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পিপলস পূবালী পেনশন স্কীম

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PREVENTING GAZA GENOCIDE

Dhaka welcomes ICJ order

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has welcomed the International Court of Justice order to take action to prevent the acts of genocide committed by Israel against the Palestinians as the country wages an offensive in the Gaza Strip.

It also promised support to South Africa, which filed an appeal with the top UN Court, alleging that Israel was committing genocide against the Palestinians.

"We welcome the ICJ order in the context of South Africa's appeal. We already supported the South African case," said Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday after a meeting with a delegation of five British parliamentarians.

"We believe the ICJ order will help prevent genocide or crimes against humanity, if committed, against the Palestinians," he said.



Sixty-year-old Sukhiran Bewa covers her face to protect from the chilly winds as she steps outside her small hut in Char Ghughumari on the Brahmaputra riverbed in Kurigram's Ulipur yesterday. Related story on page 5. PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Back to planning sabotage a day after release

Walking out of jail after 10yrs, ABT chief Rahmani held again

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Just a day after securing bail in five cases filed under the anti-terrorism act and coming out of jail, Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani, chief of banned outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team, started planning for sabotage activities in full swing.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit revealed this based on findings after interrogating ABT member Niamul Islam Towfiq, 26, who was arrested in Uttara on January 22 evening in a case filed with Uttara Pashchim Police Station.

ABT is an Al-Qaeda-inspired militant outfit now known as Ansar al Islam, which was banned on March 1, 2017 for attacks on war crimes trial campaigners, secularists, and LGBT rights activists.

Interrogated, Towfiq admitted that he was inspired to become a militant and join Ansar Al Islam after listening to speeches of Rahmani and watching online content.

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Rahmani

'Entire country should not become like Dhaka'

Speakers say unplanned urbanisation may destroy rural environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unplanned and uncontrolled development through projects such as "transforming villages into towns" might destroy the rural environment, said urban planners yesterday.

In recent times, government agencies have become more interested in costly infrastructure projects, and as such, urbanisation of rural areas has been going on without proper planning, they told a press conference.

These development projects sometimes lead to unnecessary infrastructures being built in rural areas, without ensuring the special attention required to reduce environmental impact of the projects, they added.

The conference, titled, "Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Future Challenges and Actions", was

organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) at its conference room in the capital's Banglamotor.

The planners highlighted BIP's observations after reviewing the government's last two election manifestos, announced

There is a high possibility of constructing unnecessary buildings or infrastructure in rural areas due to the lack of effective participation of planners.

ADIL MUHAMMAD KHAN
BIP president

achievements and plans in seven different sectors including empowerment, communication, mega projects, industrial development, climate change and

environmental preservation.

To extend modern civic amenities to every village, Awami League-led government has declared "My Village, My Town" (Amar Gram, Amar Shohor) project in its 11th parliamentary elections manifesto. In the 12th parliamentary polls manifesto, they also promised to provide all the facilities of a modern city to every village in the country.

"There is a high possibility of constructing unnecessary buildings or infrastructure in rural areas due to the lack of effective participation of planners in this project," said BIP president Adil Muhammad Khan in his keynote speech.

Since 2008, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) initiated master plans for 256 out of 331 municipalities, costing over Tk 32 crore. However, complications and

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Use 'red, green' flags to counter BNP's 'black' flags



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader addressing a rally at Gulistan yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will organise countrywide rallies on January 30 to counter the BNP's "black flag" processions scheduled for the same day.

The AL has planned to conduct "Peace and Development" rallies in all cities, districts, and thanas across the country, including Dhaka.

Party General Secretary Obaidul Quader announced the new programme while addressing a rally in front of its headquarters in the capital's Gulistan yesterday.

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DEATH IN BSF FIRING
BNP demands UN probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday demanded a UN-supervised investigation into the killing of a Border Guard Bangladesh soldier by Indian Border Security Force along Benapole border area of Jashore.

In a statement, BNP condemned the killing and raised questions about the "sovereignty and independence of Bangladesh".

After the incident, BSF issued a statement, saying the victim, BGB sepoy Mohammad Roisuddin, was accompanying smugglers in plain clothes.

Terming the claim "unacceptable", BNP said a uniformed BGB member could not be mistaken for a smuggler.

BNP alleged that the government's "lust for power" and "subservient foreign policy" has turned Bangladesh into a "subdued state" where even BGB lives are insecure along the border.

BNP termed the border between Bangladesh and India the "most violent and bloody" place in the world.

"Thus far, BSF has killed common Bangladeshis at the border. And now there's no security even for BGB members," the statement said.

BNP slammed the government's "silence" over the killings.

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Covid-19 infection rate drops slightly

STAR DIGITAL REPORT

No Covid-19 deaths were reported in the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday and the infection rate dropped to 6.48 percent from 8.70 percent (Friday).

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), on Thursday, the Covid infection rate was 9.26 percent while on Wednesday it was 8.41 percent. On December 27 last year, the infection rate was 3.74 percent.

The total positivity rate currently stands at 13.09 percent.

DGHS said the number

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Bangabazar a shell of its old self this winter

Traders struggle to bounce back from last April's fire

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Winter is here, but Bangabazar wears an unusual look.

The once lively centre of apparel trading in Dhaka's south, which was synonymous to shopping for winter clothing for many, is now a shell of what it used to be. Traders in the market, once the biggest shopping place for cheap apparels, have witnessed a steep decline in their sales after a catastrophic fire burned almost 6,000 shops to ashes in April, 2023.

The market used to be abuzz with activity during this time every year, as many retail shoppers as well as buyers from around Dhaka and other districts came to purchase winter clothes. With the market burnt down, the traders are now selling their items in a makeshift market.

The hustle and bustle of the Bangabazar of old, however, is not being replicated at this makeshift market. Things remain eerily calm. In the quietness,

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With no customer in sight, a trader takes a nap beside his makeshift shop at Bangabazar. The once lively centre of apparel trading is now struggling to stay afloat. Traders in the market have witnessed a steep decline in their sales after a catastrophic fire burned almost 6,000 shops to ashes in April last year.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:35 12:45 4:15 5:46 7:15
JAMAAT 6:10 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION