

## 28 hurt after car drives into Munich crowd

Afghan asylum-seeker arrested  
REUTERS, Munich

Some 28 people were injured when a 24-year-old Afghan asylum seeker drove a car into a crowd of people in Munich yesterday, in what the state premier said was probably an attack, as the German city prepared to host a top-level security conference.

Police in the southern city said a car approached police vehicles stopped by a demonstration held by the Verdi union before speeding up and hitting people.

"It was probably an attack," Bavaria state premier Markus Soeder told reporters. Bavaria's interior minister said he did not suspect there was a connection to the conference.

Police said they had detained the driver and did not consider him to pose any further threat.



Police work at the scene where a car drove into a crowd in Munich, Germany, yesterday. The suspected attack came hours before leading international figures, including US Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, were in the city for the high-profile Munich Security Conference, which starts today.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Trump orders US diplomats to speak with 'one voice'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday ordered the "reform" of the US diplomatic corps, effectively curtailing any dissent against his policies.

"Failure to faithfully implement the President's policy is grounds for professional discipline, including separation," the order, entitled "One Voice For America's Foreign Relations," said.

# Hamas committed to Gaza ceasefire

Says the Palestinian group, confirms it will release Israeli hostages as planned

AFP, Jerusalem

Hamas said yesterday it was committed to honouring a truce with Israel that is facing its worst crisis since it took effect, and added that mediators were pushing for hostages to be released this weekend as planned.

Palestinian sources reported progress in efforts to salvage the ceasefire which was plunged into uncertainty after Hamas warned it would not release hostages tomorrow, citing Israeli violations.

Israel hit back, saying that if Hamas failed to free captives on schedule, it would resume

its war in Gaza.

"We are keen to implement it (the ceasefire) and oblige the occupation to fully abide by it. Mediators are pressuring (Israel) to complete the full implementation of the agreement, oblige the occupation to abide by the humanitarian protocol, and resume the exchange process on Saturday," Hamas spokesman Abdel Latif al-Qanou said.

A Palestinian source said mediators had obtained from Israel a "promise... to put in place a humanitarian protocol starting from this morning".

Egyptian state-linked media said

construction equipment, including bulldozers and trucks carrying mobile homes, was ready to enter Gaza from Egypt.

US President Donald Trump had warned that "hell" would break loose if the Palestinian group failed to release "all" the hostages by noon on Saturday.

The truce, currently in its first phase, has seen Israeli captives released in small groups in exchange for Palestinians in Israeli custody.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has urged Hamas to proceed with the planned release and "avoid at all costs resumption of hostilities in Gaza".

## Grit amid resistance from Muslim league

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In early March that year, following the central programme, the Kishoreganj Bhasha Sangram Parishad (Language Struggle Committee) was formed with Abdul Wadud Chowdhury as its convener, according to the book "Bhasha Andolon Ancholik Itihash" by Dr Abu Md Delowar Hossain.

Other members included Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan, Ashraf Uddin Master, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Professor Habibur Rahman, Narendra Chandra Ghosh, Jagdish Pandit, and others.

Meanwhile, members of the Muslim League's reactionary faction began collecting signatures in support of Urdu as the state language, instead of Bangla.

At the same time, an organisation was formed with madrasa students and teachers, under the leadership of Maulana Ataur Ali, Musleh Uddin, and Saidur Rahman. It campaigned for Urdu as the state language and actively obstructed the activities of the Language Movement.

However, despite their efforts, the movement continued to gain momentum.

Targeting March 11, as the main day of the movement, posters, leaflets and more were distributed across the district as part of a widespread campaign to gather public support.



Gurudayal College Shaheed Minar

A full-scale hartal and strike were observed and separate protest rallies were organised from Islamia Hostel, Gurudayal College, and Tarun Library. On January 27, 1952, Pakistan's Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin declared Urdu as the state language, prompting the students and locals of Kishoreganj to erupt in protest.

A united Sarbodoliyo Chhatra Sangram Parishad (All-Party Students' Struggle Committee) was formed, with Hedayet Hossain at the helm. Other members included Abu Taher Khan Pathan, AB Siddiq, Nazrul Islam, Shahadat Chowdhury, and others.

According to "Bhasha Andolon Ieknaf theke Tentulia" by Ahmad Rafiq, while most religious institutions in Kishoreganj opposed the movement, the Jamiyate Telabiya Arabiya extended its full cooperation and support

to the movement.

In accordance with the central programme, a large-scale campaign was carried out across the district, with February 21 designated as the central day of the movement. Leaflets were distributed and blowhorn announcements were made.

On February 21, another full-scale hartal was observed throughout the district. Students from various educational institutions, including Gurudayal College, Ramanand High School, Sarjubala Girls' High School, Azim Uddin High School, and more, brought out processions that marched throughout the city. The main slogan being chanted was "Rashtrobhasha Bangla chai! (We want Bangla as the state language!)"

However, demonstrators in some places faced resistance from followers of the Muslim League and Nezam-e-Islam.

According to the book

"Bhasha Andolon Kosh Volume-1" by M Abdul Alim, the news of students being killed by police in Dhaka reached Kishoreganj on February 22, causing uproar across the district. A mass procession, joined by people from all walks of life and organised by the Rashtrobhasha Sangram Parishad (State Language Struggle Committee), paraded the entire city. On the day, students at Gurudayal College Hostel hoisted black flags and organised a funeral, while protest meetings were held at the Public Library and Shah Mosque.

In Kishoreganj's Bajitpur upazila, students from Rajkumar Edward Institute also brought out a mourning procession, which marched through local markets and several villages.

A full-scale hartal was imposed in the district even on February 23. A protest meeting, presided over by Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, was conducted at the city's playground. Others at the meeting included Abu Taher Khan Pathan, Ashraf Uddin Master, Rashidur Rahman Chowdhury, Aminul Haque and more.

On February 25, students and locals constructed a Shaheed Minar.

That same day, however, police issued arrest warrants for Abu Taher Khan Pathan, Ashraf Uddin Master, Aminul Haque and Sundar Ali for their involvement in the movement.

said, adding that before the release of the UN report, the necessary reforms in the laws of the International Crimes Tribunal had already been made.

"The UN expresses concerns about the moratorium on the death penalty, suggesting that it should be suspended. But since our judges have the power to decide on the type of punishment, that matter will be addressed later."

## Dhaka already sent necessary docs to Delhi

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swift extradition of fugitive criminals.

Rafiqul said all required documents from the relevant ministry were included in the extradition request under the treaty.

Regarding the timing of the reminder, Rafiqul described it as both a diplomatic and political decision, saying, "A reminder will be sent when the leadership deems it appropriate."

So far, India has not responded to Bangladesh's request. "We continue to expect a response from India," Rafiqul said.

Bangladesh has been awaiting a reply and was expected to send a reminder after a certain period if no response was received from New Delhi. The next step will be determined based on India's reply.

Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that India received the extradition request from Bangladesh's interim government.

## National consensus

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after commencing its work on February 15. Following its deliberations, the commission will submit recommendations for necessary actions. Its primary mandate is to engage with political parties and stakeholders of the 2024 uprising to build a national consensus on reforms related to elections, public administration, the judiciary, anti-corruption measures, and police activities.

The Chief Adviser's Office will manage the commission's secretarial duties, while the government will determine the commission's office location.

## 12 CU students

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front of the hall, Saiful said. In the other incident, two students were accused of hurting religious sentiments by making derogatory comments on Islam on Facebook, the registrar said.

One of them was suspended for two years while the other for one year, he added.

## INDIAN STATE OF MANIPUR President's rule imposed days after CM's resignation

TNN, New Delhi

India's ministry of home affairs yesterday announced that President's Rule has been imposed in Manipur. This came days after Manipur chief minister (CM) Biren Singh tendered his resignation to the governor of the state.

"Whereas, I, Droupadi Murmu, President of India, have received a report from the Governor of the State of Manipur and after considering the report and other information received by me, I am satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of that State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India," the notification released by the MHA read.

## Yunus, Musk discuss

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how high-speed, low-cost internet connectivity could bridge the digital divide in Bangladesh, strengthen education, healthcare, and economic development in underserved regions, and give millions of small and micro entrepreneurs access beyond the national boundary.

Prof Yunus stated that integrating Starlink's connectivity into Bangladesh's infrastructure would create new opportunities for millions and integrate the country more closely into the global digital economy.

He further expressed his enthusiasm for working alongside Musk to unlock the full potential of technology-driven social and economic growth.

Prof Yunus said Starlink would be an extension of Grameen Bank and Grameenphone's pioneering of connecting village women and young people to the world.

"They would become global women and kids and global entrepreneurs," he said.

Musk, in turn, praised the

Grameen Bank microfinance model, acknowledging its global impact on poverty alleviation.

The Tesla founder said he was familiar with the work of both Grameen Bank and Grameen Village Phone.

He expressed his belief that leveraging technological advancements such as Starlink could further drive innovation, economic empowerment, and financial inclusion in Bangladesh. Prof Yunus invited Musk to visit Bangladesh for the potential launch of Starlink services, underscoring the significance of this initiative for national development, to which Musk responded positively.

"I look forward to it," Musk said.

This engagement marks a significant step toward bringing advanced satellite connectivity to Bangladesh, fostering economic growth, digital inclusion, and innovation across the nation.

Both sides agreed to make speedy progress on this initiative and mandated High Representative Rahman, Dreyer and Griffiths to coordinate further work.

## Make sure law enforcers

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Muhammad Yunus, has pledged security sector reform. HRW noted that the government launched "Operation Devil Hunt" following violent protests earlier this month, arresting nearly 2,000 people—mostly supporters of the deposed AL government.

The operation was triggered after a clash on February 8 centring an attack at the home of a former minister. Protesters had earlier demolished the home of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which had been converted into a memorial museum.

In a statement, the interim government said the operation targeted groups "linked to the fallen autocratic regime", describing them as "devils", says the HRW statement.

Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at HRW, said, "Bangladesh is

politically polarised after decades of repression by the Awami League government, but the authorities should not repeat mistakes of the past and should instead ensure impartial rule of law."

"As the United Nations has said, the interim government should focus on urgent reforms to the political system and economic governance."

The HRW statement mentioned Yunus also called for calm and he said that respecting the rule of law is "what differentiates the new Bangladesh we are working together to build from the old Bangladesh under the fascist regime".

"However, the government should also recognise that the right to peaceful assembly and protest, even by supporters of the former authoritarian government, is a fundamental right protected under international law," it said.

The rights group advised

the Yunus government to consider bringing a consensus resolution at the upcoming UN Human Rights Council session in March to request technical assistance, further investigations, and monitoring and reporting by UN-backed human rights experts.

It said the resolution should also acknowledge the tyranny of the previous administration and recognise positive human rights steps taken by the interim government.

"Bangladeshis are angry over the repression by the Hasina administration and they deserve justice and accountability, but it has to be a rights-respecting manner," HRW's Ganguly said.

"All crimes, including mob violence, should be punished, but when authority figures characterise opponents as the 'devil,' it can fuel abuses by security forces that have never faced accountability."

## UN report will be used as evidence

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home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and used deadly weapons on people, he said.

The UN fact-finding committee in its report clearly states that crimes against humanity were committed during this period.

Those responsible for giving commands are Hasina, Quader and Asaduzzaman.

"The UN report clearly states that around 1,400 people were killed in the July massacre, and approximately 14,000 people were injured. State forces, including intelligence agencies, were involved in these killings. Women and children were specifically targeted; 118 children were among the victims. Those who were injured were prevented from receiving medical

treatment."

The UN report recommends suspending the officers involved in these killings from the state forces to ensure an impartial trial.

"If these officers are not suspended or dismissed, witnesses will be afraid to testify, which will disrupt the judicial process."

The UN has also recommended reforms in the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973, he