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Nat'l Prof Dr Abdul Malik no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Professor Brigadier (ret'd) Dr Abdul Malik, the founder of the National Heart Foundation, passed away yesterday. He was 94.

Shahjadi Sultana, additional director (public relations) of National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute, said Dr Malik breathed his last around 9:40am while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers at the National Institute of

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The charred interior of a bus at Dinaipur Bus Terminal. According to transport workers, the vehicle parked inside the terminal was set on fire by unidentified men around 2:30am yesterday.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

‘Misrule’ pushing the RMG sector towards ruin

Says BNP; another 48-hour blockade starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is headed towards a “terrible crisis due to the government’s deliberate misrule” in the garment sector, BNP said yesterday.

Addressing a virtual press briefing, the party’s Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, “If Western sanctions come on the garment industry, how many people will become unemployed? Sheikh Hasina is not thinking about that.”

Meanwhile, BNP and its allies are enforcing another 48-hour nationwide blockade starting this morning to protest the polls schedule recently announced by the Election Commission.

“Today, the garment industry is on the verge of ruin. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina doesn’t care about it. She is deliberately taking it [the industry] there. She doesn’t care about the people ... She only cares about power.”

Rizvi added that the government’s misrule will bring “terrible consequences” for the country’s politics.

About AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader’s recent remarks, the BNP leader said the upcoming polls would be a “shared election”, fully controlled by the prime minister to fulfil her wish of staying in power.

“Free and fair elections are not in Awami League’s genetics.”

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‘Even more hellish scenario’ looms

UN warns as Israel storms Khan Younis in southern Gaza; hospitals struggle to cope with scores of Palestinian dead, wounded

AGENCIES

A UN official warned that “an even more hellish scenario” looms in Gaza as Israeli forces stormed the main city in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday and hospitals struggled to cope with scores of Palestinian dead and wounded.

“The conditions required to deliver aid to the people of Gaza do not exist,” said Lynn Hastings, UN humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories.

“Nowhere is safe in Gaza and there is nowhere left to go. If possible, an even more hellish scenario is about to unfold, one in which humanitarian operations may not be able to respond,” Hastings said in a statement.

James Elder, spokesman for the UN children’s agency Unicef, told reporters in Geneva via video-link from Cairo that it was impossible to create so-called safe zones for civilians to flee to inside the Gaza Strip amid Israel’s bombing campaign.

In what appeared to be the biggest ground assault since a truce collapsed last week, residents said Israeli tanks had entered the eastern parts of Khan Younis for the first time, crossing from the Israeli border

fence and advancing west.

Some took up positions inside the town of Bani Suhaila on Khan Younis’ eastern outskirts, while others continued further and were

Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashra al-Qidra said at least 43 corpses had already reached Nasser hospital yesterday morning, and dozens more were feared trapped under rubble or

‘Not possible’ to create ‘safe zones’ in Gaza: Unicef

Qatar emir slams ‘shameful’ international inaction on Gaza war

Death toll in enclave rises to 16,248 and 70pc of them women or under 18

Israel considers flooding Gaza tunnels with seawater: WSJ



Area being assaulted by Israeli forces marked in red

stationed on the edge of a Qatar-funded housing development called Hamad City, residents said.

At Khan Younis’ main Nasser hospital, the wounded arrived by ambulance, car, flatbed truck and donkey cart after what survivors described as a strike that hit a school being used as a shelter for the displaced.

in locations unsafe for ambulances to recover them.

Hamas ally Islamic Jihad’s armed wing said its fighters engaged in fierce clashes with Israeli soldiers north and east of Khan Younis, reports Reuters.

In eight weeks of warfare, the Gazan health ministry said more than 16,248 Palestinians, 70 percent

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Tigers eye historic series win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will look to replicate the performance that helped them seal a historic 150-run win over New Zealand in Sylhet as Najmul Hossain Shanto and his troops are eyeing to clinch their first-ever Test series win over the Kiwis with a victory in the second and final Test at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The match is scheduled to begin at 9:30am and telecasted live on T Sports and GTV.

It was a total team effort from Bangladesh in the first Test that ended last Saturday, with left-arm spinner Taijul Islam leading the way with a ten-wicket haul in the game. However, it was more than just a Taijul show as the Tigers overcame a full-strength New Zealand side with a collective approach that saw a century from stand-in skipper Shanto along with some vital contributions from experienced Mushfiqur Rahim, Mominul Haque, Mehedi Hasan Miraz,

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COP28 fossil fuel battle hardens

Saudi Arabia says it would ‘absolutely not’ agree to phasing down fossil fuels

AFP, Dubai

Battle lines on fossil fuels hardened at UN climate talks yesterday despite scientists warning that global warming could breach the 1.5C threshold within seven years.

A new COP28 draft agreement in Dubai included the options of phasing out fossil fuels or not addressing the issue at all, setting the stage for tough negotiations due to end next week.

Saudi Arabia -- the world’s biggest oil exporter -- took a hardline stance, saying it would “absolutely not” agree to phasing down fossil fuels, never mind phasing them out.

The thorny debate over the future of fossil fuels, the biggest cause of global warming, is the key battleground at the COP28 meeting hosted by the oil-rich United Arab Emirates.

The latest version of a potential agreement included three options -- an “orderly and just” phase-out, faster efforts to phase out fossil fuel projects that do not capture and store emissions, or “no text” on the subject.



New draft agreement includes options of phasing out fossil fuels or not addressing the issue at all.

An earlier draft, prepared by the UK and Singapore, that proposed a “phasedown/out” was badly received by delegates, a Latin American negotiator told AFP.

“Everyone was extremely unhappy with the first draft,” the negotiator said, requesting anonymity.

“When we started talking... everything collapsed... There is pretty much nothing on the way forward,” the delegate added.

Saudi Arabia’s energy minister said he would “absolutely not” agree to a phase-down of fossil fuels in the COP28 agreement.

“I would like to put that challenge for all of those who... come out publicly saying we have to (phase down),” Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told Bloomberg. “Call them and ask them how they are gonna do that?”

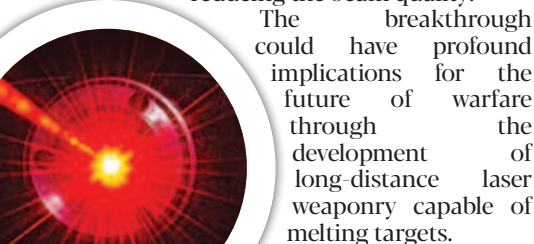
Laurence Tubiana, the architect of the landmark Paris climate accord in 2015, said the negotiations are “difficult because we’re at a stage where all

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Scientists discover method to scale up power of lasers

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have discovered a method to scale up the power of lasers by up to nine times without reducing the beam quality.



The breakthrough could have profound implications for the future of warfare through the development of long-distance laser weaponry capable of melting targets. The team of researchers from the University of South Australia, the University of Adelaide and Yale University also say the high-power lasers could aid new scientific discoveries.

“High-power fibre lasers are vital in manufacturing and defence, and becoming more so with the proliferation of cheap, unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) in modern battlefields,” said Dr Linh Nguyen from the University of South Australia, who was one of the lead researchers behind the finding.

“A swarm of cheap drones can quickly drain the missile resource, leaving military assets and vehicles with depleted firing power for more combat-critical missions,” Nguyen said.



Wounded Palestinians are transported to Nasser Hospital following Israeli strikes, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SC rebukes judge for contempt of court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday rebuked a judge for committing contempt of court by ignoring a stay order of its High Court Division on the trial proceedings of a criminal case and using unaccepted words in his explanation to the HC.

Md Sohul Rana, who was previously the chief judicial magistrate of Cumilla and is now attached to the law ministry as an additional district and sessions judge, was sentenced to a month’s prison by the HC for the offence.

“He [Sohul] is a judicial officer. He was given proper training before he joined the office as a judge. If he ignores the High Court orders, then why should an official like him be in the office,” the Appellate Division said.

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