds of buildings.

"Given the manner in which military operations have been conducted until now, in the context of the 56-year-old occupation, I am raising alarm about the possibly catastrophic

consequences of large-scale ground operations in Gaza and the potential for thousands more civilians to die," Turk said.

"There is no safe place in Gaza and there is no way out. I am very worried for my colleagues, as I am for all civilians in Gaza."

Israel unleashed its bombing campaign after Hamas gunmen stormed across the Gaza border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and seizing more than 220 hostages, according to Israeli officials.

The health ministry in Gaza said Israeli strikes had killed 7,703 people, mainly civilians, including more than 3,500 children.

Aid agencies say a humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding for Gaza's 2.4 million people who are under a total Israeli blockade.

The UN rights chief also condemned the Internet and telecommunications blackout that has hit the Palestinian enclave since Friday.

## US to review all violent incidents for visa curbs

Says its embassy in Dhaka, condemns political violence

STAR REPORT

The United States has condemned the political violence that took place in Dhaka yesterday, saying that it will be "reviewing all violent incidents for possible visa restrictions".

"The reported killing of a police officer, a political activist, and the burning of a hospital are unacceptable. As is violence against civilians, including journalists," the US embassy in Dhaka said in a statement.

"We call for calm and restraint on all sides," added the statement.

The areas surrounding the capital's Nayapaltan, where BNP was holding a mega rally, turned into a battlefield as its activists waged a pitched battle with police for hours.

The clash between police and BNP men started around 1:00pm near Kakrail mosque, and it later spread to surrounding areas.

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### the BUSINESS

#### Political crisis may add to economic woes

Most of the macroeconomic indicators of Bangladesh have been in bad shape for the last several months owing to external and internal factors, intensifying people's suffering as consumer prices surged to record levels.

Now with the political uncertainty deepening further, the economy would face added challenges in the days to come, said economists and businesspeople.

"The present economic situation of Bangladesh will not improve if the political crisis is not resolved," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of PRI.

STORY ON BI

## US doesn't support any specific party in Bangladesh

Uzra Zeya tells Salman F Rahman

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Uzra Zeya, has reiterated that Washington is keen to see the continuation of democracy in Bangladesh.

During a meeting with Salman F Rahman, prime minister's adviser for private industry and investment, at the State Department on Friday, she also reaffirmed that the US does not support any particular political party in Bangladesh, according to a statement from the Bangladesh embassy in Washington.

Washington has taken various measures, including visa restrictions, as part of its initiative to ensure free and fair elections in Bangladesh.

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Smoke rises from a building in northern Gaza Strip yesterday as Israeli forces continue to pound the Palestinian territory. Israeli air strikes destroyed hundreds of buildings in the Gaza Strip overnight, Gaza's civil defence service said. At least 45 percent of Gaza's buildings have been damaged or destroyed since Israel launched an unprecedented attack on the territory on October 7.

PHOTO: AFP

## Iraq dig unearths 2,700-year-old winged sculpture



AFP, Mosul

A dig in northern Iraq has unearthed a 2,700-year-old alabaster sculpture of the winged Assyrian deity Lamassu, which was found largely intact despite its large dimensions.

Only the head was missing and that was already in the collection of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad after being confiscated by customs officers from smugglers in the 1990s, the dig's French leader Pascal Butterlin said.

"I never unearthed anything this big in my life before," Butterlin said of the 18-tonne sculpture measuring 3.8 by 3.9 metres (about 12.5 by 12.8 feet). "Normally, it's only in Egypt or Cambodia that you find pieces this big."

"The attention to detail is unbelievable," said the professor of Middle East archaeology at the University of Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne.