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## Delhi's double standards condemnable Says Asif Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday accused India of double standards for ignoring what he said were atrocities committed against its Muslim minority, but expressing concerns for Bangladesh.



"Most people in Bangladesh (64.1 percent) believe that the interim government has been able to provide more security to the country's minority population compared to the previous Awami League government. This was seen in a survey published by Voice of America Bangla," he wrote on his verified Facebook page.

"We have also seen how student organisations, madrasas, political parties and the general public of Bangladesh worked for the safety of minorities during the recent Durga Puja. Most recently, Muslims

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Shops being illegally constructed on the bank of the Buriganga, almost obscuring a demarcation pillar installed by the BIWTA. The photo was taken in the Koilaghat area of the capital's Kamrangirchar yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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## 'India takes serious note of attacks on minorities' Says Jaishankar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

New Delhi has taken the incidents of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh seriously, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said yesterday, adding that the primary responsibility to protect them falls on Dhaka.

Jaishankar, in a written reply to a question from a lawmaker, said the Indian government has seen several reports of incidents of violence against Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh.



These attacks were carried out on their homes, businesses, and religious places across Bangladesh, including in August, he said.

"The Government has taken a serious note of these incidents and shared its concerns with the Government of Bangladesh."

Jaishankar said reports of attacks on temples and puja mandaps also came to light during the recent Durga Puja in Bangladesh and the Indian government had expressed its serious concerns regarding the attacks.

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# 40 Palestinians killed as Israel pounds Gaza

Most of them died in a refugee camp, say medics

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli military strikes killed at least 40 Palestinians overnight and yesterday in the Gaza Strip, many of them in the Nuseirat refugee camp at the centre of the enclave, medics said, after Israeli tanks pulled back from parts of the camp.

Medics said they had recovered 19 bodies of Palestinians killed in northern areas of Nuseirat, one of the enclave's eight long-standing refugee camps.

Later yesterday, an Israeli air strike killed at least 10 Palestinians in a house in Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza Strip, medics said.

Others were killed in the northern and southern areas of the Gaza Strip, medics added. There was no fresh statement by the Israeli military yesterday, but on Thursday it said its forces were continuing to "strike terror targets as part of the operational activity in the Gaza Strip".

Israeli tanks had entered northern and western areas of Nuseirat on Thursday. They withdrew from northern areas yesterday but remained active in western parts of the camp. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said teams were unable to respond to distress calls from residents trapped in their homes.

Dozens of Palestinians yesterday returned to areas where the army had retreated to check on damage to their homes.

Medics and relatives covered up dead bodies,

including of women, that lay on the road with blankets or white shrouds and carried them away on stretchers.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed nearly 44,300 people and displaced nearly all the enclave's population at least once, Gaza officials say. Vast swathes of the territory are in ruins.

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities released around 30 Palestinians whom it had detained in the past few months during its Gaza offensive. Those released arrived at a hospital in southern Gaza for medical checkups, medics said.

Freed Palestinians, detained during the offensive, have complained of ill-treatment and torture in Israeli detention after they were released. Israel denies torture.

Medics said an Israeli drone yesterday had killed Ahmed Al-Kahlout, head of the Intensive Care Unit at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, on the northern edge of the Gaza Strip, where the army has been operating since early October.

Kamal Adwan Hospital is one of three medical facilities on the northern edge of the Gaza Strip that barely function now due to shortages of medical, fuel, and food supplies. Most of its medical staff have been detained or expelled by the Israeli army, health officials say.

Months of efforts to negotiate a ceasefire in Gaza have yielded scant progress, and negotiations are now on hold.

- » Israeli tanks remain active in western area of the camp
- » Civil defence teams unable to respond to distress calls
- » 30 Palestinians freed from Israeli detention centre

## GENEVA CAMP 12 arrested; arms, ammo recovered in raid: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army arrested 12 people with arms and ammunition during a raid at the Geneva Camp in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

The arrestees include Mahbub and Irfan, close associates of top drug dealer "Chua Selim", according to an ISPR press release.

Acting on a tip-off, a patrol team from the 46th Independent Infantry Brigade of the Bangladesh Army raided the camp.

During the drive, army personnel recovered a revolver, eight rounds of ammunition, five machetes and seven other sharp weapons.

Hafizur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Mohammadpur Police Station, said the army team carried out the drive for about two hours from 4:00am. They later handed over the arrestees and the arms and ammunition to the police station.

The ISPR release said the army-led drives by joint forces will continue to

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## Sunken ship may hold secrets of Vasco da Gama's last voyage



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The wreckage of a ship discovered off the coast of Kenya may have been from legendary explorer Vasco da Gama's final voyage across the Indian Ocean, archaeologists say in a new study.

Researchers say the ship, discovered in 2013 in waters off a Kenyan coastal town, is a Portuguese vessel and may have been Da Gama's Sao Jorge, which sank in 1524 – the year the famed explorer died in India, likely from malaria.

"The recent discovery of a Portuguese shipwreck in Malindi, Kenya, could be a galleon from Vasco da Gama's last voyage," scientists wrote in the latest study, published in the Journal of Maritime Archaeology.

If confirmed to be the wreck of the Sao Jorge, the sunken vessel would be one of the earliest European shipwrecks in the Indian Ocean, the researchers say.

Vasco da Gama, a pioneering explorer, sailed from Europe to the Indian Ocean in 1497, with his ship being the first to go round the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa.

## Tigresses look to seal series

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh women are set to play against their Irish counterparts in the second ODI in Mirpur today, hoping to continue the improvement curve seen in their batting in the first ODI, to seal the three-match series.

Bangladesh batting coach Nasiruddin Faruque pointed out that Sharmin Akter Supta's work with current men's national team's senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin had paid dividends in terms of improved mentality in batting approach following her attacking innings in the first ODI.

"Supta is very hardworking and her practice pattern was always good from before. She was under Salahuddin sir's guidance and what I was most impressed with was how she backed herself

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Ireland women's cricket team players were in a jolly mood as they enjoyed rickshaw rides at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium premises in Mirpur yesterday, on the eve of the second ODI against Bangladesh.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Russia fires 132 drones at Ukraine One dead, health care clinic damaged; Kyiv downs 88 drones

AFP, Kyiv

Russia launched more than a hundred drones at Ukraine overnight and early yesterday, killing one person and wounding eight others, officials said.

The nearly three-year war has seen a sharp escalation in recent days, with Moscow pummelling Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of the winter.

Yesterday's drone barrage came a day after Russia launched around 90 missiles on the war-torn country, cutting power to over a million people.

Moscow fired 132 drones overnight, of which "88 drones were shot down" and "41 were lost, presumably due to defence countermeasures", Ukraine's air force said.

Air defences shot down drones over a dozen regions, while falling debris damaged a health care clinic in the capital Kyiv, according to the local mayor.

A drone attack killed a woman in the southern city of Kherson, the head of the local military administration Roman Mrochko said.

At least two regions suffered power cuts yesterday, Ukrainian electricity operator Ukrenergo said.

"Emergency repair works are ongoing around the clock. By the end of the day, the power company plans to restore power to the de-energised customers in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions," it said.

The latest strikes come as Ukraine enters a tough winter, with Russian forces stepping up aerial attacks and advancing on the eastern front.