

THE NATION'S  
LARGEST ROD  
MANUFACTURER

★★★★★

### WITH MORE CAPACITY, WE ARE MORE READY TO BUILD TOMORROW'S BANGLADESH

**BSRM**  
building a safer nation

**SHAH CEMENT**

### THE MOST LOVED BRAND

**BEST BRAND AWARD WINNER EVERY YEAR**

BEST BRAND AWARD  
2022

# Pay up or face climate disasters

## Warns UN chief; host nation Azerbaijan defends fossil fuels

REUTERS, *Baku*

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday told world leaders at the COP29 summit to “pay up” to prevent climate-led humanitarian disasters, and said time was running out to limit a destructive rise in global temperatures.

Nearly 200 nations have gathered at the annual UN climate summit in Baku, focused this year on raising hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a global transition to cleaner energy sources and limit the climate damage caused by carbon emissions.

But on the day of the summit designed to bring together world leaders and generate political momentum for the marathon negotiations, many of the leading players were not present to hear Guterres’ message.

After victory for Donald Trump, a climate change denier, in the US presidential election, President Joe Biden will not attend. Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a deputy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is not attending because of political developments in Brussels.



Smoke billows over Beirut’s southern suburbs after an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Baabda, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Veteran actor Manoj Mitra passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangalee theatre personality Manoj Mitra, best known for writing and directing farces and fantasies to highlight social and political issues, has passed away. He died yesterday morning at a hospital in Kolkata’s Salt Lake due to age-related ailments. He was 86.

The legendary actor had around 100 one-act and full-length plays to his credit besides film scripts. Mitra’s plays prominently highlighted the Bengal

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## ‘BANGLADESHI INFILTRATION’ Multiple sites in West Bengal, Jharkhand raided

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *New Delhi*

India’s top anti-money laundering probe agency yesterday raided multiple locations in West Bengal and Jharkhand states to examine money laundering activities tied to suspected unlawful entry of Bangladeshi nationals.

Ranchi office of the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids at 17 places in the two states yesterday, a day before today’s first phase of polling in Jharkhand where illegal immigration dominated the campaign.

The raids also came a day after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) -- India’s anti-terror probe forum -- conducted searches at multiple locations across six states, including Assam and West Bengal, in connection with the alleged activities promoted by some Bangladeshi nationals as part of the banned terror group al-Qaeda’s conspiracy to “destabilise” India.

In a statement posted on its official X handle, ED said it has recovered “incriminating” items like fake Aadhaar cards, forged passports, illegal arms, immovable property documents, cash, jewellery, printing paper and machines and blank proformas used for forging Aadhaar cards during the raids.

Searches are continuing, reads the post.

The agency launched this probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in September to investigate the alleged trafficking of Bangladeshi women into Jharkhand, which allegedly generated illicit funds.

During recent election campaigns, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders accused the Jharkhand state government of “letting” such infiltration, impacting the demographic balance in the tribal areas of Santhal Pargana and Kolhan.

At a rally in Seraikela, Jharkhand, on Monday Indian Home Minister Amit Shah said if BJP returns to power in the state, a committee would be formed to identify and drive out infiltrators from the state and reclaim land grabbed by them.

## HC clears Gias Uddin Al Mamun of graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted Md Gias Uddin Al Mamun, a businessman and close friend of BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, of corruption.

He was sentenced to three years’ imprisonment in the graft case during the rule of the previous military-backed caretaker government (2007-08).

On April 5, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission lodged the case with a Dhaka court on charges of not submitting his wealth statement to the commission within the deadline.

Yesterday, the HC also scrapped the trial court’s judgment that convicted Mamun on June 7, 2007, and handed him the punishment.

The bench of Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah delivered the verdict after hearing an appeal filed by Mamun challenging the trial court judgment.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



# Israel fails to meet US aid demands

Say int’l aid groups on easing Gaza catastrophe

REUTERS, *Geneva*

International aid groups said that Israel had failed to meet a series of US demands intended to improve the humanitarian crisis in Gaza by a deadline that ended yesterday.

The United States told its ally Israel in a letter on October 13 that it must take steps to improve the aid situation within 30 days.

If not, it could face potential restrictions on US military aid.

“Israel not only failed to meet the US criteria that would indicate support to the humanitarian response, but concurrently took actions that dramatically worsened the situation on the ground, particularly in northern Gaza,” a group of eight aid groups including Oxfam, Save the Children and the Norwegian Refugee Council said in 19-page report.

For more than a month, Israeli forces have been pushing deeper into north Gaza, surrounding hospitals and shelters and creating fresh waves of displacement in an operation they say is designed to prevent Hamas fighters regrouping there.

On Friday, global food security experts released a rare warning of

imminent famine in parts of northern Gaza unless immediate steps were taken to ease the situation.

Israel said on Monday it had met most of the US demands. Some things remain under discussion and they touch on safety issues, an Israeli official told reporters.

During a summit of Arab and Muslim countries in Riyadh on Monday, Hamas

called on the Arab leaders to translate their pledges of support into action and take measures to stop Israeli aggression.

Arab and Muslim leaders demanded that Israel withdraw from occupied Palestinian territories as a precondition for regional peace, while denouncing “shocking” Israeli crimes in Gaza.

Israel’s military campaign has levelled much of Gaza and killed more than 43,665 Palestinians, Gaza health officials said.

Palestinian and United Nations officials say there are no safe areas in the enclave, home to more than 2.1 million people and now largely in ruins.

Yesterday, residents said Israeli tanks advanced deeper in Beit Hanoun and besieged four displaced families before ordering them to leave towards Gaza City.

- » Experts warn of high risk of famine in north Gaza
- » Hamas urges Arab nations to force Israel to stop its aggression



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

As the waterbodies in Ghazirhat Baghmara village in Khulna’s Dighalia upazila come alive with snails when it rains, Saraswati Goldar uses the opportunity to earn some money. She and many others in her village collect around 25-30kgs of snails every day and sells them at Tk 10 per kg. Snails are usually in high demand as food for ducks or fish. The photo was taken recently.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Trump picks China hawks for top posts

Rubio tapped as his secy of state, Waltz as security adviser

AFP, *Washington*

US President-elect Donald Trump has picked Senator Marco Rubio as secretary of state and Congressman Michael Waltz as National Security Advisor (NSA), reports said yesterday.



Marco Rubio



Michael Waltz

Both Rubio and Waltz have notably hawkish views on China, which they see as a threat and challenge to US economic and military might.

The two would be appointees, both from Florida, are key architects of Trump’s “America First” foreign policy, with the incoming president having promised to end the wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East, and avoid any more US military entanglements.

The 78-year-old Republican tycoon has vowed his second stint in power will result in a radical shake-up of the federal government.

Trump announced immigration official Tom Homan as the country’s “border czar” on Monday, tasking him with

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

### MORE NEWS

KMCH struggles with dengue patients  
**PAGE 5**

How soon should you switch careers?  
**PAGE 10**

**UCEP Bangladesh**

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

UCEP Bangladesh's Cheyne Tower Office Space is readily available for rent at 25, Segunbagicha, Dhaka, Ground Floor (1650 sft), 1st Floor (7985 sft) and 3rd floor (8350 sft), Car parking space. Foreign Organizations, Government/Semi-Govt, Autonomous office, Bank, Insurance Company, NGO/INGOs preferred. lift service, separate washrooms for male and female available.

For more information  
Please contact Deputy Director  
Mr. Md. Ashraf Uddin of UCEP Bangladesh  
Cell # 01977-200108).