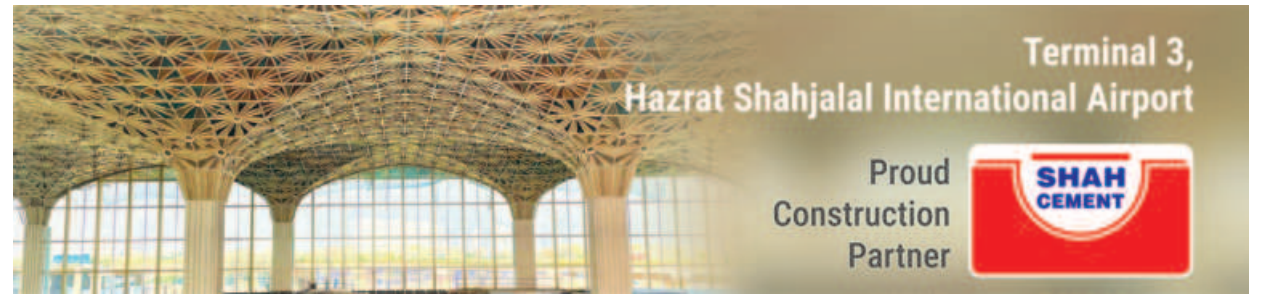




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Post-polls violence continues

AL activist hacked to death, another stabbed

STAR REPORT

An Awami League activist was hacked to death, another suffered stab injuries and two union parishad chairmen were assaulted in post-election violence in three districts yesterday and Monday night.

Besides, independent lawmaker-elect Abdul Latif Siddique and his supporters blocked a highway in Tangail for around two hours yesterday, demanding release of their detained fellows.

In Jhenidah, Barun Ghosh, 42, a supporter of defeated AL candidate for Jhenidah-2 Tahjib Alom Siddique, was hacked to death by criminals in the district town's Ghoshpara area yesterday evening.

"Barun went out of home to have a cup of tea. At that time, some people attacked him and stabbed him. His hands and legs were severed from the body," said victim's elder brother Arun Kumar Ghosh.

"As Barun worked for the Awami League candidate, he often got threats from the supporters of an independent candidate," alleged Arun.

Contacted, Tahjib confirmed that Barun was his supporter.

"I heard of the killing a few minutes ago. I cannot say

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A part of the road approaching Babubazar bridge in the capital's Nayabazar has been in this sorry state for weeks as the authorities are installing sewer pipes. The deep, open trench poses a risk to road users.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The golden voice falls silent

MAHIYA TABASSUM

The realm of Indian classical music lost one of its brightest stars yesterday as Ustad Rashid Khan, the 10th-generation face of Rampur Sahaswan Gharana, bid us farewell.



His journey through the intricacies of ragas and taals, adorned with a captivating full-throated baritone, positioned him as one of the finest singers of our era.

His demise at the age of 55, after a prolonged battle with prostate cancer, leaves behind a void across borders.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

ELECTION RESULTS Global powers' varied reaction, as expected

PORIMOL PALMA

Divergent reactions of the global powers to Bangladesh's election result reflect the geopolitical division that prominently existed before the polls and will continue in the days to come, foreign policy analysts said.

India, China and Russia congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hours after the Awami League was declared victorious in the 12th national election that was boycotted by the main opposition BNP and plagued by allegations of irregularities and low voter turnout.

The Election Commission, however, maintains that the turnout was 41.8 percent.

The statements from the US, UK and UN, which came yesterday, were critical of the election outcome, highlighting the needs for advancing democracy, civic space and human rights.

The US and the UK said the elections that extended Hasina's rule were not credible, free and fair.

Both countries, which have trade and development ties with Bangladesh, also condemned political violence that preceded Sunday's election and expressed concern over the arrests of thousands of opposition members.

The US statement also said it remains "committed to partnering with Bangladesh to advance our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific".

"There does not seem to be any shift in the stance of the US and UK from what was before the polls," said M Humayun Kabir, president of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute.

"My read of this US readout on Bangladesh's election is that the current US policy toward Dhaka will essentially remain in place -- a continued strong focus on rights and democracy," said Michael Kugelman, director of the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

'Keep Palestinian state hope alive'

Blinken carries Arab message to Israel; 126 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza in 24 hours

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, on his latest mission to rein in the Gaza offensive, told Israeli leaders yesterday there was still a chance of winning acceptance from their Arab neighbours, if they create a path to a viable Palestinian state.

On his fourth trip to the region since October in a so far largely fruitless quest to tamp down the violence, Blinken said he would share what he had heard in two days of talks with Jordan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The Israeli offensive has killed 23,210 Palestinians so far, destroyed much of Gaza and displaced most of the population of 2.3 million at least once, creating a dramatic and worsening humanitarian crisis. Some 126 Palestinians were killed and 241 were wounded in the 24 hours, the Gaza health ministry said yesterday.

After weeks of US pressure to tamp down its assault, Israel said its forces are transitioning from full-blown warfare to a more targeted campaign in the northern half of Gaza.

It said troops had killed around 40 Palestinian fighters and raided a compound and tunnel shafts since Monday during expanded operations in Khan Younis in the south.

- 3 hospitals in Gaza "at risk of closure": OCHA
- Israel faces 'genocide' case at UN top court
- Hezbollah hits Israeli base with drones
- Gaza death toll rises to 23,210

The Palestinian health ministry in Gaza said 57 Palestinians killed by Israeli air strikes and 65 wounded had arrived in the past 24 hours at the already badly overstretched Al Aqsa hospital in the centre of the 45 km long Gaza Strip, reports Reuters.

The vast humanitarian crisis has put pressure in particular on the United States, Israel's closest ally, to

press for the assault on Gaza to be scaled back.

The UN humanitarian office OCHA said that "as casualties rise, the ability to treat them continues to be in jeopardy".

It said three hospitals in central Gaza and Khan Younis, including Al Aqsa, were "at risk of closure due to the issuance of evacuation orders in nearby areas and the ongoing conduct of hostilities nearby".

Late on Monday, the medical charity MSF said a shell had broken through the wall of one of its shelters in Khan Younis housing over 100 staff and their families, critically wounding the 5-year-old daughter of an MSF staffer.

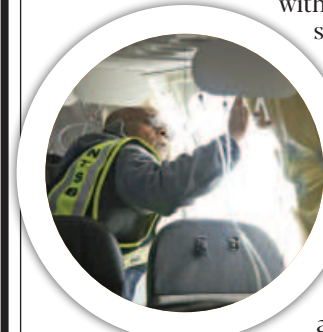
Israel's relentless bombardment and its restrictions on humanitarian access to Gaza have prompted South Africa to file a lawsuit in the International Court of Justice, accusing Israel of genocidal actions against Palestinians. Hearings are due to begin tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah launched explosive drones at an army base in northern Israel yesterday, declaring the attack part of its response to recent Israeli assassinations in Lebanon, as sources reported three Hezbollah fighters killed in an Israeli strike.

iPhone survives 16,000-foot fall from Alaska Airlines flight

AFP, Washington

Now that's what you call airplane mode -- an iPhone that plummeted 16,000 feet (5,000 metres) from an Alaska Airlines flight landed without a single crack in the screen and even a battery still half-charged.



The phone was sucked out of Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 on Friday when a fuselage panel blew off, leaving a gaping hole. The passenger plane made an emergency landing shortly after, with all aboard safe.

A few items, reportedly including AirPods and a boy's shirt, made more dramatic landings after shooting out of the suddenly depressurized cabin.

Amid a search for debris, a man named Sean Bates in the northwestern state of Washington found an iPhone on the side of the road, appearing to belong to one of the passengers.

A photo of the device posted on X, formerly Twitter, on Sunday showed the intact screen and an emailed \$70 baggage receipt. The battery is shown charged to 44 percent and the smartphone remains on flight mode.

Aside from the port, where the terminal of the charger protrudes after being ripped from the rest of the cord, the phone appears untouched.

In a follow-up TikTok post, Bates said he'd found the phone "pretty clean, no scratches on it, sitting under a bush."



The parents of Ahd Mussa, who was killed during an overnight Israeli raid on the Tulkarem refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, carry his body during his funeral yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

P3 Desperate, they opt for firewood

P5 Once a haven for birds, now on deathbed

P7 Attal picked as France's youngest PM

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INVITATION FOR BID
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (Domestic Competitive Bidding)

Date: 10/01/2024

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd. (BIFPCL) invites bids from eligible bidders in Single Stage Two Envelopes (Envelope-1: Technical Proposal and Envelope-2: Financial Proposal) for the following package and details:

IFB No	BIFPCL/MM/2023-24/OTM/142
Name of Package	Procurement of Critical application special electrodes & Filter Wires for pressure parts at 2x660 MW MSTPP, Rampal, Bagerhat.
Tender Fee	BDT 1000/- (BDT One Thousand only)
Tender Security	BDT 1,86,000 (One Lakh and Eighty-Six Thousand only).
Tender document Sale Period:	From 10.01.2024 (Wednesday) (10:00 Hrs. (BST)) to 25.01.2024 (Thursday) (17:00 Hrs. (BST))
Last Date for submission of pre-bid Query	On 28.01.2024 (Sunday) (at 17:00 Hrs. (BST))
Last Date & Time for submission of Bid (Technical + Financial)	Up to 04.02.2024 (Sunday) till 11:00 Hrs. (BST)
Bid Opening Date & Time (Technical Bid only)	On 04.02.2024 (Sunday) at 11:30 Hrs. (BST)

If the tender opening day is declared as holiday by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bid will be opened in the next working day.

For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, availability of Bidding Documents and other details, please refer to detailed "Invitation for Bid" available at www.bifpcl.com or may contact the office of the undersigned. For all other details, may please visit the website: www.bifpcl.com.

(Md. Ziaur Rahman)
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