

## UNSC RESOLUTION Bangladesh votes for ceasefire in Gaza

13 nations in favour, UK  
abstains, US vetoes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is one of the more than 100 countries that co-sponsored the UN Security Council resolution on the ceasefire of Israel's war on Palestine.

Palestine's Deputy Permanent Observer to the UN in New York, Ambassador Majed Banya, shared the information on his X (formerly Twitter) yesterday.

Of the 15 members of the UN Security Council, 13 voted for the resolution, the UK abstained, and the US vetoed the resolution.

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This followed Wednesday's urgent letter by UN Secretary-General António Guterres—one of the most powerful tools at his disposal—urging the body to help end carnage in the war-battered enclave through a lasting humanitarian ceasefire.

The resolution tabled late afternoon in the chamber calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire was vetoed by the United States.

The resolution, which failed to pass, took note of the Secretary-General's invocation of Article 99, expressed grave concern over the “catastrophic situation” in Gaza, and emphasised that both Palestinian and Israeli civilians must be protected.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for a photo with three recipients and representatives of two recipients of “Begum Rokeya Padak-2023” at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: PID

## Ukraine reports nearly 100 air attacks in a day

First lady warns country faces ‘mortal danger’

CNN ONLINE

Ukraine said yesterday that Russia launched nearly 100 air attacks across the country in the space of 24 hours, as its first lady warned Ukraine was in “mortal danger” without Western military aid.

“The enemy launched a total of 28 missiles and 27 airstrikes, firing 59 times from multiple launch rocket systems at Ukrainian military positions and populated areas,” according to a social media post from the Ukrainian General Staff yesterday.

Multiple regions in the east were targeted, including Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Donetsk, which have seen some of the most intense fighting.

The strikes come a day after Ukrainian authorities said they intercepted cruise missiles for the first time in nearly 80 days, as Western intelligence

assessments warned Russia is likely to expand its bombardment of civilian infrastructure during the winter.

Russian forces shelled Ukraine's Kherson region alone 62 times, firing more than 300 shells from mortars, artillery, Grad, tanks, UAVs and aircraft, according to Oleksandr Prokudin, the head of the region's military administration.

At least one civilian was killed and another sustained shrapnel wounds after Russian forces dropped an explosive from a drone in the region's city of Beryslav last morning, local authorities said.

A 47-year-old woman in the city of Kherson is in a medical facility after being injured during an attack on Friday night in which critical infrastructure was damaged and residential buildings shelled, Prokudin said.

## Adam Tamizi picked up for questioning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Haque Group Chairman Adam Tamizi Haque was taken to the head office Detective Branch (DB) in the capital's Minto Road for interrogation around 10:00pm last night after a team of DB arrested him.

DB chief Harun Or Rashid said there is a case filed against him under the Digital Security Act. Besides, there are allegations against him that include the burning of a Bangladeshi passport on Facebook Live.

He said if Tamizi Haque is found mentally unstable, he will be sent to a rehabilitation centre and quizzed later. Legal action would be taken against him if he was mentally stable at the time.

Earlier on November 16, Rab men raided the house of Adam Tamizi Haque on Road III in Gulshan, reports UNB.

Rab said that Tamizi Haque was threatening to take his own life if he was arrested.

On September 18, Awami League decided to expel Tamizi Haque from the party for criticising the party, the government, and a state minister on Facebook Live.

## MUNSHIGANJ EXPLOSION

## Woman dies; son, daughter-in-law, grandson hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A woman died while her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson were injured in a fiery explosion that took place at a residential flat in Munshiganj town's Idrakpur area yesterday around 6:30am.

The deceased Shahida Khatun, 65, was taken to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery with critical burn injuries, where she died while undergoing treatment, said Dhaka Medical College Hospital police outpost in-charge Bachchu Mia.

Her son Rizvi Ahmed Russell, 42, his wife Rozina Begum, 35, and their son Rayan Ahmed, 2, are currently receiving treatment at the same hospital.

Shahida's husband, Rojob Ali, was out of the flat at the time of the explosion. He was out on a morning walk after Fazr prayers.

Munshiganj Fire Service and Civil Defense Senior Station Officer Abu Yusuf said, “We have yet to positively determine how the explosion occurred. Initially, we presume that a small fire started in one of the rooms that grew slowly and caused an oxygen shortage inside the enclosed space. Later, the explosion occurred when oxygen was re-introduced in the room somehow. This phenomenon is called ‘backdraught’.”

## UN reiterates hope or free, fair polls in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has reiterated its hope for a free, fair, and credible election in Bangladesh.

“I would just refer you to what I've already said extensively on the election in Bangladesh and our hopes for a free, fair, and credible election there,” Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, told reporters during a briefing yesterday.

He made the comment when the journalists referred to a letter from Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen to the office of the UN Secretary-General's Office in November last week, requesting for playing a constructive role in its political progress in the context of the “undue, unwarranted and vested political pressure” the country is facing from different corners ahead of the election.

The letter was sent out amid the West's repeated calls for a free, fair, and participatory election, scheduled for January 7 next year, after two controversial polls in 2014 and 2018.

In the letter, Momen said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is “a crusader of democracy and she went through a lot to guarantee the right to vote, the right to food, and the right to a decent life.”

Asked about the letter, Stéphane Dujarric said he hadn't seen the letter.

## US uses emergency authority to provide tank shells to Israel

REUTERS, Washington

The Biden administration has used an emergency authority to allow the sale of about 14,000 tank shells to Israel without congressional review, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The State Department on Friday used an Arms Export Control Act emergency declaration for the tank rounds worth USD106.5 million for immediate delivery to Israel, the Pentagon said in a statement.

The shells are part of a bigger sale

## Onions sting

FROM PAGE 1

In Pabna, each kg was sold for Tk 180-200 yesterday.

Last week, each maund (37.3kg) of onion was sold at Tk 4,000-4,500, now it is over Tk 7,000, said wholesale trader Montu Khan.

In Khatunganj, Chattogram, many traders said they ran out of stock.

In Dinajpur, Bahadurbazar and Railbazarhat kitchen markets saw a sudden rise in demand for onions which led to the prices to increase.

Ghulam Rahman, president

that was first reported by Reuters on Friday that the Biden administration is asking the US Congress to approve. The larger package is worth more than USD500 million and comprises of 45,000 shells for Israel's Merkava tanks, regularly deployed in its offensive in Gaza, which has killed thousands of civilians.

As the war intensified, how and where exactly the US weapons are used in the conflict has come under more scrutiny, even though US officials say there are no plans to put

conditions on military aid to Israel or to consider withholding some of it.

Rights advocates expressed concern over the sale, saying it doesn't align with Washington's effort to press Israel to minimize civilian casualties.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken determined and provided detailed justification to Congress that the tank shells must immediately be provided to Israel in the national security interests of the United States, according to the Pentagon statement.

of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said, “There is no logic behind the sudden price hike. The supply has not been disrupted. Traders just want to make more money.”

Dipankar Ghosh, a leader of the clearing and forwarding agents in Bhomra land port, said when the traders learnt about the extension of India's restriction, they just reduced the supply to make more money.

AHM Shafiquzzaman, director-

general of the Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection, said, “We are investigating whether onions that were bought at lower prices earlier are now being sold at high prices.”

He added that the directorate informed the ministry in May that it might not be possible to control the market without imported onions.

[Mohammad Suman, Kongkon Karmakar, Ahmed Humayun Kabir Topu contributed to this report]

## Washington complicit in Israeli war crimes

FROM PAGE 12

In Jala street in Gaza City, near Zaharna building. The house is on fire,” wrote members of the Attallah family.

Israeli forces say they are limiting civilian casualties by providing them with maps showing areas that are safe, and blame Hamas for causing harm to civilians by hiding among them, which the fighters deny. Palestinians say the campaign has turned into a scorched-earth war of vengeance against the entire population of an enclave as densely-

populated as London.

Washington has said it told Israel to do more to protect civilians in the next phase of the war. This week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was a “gap” between Israel's promises to protect civilians and the outcome on the ground. But Washington has continued to support Israel's position that a ceasefire would benefit Hamas.

“We do not support this resolution's call for an unsustainable ceasefire that will only plant the seeds for the next war,” Deputy US Ambassador to the UN Robert Wood

told the Security Council before exercising Washington's veto.

Ezzat El-Reshiq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, condemned the US veto as “inhumane”. Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority which lost control of Gaza to Hamas in 2007, said the veto made the United States complicit in Israeli war crimes.

Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan said in a statement: “A ceasefire will be possible only with the return of all the hostages and the destruction of Hamas.”

Canada for its part included in its list four Russians responsible for LGBTQ rights violations in Chechnya as well as the leader of the junta in Myanmar.

“Our actions to promote respect for human rights are stronger and more durable when done in concert with allies committed to the international rules-based order,” Blinken said of the coordinated action with Ottawa and London.

## An interesting day for Star

FROM PAGE 1

BNP and had hoped that the latter's movement would succeed. There is natural reason for Mahfuz Anam to be disappointed as the reality did not go in that direction.”

The innuendo is clear but totally unfounded. Some time ago we wrote that to the power, “press freedom means praise freedom” — freedom to praise, and anything else is yellow journalism. In the last three months, the majority of our coverage was on the ruling party. But that was not good enough because all was not in praise. We have published the most robust of supplements on every occasion, especially those dealing with Bangabandhu, and have covered most extensively all the major infrastructural projects. Our fault is that we also cover the other side. No alternative views, no critical observations and no dissenting voices, only “yes, minister” as in the famous satirical TV series on British politics.

Mr Quader only proved our point.

The second comment was made by the foreign minister. He critiqued The Daily Star for making public the content of his “personal letter” to the UN secretary general's chef du

cabinet. He told a TV reporter that “if I invite you to dinner or write a letter enquiring about how you and your family are doing, should that be published as news? What sort of journalism is this?” He then said, “I made some personal contacts during my attendance in UNGA sessions and wrote ‘thank you’ letters to them.”

The letter is more than 700 words, which begins and ends in the most formal way as is the standard laid-down practice in correspondence between the UN system and member states.

Other than the salutation and the conclusion, there are five paragraphs in the letter that deal with UN-Bangladesh relations, the visit of our PM, our commitment to the UN, participation in various projects and plans of the SG like “Pact of the Future”, “New Agenda for Peace”, our glorious role in sheltering the Rohingya, and development, etc.

The paragraph that convinced us to make it public, and we took his comments on it, states (extracts), “Bangladesh, a proactive and supportive member state, also has high expectation from the United Nations system ..... In this regard and

in the context of undue, unwarranted and vested political pressure that we are facing from different corners ahead of our upcoming National Parliamentary Elections, we hope that United Nations System, including its secretariat, agencies and the country office, would play a constructive and collaborative role to assist Bangladesh to remain persistent in its development trajectory.”

We leave it to our readers, experts, former diplomats and all others who love and take interest in the international standing of our country as to the merit of this letter and indeed judge how much it added to the dignity of the country. On the one hand, we criticise the UN when it reports on our human rights and freedoms and then invite it to get involved in elections related matters.

Might we ask, which part of this letter is personal? Can the foreign minister cite a single word which can be construed as such. Then why is this charade? If media is accused of irresponsibility then the accuser should be truthful. Did our FM think that claiming his letter to be “personal” would exonerate him from his responsibility?

## JP may walk if MPs not given cakewalk

FROM PAGE 1

GM Quader's staying away from the media and his silence about the election for about a month give the indication that the JP high-ups are closely observing the political situation.

On December 6, a high-profile JP delegation in a meeting with some top AL leaders demanded the ruling party share around 70 seats with it so that the JP nominees could have an easy sailing, a JP co-chairman had told The Daily Star.

However, both the AL and JP officially denied that any such discussion was held.

Speaking to reporters at the JP chairman's Banani office yesterday, party Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said an understanding over seat-sharing happens in other countries too.

“In India, BJP didn't field candidates in many constituencies. They either didn't nominate candidates for those seats shared with its alliance partners or extended their support to nominees of other political parties as per unofficial understanding between parties.

“Such understanding is reached

in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and other countries,” he said.

Asked when the final decision on seat-sharing would be made, Chunnun said, “Any decision could be made anytime.”

About the JP's strategy on polls campaign, he said they would focus on unemployment, decentralisation of service delivery, improvement in health care services and child rights protection in their election manifesto.

The AL has announced the names of its nominees for 298 constituencies and the JP for 287.

Statistics of the 2008, 2014, and 2018 election results show that JP candidates won only in those constituencies where the AL did not field any candidates as per the understanding reached between them.

It is evident from those data that the JP does not have the strength to compete against the AL even if the polls are boycotted by other key parties.

QUADER MUM

JP insiders said party chief Quader is not appearing before the media since November 14. The party is facing a critical situation over seat-

sharing with the AL which is one of the reasons for Quader's remaining silent.

“People from home and abroad are criticising us because just a month ago our chairman unequivocally said that there is no election atmosphere in the country. But the reality is we have decided to run which is contradictory to our previous stance,” a JP leader said, wishing anonymity.

He said people are trolling us on social media for flip-flopping.

To avoid any further embarrassment, the JP chairman is now avoiding the media and also not making any public appearances, party insiders said.

“Why would we run if the party chairman cannot be sure of our candidates' win?” a JP senior leader said.

“He [Quader] actually keeps mum so that the party can pull out from the race if things do not go in favour of the party,” he told this correspondent.

Quader last appeared before public at a rally of the party in Dhaka on November 14.

The Daily Star could not reach Quader for comments as he did not pick up calls or respond to texts yesterday.