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Israeli strikes kill 110 in north Gaza

Says the enclave’s health ministry as international calls for ceasefire grow

AGENCIES

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 110 Palestinians had been killed since Sunday in Israeli strikes on a northern part of the territory.

In a brief statement, the ministry said “there were 50 martyrs in occupation strikes on houses in Jabalia,” bringing the number of deaths to 110 in the area.

Israel faced mounting international pressure over the rising civilian death toll and destruction of hospitals in Gaza, as it pressed on with its war against Hamas in the besieged Palestinian territory.

The United Nations Security Council was set to vote yesterday on a new resolution calling for an “urgent and sustainable cessation of hostilities” in Gaza.

More than 54 bodies arrived at al-Shifa Hospital after Israeli warplanes targeted the neighbourhoods of Sabra, Sheikh Radwan, and Remal in Gaza City, reports Al Jazeera online.

- Gaza death toll rises to **19,453**
- UNSC to vote on ceasefire call
- Israeli troops kill 4 Palestinians in West Bank

At least 19,453 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israeli bombardment and ground offensive in Gaza since October 7, according to the health ministry.

The bombardment has left much of Gaza in ruins. The United Nations estimates that 1.9 million Palestinians – or about 85 percent of the population – have been displaced by the war, and warns of a “breakdown of civil order”.

“I would not be surprised if people start dying of hunger, or a combination of hunger, disease, weak immunity,” said Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces shot dead four Palestinians in a refugee camp yesterday, the Palestinian health ministry said, taking the toll in the occupied territory to over 300 during the Gaza war.

Mohammad Samir Milhem, 17, his brother Hikmat, 24, and Yazan Khatib, 20, were shot in the head by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank.

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Bangladesh team returned home to a hero's welcome on Monday, a day after clinching their maiden Under-19 Asia Cup by beating hosts UAE in the final in Dubai. Skipper Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby marked the homecoming by imitating Lionel Messi's famous celebration with the trophy after Argentina's third World Cup triumph in Qatar last year.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

RAZZAQUE'S GAFFE

It's his view, not party's, says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Presidium Member Abdur Razzaque's statement that BNP leaders were offered release from jail if their party took part in the January 7 national election is his own.

Neither the government nor the AL gave such a proposal to the BNP, Quader said while speaking at a press briefing in the AL president's Dhanmondi political office.

“Awami League is not a bankrupt party, it can never be right that Awami League will give such a bizarre proposal by violating the party rules and regulations and breaking its commitment to democracy.”

He added that they do not even acknowledge that 20,000 BNP leaders and activists are in prison.

“I have asked Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir [BNP secretary general] many times, how many of your activists are in jail.

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CANCELLATION OF CANDIDACY 3 AL nominees lose legal battle at HC

Sadiq Abdullah, AL candidate MA Salam get back candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the Election Commission's decisions to scrap the candidacies of Awami League leaders Shamim Haque, Shammi Ahmed and Enamul Haque Babul.

The EC had rejected their candidacies on different grounds, including dual citizenship and defaulting on loan.

However, AL candidate Major General (ret'd) MA Salam and independent aspirant Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, a former mayor of Barishal City Corporation, got back candidacies for the January 7 polls.

Another independent Shafiqur Rahman Badsha got the go-ahead from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to run.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Shah Monjurul Haque, a lawyer for Shamim, Shammi and Enamul, said his clients will challenge the HC orders in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The nomination of AL candidate Shamim Haque (Faridpur-3) was cancelled due to his dual citizenship.

The HC bench of Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton and Justice SM Maniruzzaman rejected Shamim's writ petition challenging the EC's decision.

Senior lawyers M Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Mohammad Sayed Ahmed Raza and Shah Monjurul Hoque appeared for Shamim.

Independent AK Azad had challenged Shamim's candidacy with the EC over his dual citizenship.

Senior lawyers Tanjib-ul-Alam and Mustafizur Rahman Khan argued for Azad before the HC.

The same bench rejected Shammi's writ petition challenging the EC's decision that cancelled her nomination paper for Barishal-4 on the ground of her dual citizenship.

Shamim Haque, Shammi Ahmed and Enamul Haque Babul will challenge the High Court orders in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Shah Monjurul Haque
A lawyer for the three aspirants

Senior lawyers M Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Sayed Ahmed Raza and Shah Monjurul Hoque appeared for Shammi, while senior lawyer Mahbub Shafique argued for independent aspirant Pankaj Nath, who challenged the candidacy of Shammi with the EC over her dual citizenship.

The HC bench, led by Justice Md

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INDIAN PARLIAMENT 78 opposition MPs suspended for causing ruckus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A total of 78 opposition lawmakers of the Indian parliament – 33 from Lok Sabha, and 45 from the Rajya Sabha – were suspended yesterday for disrupting proceedings of the Houses over a major security breach of parliament.

The disciplinary action is one of the biggest in Indian history.

Of the lawmakers, 64 lawmakers have been suspended for the remainder of the current winter session of parliament which ends on December 22.

Last week, 14 MPs were suspended – 13 from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha – for raising slogans and disrupting parliamentary proceedings.

The security breach occurred on December 13, the 22nd anniversary of an attack on the Indian parliament complex when more than a dozen people, including five gunmen, were killed.

A man jumped into the lower house chamber from the visitors' gallery while members were in session, shouted slogans and set off a smoke canister. A second man tried to follow him. Both were caught by lawmakers and security personnel, and taken away.

At around the same time, two persons, including a woman, released coloured gas from canisters while shouting slogans ‘tanashahi nahi chalegi’ (dictatorship will not be allowed) outside the parliament premises.

Police have arrested six people and filed terrorism charges against four of them.

In Lok Sabha, leader of Congress Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, TR Baalu of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Sougata Ray of Trinamool Congress were suspended for displaying placards and raising slogans over the security breach issue.

Three MPs also climbed on the Speaker's podium to raise slogans.

In Rajya Sabha, several members, including Congress's Jairam Ramesh, Randeep Surjewala and

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Thai farmer makes art with plantings that depict cats

REUTERS, Ban Khon Sung



A sleeping cat hugs a fish in a picture seen from the air, picked out in sprouting rainbow seedlings in a rice field in Thailand to illustrate a traditional proverb about abundance.

Farmer Tanyapong Jaikham and a team of workers planted the seedlings at various spots in the field in the northern province of Chiang Rai to depict cartoon cats, hoping to lure tourists and cat lovers.

“We're expecting tens of thousands to come and see the art in the rice fields,” he said.

The process relies on GPS coordinates to position the seedlings as designated in an initial artist's sketch, he said, with the plants changing tint as they grow.

“It's crucial to position them accurately, and the rice will gradually change shades over time,” he added, until in the final harvest stage, the rice straw yields the portrait of Cooper, the cat on which it was modelled.

Viewing towers are being built in the surrounding area to give visitors a glimpse of the artwork, which is based on a Thai saying, “There is fish in the water and rice in the fields.”

The world's second largest exporter of the grain after India, Thailand aims to ship 8.5 million metric tons this year.

Young people wanting to learn more about the interaction of art and technology could also benefit from visiting the site, Tanyapong said.



Israeli soldiers operate in the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in this handout picture released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Star SPORT

Tigers look to stay alive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will return to the only venue in New Zealand where they have tasted victory in ODIs, the Saxton Oval in Nelson, after almost seven years to take on the Kiwis in the second ODI of the three-match series in hopes of keeping the series alive.

The match will begin tomorrow at 4:00 am Bangladesh time and will be televised live by Nagorik TV and Green TV.

On March 5, 2015, Bangladesh defeated Scotland by six wickets in their group stage match of the ICC World Cup in Nelson.

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BGMEA Election 2024 - 2026
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Election Notice

This is to inform all members of BGMEA that the upcoming BGMEA Election 2024 - 2026 will be held as per the following schedule:

Last date for payment of subscription	: January 09, 2024
Last date for submission of voter nomination	: January 13, 2024
Last date for submission of nomination of candidature	: February 03, 2024
Last date for withdrawal of candidature	: February 07, 2024
Date of election	: March 09, 2024

Secretary, Election Board
Email: electionboard@bgmea.com.bd