

## ICJ ruling first step towards Palestine's liberation

Says Palestinian envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The recent ruling by the International Court of Justice gave a sense of optimism for the Palestinians struggling for 75 long years for liberation, Palestinian Ambassador to Bangladesh Yousef SY Ramadan said yesterday.

"It's the first step... We can build upon this," he said while addressing a discussion organised by Diplomatic Correspondents' Association Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club.

The ambassador also said Palestine is extremely grateful to Bangladesh for supporting the genocide case filed by South Africa against Israel with the ICJ.

The ICJ in its ruling on January 26 ordered Israel to prevent the acts of genocide against Palestinians.

**We should not just stop there and just enjoy whatever the ICJ said and just relax. We want to provide ICJ with the evidence that Israel did commit genocide. This is our duty. This is the duty of everyone.**

According to Palestinian health ministry, some 26,000 Palestinians were killed since October 8 last year after Hamas' attack killed 1,200 Israelis and wounded many more, and held about 240 hostages.

"We should not just stop there and just enjoy whatever the ICJ said and just relax. We want to provide ICJ with the evidence that Israel did commit genocide. This is our duty. This is the duty of everyone," Ramadan said.

Israel has so far been enjoying impunity, but the international community is gradually abandoning it, he said.

Asked about Hamas' thoughts on the repercussion after its attack on October 7 last year, Ambassador Ramadan said he does not represent Hamas or Fatah but the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He also urged the Muslim nations to unite for justice for the Palestinians.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN  
After being closed for renovation works for more than three years, the Shaheed Dr Fazole Rabbi Park in the capital's Gulshan was inaugurated yesterday. Inset, Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam and State Minister for Information Mohammad Ali Arafat was present at the inaugural ceremony, among others.

## Carbofuran: a toxic tale

Sale of banned pesticide continues openly

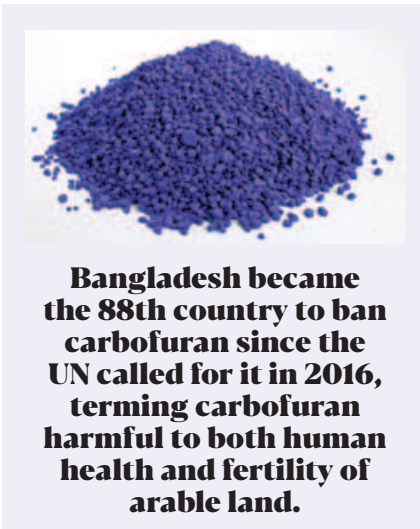
SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Responding to a UN call for a worldwide ban, carbofuran, a highly toxic pesticide, was banned by the government last year. However, due to a lack of monitoring and enforcement, the pesticide is still being sold openly across the country.

Carbofuran, widely used in agriculture, was first banned on June 30 last year. Then the deadline for the ban was extended till October 30, following a request from importers and traders to sell the already imported stock.

Bangladesh became the 88th country to ban carbofuran since the UN called for it in 2016, terming carbofuran harmful to both human health and fertility of arable lands.

According to WHO, most people die



**Bangladesh became the 88th country to ban carbofuran since the UN called for it in 2016, terming carbofuran harmful to both human health and fertility of arable land.**

in Bangladesh due to heart disease and stroke, and food poisoning is one of the main causes of them.

Nurul Alom, entomologist and former director of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), said, "The soil's fertility will keep decreasing if carbofuran usage continues."

Nurul also said when carbofuran is used in farmland, the crops remain toxic for 30 days after use.

However, visiting a dozen shops last month across 10 districts, including Munshiganj, Faridpur, Sunamganj, Rajbari, Dhaka, and Manikganj, The Daily Star found carbofuran is still being sold to farmers. Besides, several e-commerce sites are selling the banned pesticide on social media platforms.

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## Country saw 752 incidents of polls violence: HRSS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 752 incidents of electoral violence took place across the country centring the 12th parliamentary election, according to a report by Human Rights Support Society.

In the incidents, 17 people were killed and at least 2,534 injured, while more than 450 homes and businesses were attacked, the report said.

HRSS prepared the report based on the incidents that took place between November 15 and January 31, said the report, signed by its executive director Irajul Islam.

In the pre-election violence, at least 7 were killed, while at least 1,681 were injured in at least 379 incidents. More than 50 homes and businesses were vandalised, while over 40 polling stations were attacked.

Three people were killed in Munshiganj, Barguna, and Cumilla, and more than 150 were injured in violence on the polls day, said the report.

Candidates, polling agents, and presiding officers also came under attack. Over 30 journalists were attacked, assaulted, and threatened while performing their duties on January 7. There were also incidents of ballot snatching, the report added.

After the election, there were clashes, killings, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Police stations should be symbol of dependence

Speakers tell event marking DMP's 49th anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hoping to see police stations become a "symbol of dependence" for people, Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun yesterday said Dhaka Metropolitan Police should set an exemplary standard.

"I want to see police stations as a symbol of people's confidence and trust. We will treat service seekers with compassion," he said while addressing the 49th founding anniversary of DMP held at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the capital.

Mamun said DMP has set an unparalleled example by taking action against terrorists and SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Biggest event for booklovers returns

Month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela kicks off



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

UPHOLDING THE SPIRIT OF AMAR EKUSHEY... With Bangla alphabets in front of them, members of Sommilito Natya Parishad usher in the month of February at Central Shaheed Minar in Sylhet city yesterday.

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Excitement filled the air around 4:00pm yesterday, as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina officially inaugurated the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela.

As soon as the gates of Suhrawardy Udyan opened, eager bibliophiles flooded the ground of the month-long book fair.

While visiting the Dhaka University area yesterday, something special about the day was felt palpable in the air, on the streets, and in the faces of the people.

People were seen thronging the book stalls, including Anannya Prakashan, Annesha Prokashon,

Anyaprokash, UPL, Journeyman Books and others, to browse through the collections and buying the ones they liked.

Some stalls were yet to open, or working on the decorations, but that did not mar the festive vibe.

Like previous years, commercial publishing houses have set up stalls at Suhrawardy Udyan, while stalls of government-run offices, autonomous bodies, and other social organisations were on the Bangla Academy premises.

"I have long been waited for this day. I love reading books, especially those on historical contexts," said Prova Easmin, a student of DU.

Her younger brother Yamin Hossain, a third grader, added, "I prefer horror stories, those are more thrilling."

Hafizur Rahman, a private university teacher, said, "Although it's the first day, I couldn't resist visiting the book fair. I've been coming here since my college days."

Sohag Hossain, a staffer of Agami Prokashon, said they have around 45 new books now, and more will be added to the collection in later days of the fair.

"We have over 20 new books today. Tomorrow there will be more," said a staffer of Kotha Prokash.

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**I have long been waiting for this day. I love reading books, especially those on historical contexts.**

PROVA EASMIN  
A DU student

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