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PM calls upon imams to help keep peace

Inaugurates 50 more model mosques



BSS, Narayanganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the imams to work for maintaining peace so that everyone can practice their religions freely.

“We want cooperation from you [alem, olama, and imam],” she said.

The PM was addressing the National Imam Council and prize-giving ceremony-2023 as she opened 50 model mosques and Islamic cultural centres across the country.

The religious affairs ministry organised

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The water of Hatirheel has turned murky in Moghbazar area as sewage from homes and commercial buildings flows into it. The stagnant water has become an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes too. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Seven foreign missions call for restraint

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven foreign missions in Bangladesh have issued a statement calling on all stakeholders to exercise restraint, refrain from violence, and work together to create the conditions for free, fair, participatory and peaceful elections.

The joint statement signed by Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Norway, the UK, and the US was posted on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) yesterday.

The statement said they were deeply concerned by the violence during the political gatherings in Dhaka on October 28 and extended their condolences for the loss of life and those injured.

At least five people, including a policeman, were killed during violence on Saturday and during the

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HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK

HC commutes death sentence of 7 militants

Jails them until death for abetting killers, says lower court incorrectly applied section of Anti-Terrorism Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday commuted the death sentence of seven jailed militants to imprisonment until death in the Holey Artisan attack case.

The bench of Justice Shahidul Karim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman delivered the verdict after rejecting separate appeals filed by the convicts challenging the lower court verdict.

The HC reduced the punishment finding that the tribunal had incorrectly applied a section of the Anti-Terrorism Act-2009 to hand down death penalties to the convicts, said prosecution and defence lawyers.

The judgment came more than seven years after the café siege that left 20 people dead, mostly foreigners, in July 2016.

The grisly attack followed a spate of targeted killings of bloggers, writers, members of religious minorities, and foreigners over several years.

After the siege, which drew global condemnation, law enforcers launched a

massive crackdown on terror networks.

On July 1, 2016, five militants with firearms, machetes, and grenades stormed the upscale eatery in Gulshan’s diplomatic zone and held the diners hostage before killing three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians, and an Indian.

The militants were killed during a rescue operation by army commandos. Two police officials and a chef of the café also died during the 12-hour standoff.

On November 27, 2019, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Dhaka convicted and sentenced seven militants to death for their involvement in the attack.

The convicts are Jahangir Hossain, Aslam Hossain Rash, Hadisur Rahman, Rakibul Hasan Regan, Md Abdus Sabur Khan, Shariful Islam Khaled, and Mamunur Rashid Ripon.

Yesterday, the HC bench read out the verdict summary.

Amimul Ehsan Zubayer, a defence counsel, said the tribunal had given punishment to the seven under a section

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GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS

JS adopts resolution condemning Israeli attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution strongly condemning Israel’s genocide of the Palestinian people and calling upon the Muslim world to come forward effectively to protect them.

The resolution also called upon the Muslim world to help the Palestinians to establish an independent and sovereign state for themselves.

Bangladesh National Parliament strongly condemns the brutal genocide carried out by Israel on the Palestinian people and strongly demands that this killing be stopped, read the proposal.

Ruling Awami League MP and former foreign minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali placed it before the parliament.

“Israel’s brutal killings in Palestine have caused an extreme human

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Gaza situation turns from bad to worse

Ground battles, strikes compound humanitarian crisis in the besieged enclave

AGENCIES

Israeli ground forces fought deadly battles with Hamas fighters inside Gaza yesterday and sent tanks to the outskirts of the biggest city while air strikes kept raining down on the besieged Palestinian territory.

The intensifying military campaign since the October 7 Hamas attacks has sharply heightened fears for the 2.4 million civilians trapped inside Gaza, where the health ministry says more than 8,300 have died.

Concern has surged about the widening humanitarian crisis and the fate of hospitals in the war zone where, according to the World Health Organisation, many patients cannot be safely moved despite Israel’s evacuation order.

On Sunday, the White House told Israel that it must protect innocent Gaza residents by distinguishing between Hamas and civilians, as world leaders stepped up calls for desperately needed humanitarian aid to reach the war-torn Palestinian territory.

Meanwhile, The International Criminal Court’s chief prosecutor Karim Khan yesterday warned that blocking humanitarian aid from

entering Gaza could constitute a crime.

The October 7 Hamas incursion set off the bloodiest-ever Gaza war, marked by weeks of withering aerial bombardment by Israel and three continuous nights of ground operations mainly centred on northern Gaza.

Israeli snipers took positions inside emptied residential buildings, in footage released by the army.

Dozens of Israeli tanks advanced for more than an hour into the southern fringes of Gaza City and blocked the main north-south highway, “firing at any vehicle that tries to go along it”, an eyewitness told AFP by phone.

Air strikes also cratered the road and brought down buildings, residents said, before the tanks pulled back from the area.

The Israeli land forces were supported by heavy fire from fighter jets, drones and artillery that the army said had struck more than 600 targets within 24 hours, up sharply from 450 a day earlier.

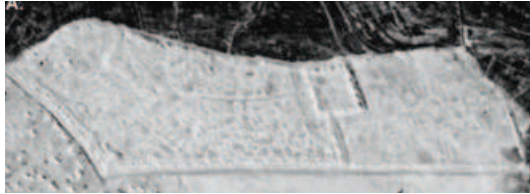
Hamas said it had fired anti-tank missiles at two Israeli armoured vehicles.

It also charged Israel was trying to present a “false image that its soldiers are present in the Gaza Strip interior, even though blows delivered by the resistance have prevented them”.

Hamas also released a video of what it said were three women hostages, seated against a tile wall, although the time and place of the recording could not be verified.

- Gaza death toll crosses 8,300
- Israeli tanks briefly breach Gaza City
- 600 targets in Gaza hit within 24 hours
- ICC prosecutor says preventing aid could be a crime

Cold War-era images reveal nearly 400 hidden Roman forts



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Archaeologists have uncovered nearly 400 previously unknown Roman forts built about 1,900 years ago and buried across modern-day Iraq and Syria by re-examining Cold War-era satellite images.

The research published in the journal *Antiquity* sheds more light on forts in Rome’s east that were thought to serve as a line of defence against incursions from the ancient civilisation’s eastern frontiers.

During an aerial survey of the Near East in the 1920s, French Jesuit priest Antoine Poidebard, a pioneer in aerial archaeology, recorded hundreds of fortified military buildings in the region.

Father Poidebard proposed that these forts likely represented a line of defence for the Roman Empire against incursions from the east.

In his survey, he mapped 116 Roman forts along a 1,000km (620 miles) border, and argued that these buildings were built during the second and third centuries AD to defend against Arab and Persian invaders.



A Palestinian man tries to console an injured child at the Najjar hospital following an Israeli air strike on a home in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. At least 3,457 children have been killed in Gaza since Israel began to pound the Palestinian territory on October 7.

PHOTO: AFP

BUSINESS

Blockade could dent supply chain

The economy, which is already reeling under the pressure of persisting volatility in foreign exchange market and higher inflation, is going to face another setback as the nationwide blockade could disrupt the entire supply chain, businesses said.

The three-day blockade from today might make it difficult for exporters to supply products to global buyers on time, while importers might not be able to receive goods from ports.

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