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## 197 global leaders congratulate Yunus govt

### 92 Nobel laureates among them

**STAR REPORT**

In a major show of international support, 197 global leaders, including 92 Nobel laureates, have congratulated the people of Bangladesh and the newly formed interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus.

Among those who signed a congratulatory letter addressing the people of Bangladesh are former US president Barack Obama, entrepreneur Richard Branson, and renowned activist Jane Goodall, according to PR Newswire, a distributor of press releases headquartered in Chicago.

The letter expressed hope for the country's "peace and success" under Yunus' leadership, who took charge as the chief adviser on August 8.

The leaders referenced Bangladesh's "second liberation",

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**THE GENTLE PARROT**

A plum-headed parakeet glides across the sky, carrying a bunch of green sprouts. An endemic to the Indian Subcontinent, this species of parakeets inhabit mostly forests, open woodlands and even city gardens, where they feast on a variety of foods like sprouts, leafy greens, berries and even peppers. Since they cannot feel "spice" on their taste buds, many of them enjoy picking apart spicy peppers to get all the seeds inside. These parakeets make good pets as they are less aggressive and possessive than some other species. They are known to be gentle, social, affectionate and relatively quiet with their owners. As a matter of fact, they can even learn to mimic their humans and can talk very well. Though their numbers are gradually dwindling due to habitat loss, plum-headed parakeets thrive across their range and are not threatened by extinction.

PHOTO: SONJOY KUMAR

## Three more ICT cases filed against Hasina

### Former ministers of AL govt among co-accused

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Three more complaints were filed yesterday with the International Crimes Tribunal against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on charges related to crimes against humanity and genocide during the mass uprising.

Her cabinet members and party leaders were also sued by family members of three people killed in Dhaka's Savar, Ashulia and Uttara between July 15 and August 5 this year in the cases filed with the tribunal's investigation agency.

Ataur Rahman, deputy director (admin) of the investigation agency, confirmed they recorded the complaints and launched investigations.

With these, Hasina is facing 12 complaints over crimes against humanity and genocide, including 11 in connection with the student-led movement and the other centring the Hefazat-e-Islam rally in Dhaka in May 2013. She is currently in India after fleeing Bangladesh on August 5 following the uprising.

It was the Hasina-led Awami League government that formed the International Crimes Tribunal in March 2010 to try the war criminals of 1971. Six Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP leaders were executed following ICT verdicts for their crimes during the Liberation War.

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## Single-use plastics banned in govt offices

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The cabinet division yesterday instructed all government offices to replace single-use plastic items with environmentally friendly alternatives as part of the efforts to curb environmental pollution.

The directive was issued following a request from Syeda Rizwana Hasan, the adviser of the ministry of environment, forest and climate change, on August 29.

That letter discouraged all ministries, departments and their subordinate offices from using single-use plastics to combat plastic pollution.

The ministry has identified 17 types of items/substances as 'single-use plastics'.

It has also proposed several eco-friendly alternatives such as files and folders made from paper or other environmentally friendly materials instead of plastic, cotton or jute fabric bags instead of plastic bags, glass bottles and glasses instead of plastic water bottles.

Besides, it suggested the use of banners made from cotton fabric, jute or biodegradable materials in place of plastic.

It also called for avoiding plastic lamination on invitation cards, visiting cards, promotional materials and publications and ensuring that food packets supplied at meetings and seminars are made from paper or environmentally friendly materials.

The letter also called for barring all single-use plastic items such as plates, glasses, cups, straws and cutlery.

Pencils or paper pens should be used instead of plastic pens.

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## Man beaten up for 'hurting religious sentiment'

### ISPR says he's in army custody

**STAR REPORT**

A 22-year-old man was beaten by a mob on the premises of Khulna police's deputy commissioner's office in Sonadanga area early yesterday over a social media post allegedly hurting religious sentiment, officials and witnesses said.

Initially, a rumour spread that the man died in the mob beating.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), however, said the person was being treated under army supervision and was out of danger.

According to an ISPR press release, he was apprehended by locals and taken to the office of the deputy commissioner of police, Khulna (South), for legal actions. Later, around 3,000-3,500 people gathered at the spot and demanded public punishment for the individual.

Earlier, the deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police told reporters that the incident

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## Netanyahu trying to 'thwart' Gaza truce

### Says Hamas; Amnesty urges war crimes probe over Israel levelling east Gaza

**AGENCIES**

Hamas yesterday accused Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to "thwart" a Gaza truce deal, after the Israeli premier said the Palestinian militant group has "rejected everything" in negotiations.

The blame trading comes as Netanyahu faces pressure to seal a deal that would free remaining hostages, after Israeli authorities announced on Sunday the deaths of six whose bodies were recovered from a Gaza tunnel.

"We're trying to find some area to begin the negotiations," Netanyahu said Wednesday.

"They (Hamas) refuse to do that... (They said) there's nothing to talk about."

Netanyahu maintains that Israel must retain control over the Philadelphia Corridor along the Egypt-Gaza border to prevent weapons smuggling to Hamas.

Hamas is demanding complete Israeli withdrawal from the area and on Thursday said Netanyahu's insistence on the border zone "aims to thwart reaching an agreement."

The Palestinian militant group says a new deal is unnecessary because they agreed months ago to a truce outlined by US President Joe Biden.

"We do not need new proposals," the group said on Telegram.

At Israeli protests in several cities this week, Netanyahu's critics have blamed him for hostages' deaths, saying he has refused to make necessary concessions for striking a ceasefire deal.

Since October 7, Israel's offensive in Gaza has so far killed at least 40,861 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Most of the dead are women and children, according to the UN rights office.

Widespread Israeli bombardment overnight into yesterday included a strike which killed four people sheltering in tents near Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, a medical source told AFP.

The military said it hit a "command and control centre" used by Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in Deir al-Balah.

In a separate strike in the southern Al-Mawasi area, a missile killed one and wounded several others, Palestinian Red Crescent Society medics said.

While Israel presses its Gaza offensive, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said the military should use its "full strength" against Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank.

- » Strike on car kills 5 in West Bank as Israeli raids continue
- » Netanyahu says Israel will not leave Gaza border corridor until it is secure
- » Gaza death toll hits 40,861

## BORDER KILLINGS

### Probe each, punish the responsible

### Dhaka tells Delhi in protest note

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka has asked New Delhi to conduct enquiries into all border killings, identify the persons responsible, and bring them to justice.

The call was made in a formal protest note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

It was mainly to protest the killing of a 13-year-old Bangladeshi girl, Shwarna Das of Juri upazila of Moulvibazar, who was shot and killed by Border Security Force (BSF) of India on September 1.

It also said, "The government of Bangladesh called upon the government of India to stop repetition of such heinous acts and conduct enquiries into all border killings, identify the persons responsible and bring them to justice."

According to human rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), 31 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF along the border in 2023, of whom 28 were shot dead.

The number of Bangladeshi citizens killed by BSF in 2021 and 2022 were 18 and 23, and at least 522 Bangladeshis were killed between 2009 and 2020, it said.

"Bangladesh strongly protested

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## 'Lonely' dolphin blamed for attacks on beachgoers

**INDEPENDENT.CO.UK**

A lonely dolphin is believed to be behind a spate of attacks on beachgoers in central Japan, with experts warning that the animal is probably sexually frustrated.

Dolphin attacks have left more than 45 people injured in Wakasa Bay, nearly 200 miles (320km) west of Tokyo, since 2022, with most of the recent ones occurring near the towns of Echizen and Mihama.

After examining photos and videos of some of the attacks from 2022 and 2023, experts concluded that they involved the same male Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin.

The same animal could be behind this year's attacks, said Ryoichi Matsubara, director of the Echizen Matsushima Aquarium in Fukui, The New York Times reported.

The dolphin might be displaying mating behaviour, he said, noting that it was seen attempting "to press his genitals against people" in 2022 and 2023. He added, however, that many injuries occurred as beachgoers approached or tried to touch the dolphin.



Women mourn Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Man stabs 2 dead then dies in mob beating

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**

A man was beaten to death by locals in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila yesterday after he had allegedly stabbed two men dead.

His victims were Abdus Sattar, 55, and Md Asadul, 28, while their attacker was identified as Taleb Miah, 28.

All three were residents of Dhuburia Purbapara village.

According to police and locals, an altercation turned violent in the evening when Taleb attacked his friend Asadul with a knife. When Sattar tried to intervene, Taleb stabbed him as well.

Both men were taken to Nagarpur Upazila Health Complex around 8:00pm, where they were declared dead.

Following the attack, locals captured Taleb and tied him to a pole. When news of the victims' deaths reached the community, Taleb was fatally beaten by a mob.

Tangail Additional Superintendent of Police Md Sharfuddin confirmed that an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the altercation and the sequence of events.