



Ashfaq Nipun



Shakib Khan



Chanchal Chowdhury



Siam Ahmed



Farzana Wahid Shayan



Jaya Ahsan



Nasir Uddin Khan

PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

IN SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA

Celebrities take a stand against genocide

Israel's assault on Palestine shows no signs of stopping, with relentless bombings targeting the blockaded city of Gaza. The atmosphere is heavy with the cries of the injured and the sight of countless bodies. The devastating conditions have shocked the world.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladeshi celebrities have also expressed their solidarity, praying for the people of Palestine.

Sharing photos of two areas reduced to rubble by Israeli attacks, actress Jaya Ahsan wrote on Facebook:

"Israel has been carrying out a cruel and heartless genocide in Gaza. They seem determined to wipe Palestine off the map. I know Israel won't care about global protests—but what about the rest of the world? The powerful leaders of the world? Will this endless killing of children, women, and mass murder continue right before everyone's eyes? Let the veil be lifted from the hearts of humanity. Let the Palestinians have the chance to live like human beings."

Megastar Shakib Khan wrote, "Gaza is not just a geographical name—it has become a symbol of the oppressed! I stand with them, in love, solidarity, and the hope for peace."

Actor Siam Ahmed wrote, "As I write this post, has Gaza already been wiped off the map? Can any of us escape responsibility for the ruins of Palestine? ...Right after Eid, they were plunged into hell—will the world not take responsibility for that? These world leaders, Islamic scholars, Nobel laureates, ordinary people—can



Puja Chery



Abdun Noor Shajal



Elita Karim



Sadia Ayman

any of us truly avoid this burden of guilt?"

Singer Farzana Wahid Shayan has once again written a song protesting the Israeli aggression on Palestine. She shared the lyrics on Facebook, which say:

"Gaza will never end—let us all become Gaza from today. Let that journey begin now, let the whole world become Palestine..."

Nasir Uddin Khan wrote, "Whenever I think of the helpless and oppressed people—at home or abroad—I imagine myself and my family in their place, and I feel constant fear. No matter how much I try to find a ray of hope, I know

this broken world will never truly find peace. Still, I hold on to hope in my heart—that one day, the long struggle of the Palestinian people, which I've witnessed since childhood, will succeed."

Puja Chery wrote, "When will this devastation end, Lord? Even innocent children aren't spared by these monsters. Please, Lord, bring an end to such evil. Free Palestine. Free the children of Gaza."

Chanchal Chowdhury shared two pictures—one of a child sitting alone in the rubble of destroyed homes, and another showing people burning in the continuous bombardment

and explosions in Gaza. He wrote, "Endangered civilisation... Endangered humanity."

Actor Abdun Noor Shajal wrote, "Where is humanity? Can these really be the actions of human beings? Please support Gaza."

Shahnaz Khushi wrote, "In the name of acquiring knowledge for civilisation, humanity has caused the most harm to itself! Ah, life!"

Noted director Ashfaq Nipun wrote: "Two videos. In one, a child in Gaza is crying out, comforting another child. In the other, a child sits amidst the rubble in Gaza, tears in their eyes, eating something while crying again. May the

curse of these two children's suffering bring an end to the wrongdoers! May the final consequences of oppression be witnessed by these two children, along with millions of other oppressed people of Palestine."

Popular singer Elita Karim wrote, "Prayers for Gaza. Maybe we will meet in the afterlife and then we can talk about why we could do nothing but watch you get slaughtered."

Sadia Ayman wrote, "The way innocent people, especially children, are being brutally killed every day in Gaza is a stain on humanity and a disgrace to Muslims. Beneath the rubble lie thousands of dreams, cries, and wails. Such cruelty is unimaginable in any civilised society. Oh Allah, protect the people of Gaza. Grant them patience, instill peace and humanity in the hearts of the enemies, and bring an end to all oppression. Ameen."

Singer Asif Akbar wrote, "Farewell Rafah—Gaza's heavenly martyrs. May the followers of the greatest religion and their vile rulers remain in the burning hell of this earth in joy..."

Singer Imran Mahmudul wrote, "Dear Palestine and Gaza, We, a helpless Muslim nation, could do nothing. We only watched as the people of this sacred land suffered. As a Muslim nation, we are ashamed".

NEWS

Polls code of conduct almost finalised: EC

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Asked about the changes, the official said he could not provide details without the draft being approved first.

However, he mentioned that the use of posters by candidates campaigning in the next national election would be banned.

He said the decision was in line with the Election Reform Commission's proposal.

"We have incorporated almost all the proposals of the Election Reform Commission into the draft."

Asked whether political parties were engaged while preparing the draft, the EC said, "We will sit with stakeholders on a later date. The situation will guide us on what needs to be done."

Currently, there is a code of conduct for political parties and candidates. However, the EC has taken the initiative to revise it and formulate a new code of conduct.

Bangladesh's relief team

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Naypyidaw. Over the last two days, they have recovered crucial official documents and other valuable items from the debris.

The rescue team comprises members from the Bangladesh Army's Corps of Engineers, along with personnel from the navy, air force, and Fire Service and Civil Defence. Initial assessments by the engineering team confirmed that the building sustained severe structural damage due to the 7.7 magnitude earthquake, causing parts of it to collapse entirely.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Medical Assistance Team continued providing healthcare services in Naypyidaw. On Sunday, medical teams operated in three hospitals — the 50-bed Zabuthiri Township Hospital, the 100-bed Hospital, and the 1,000-bed General Hospital.

So far, Bangladeshi medical teams have treated 619 patients, including 162 yesterday, four of whom underwent complex surgeries.

The humanitarian mission will continue in coordination with Myanmar's local administration and relevant authorities, the ISPR said.

Myanmar's local media has put

The EC said that the new code of conduct for the national election is being formulated with the aim of keeping expenses to a minimum and ensuring that all candidates can campaign on an equal footing.

While responding to a query about holding the election by December, the EC said, "Yes, we do have a plan for when and what we will do. These meetings we are holding — this is also part of the planning."

About the use of social media in the days leading up to the election, he said, "We have proposed measures to keep rumours under control during the election period."

Regarding the April 20 deadline for parties to apply for registration, the EC said, "There has not been any decision to extend the deadline. However, we are prepared to facilitate parties seeking registration. So far one party has applied, while others are in the process of doing so."

the death toll from the earthquake at nearly 3,500, while 4,850 people were injured and another 220 are missing. The disaster caused severe flood, water, shelter, and healthcare shortages across multiple regions.

The Bangladesh government, under the direction of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, promptly launched a humanitarian relief effort after the powerful earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28, the ISPR said.

On March 30, two transport aircraft from the Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force carried 16.5 tonnes of emergency relief to Yangon, including dry rations, clean water, oral saline, tents, hygiene products, and other essential supplies.

A second batch of assistance was sent to Naypyidaw on April 1. This included 15 more tonnes of relief supplies, a medical team equipped with emergency medicines, and a specialised rescue team with advanced equipment, according to the ISPR.

The 55-member support team, led by Colonel Md Shamim Iftikhar of the Bangladesh Army, includes 34 rescue personnel (from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Fire Service) and a 21-member medical team, comprising military doctors and civilian medical specialists.

Govt issues stern

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"We have video footage of the attackers. They are being identified and will be arrested immediately. Police teams are currently working on this," said the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, quoting Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam.

The statement also quoted BIDA Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun as saying, "The government does not impede any lawful protests. However, we will not tolerate any criminal acts under the guise of protest."

"At a time when we are hosting a summit to showcase Bangladesh as an investment destination, it is unfortunate to see our countrymen setting such deplorable examples."

Ashik also said, "A lot of these businesses were local investors, some of them were foreigners who

"Government does not impede any lawful protests. However, we will not tolerate any criminal acts under the guise of protest," BIDA Executive Chairman Ashik Chowdhury says.

believed in Bangladesh. They all offered employment opportunities to the youth.

"Those who have committed these heinous acts of vandalism are true enemies of job creation, economic growth, and stability."

BATA RESPONDS

Global footwear company Bata, one of the affected businesses, in a statement yesterday, said claims suggesting that Bata is an Israeli-owned company or has political affiliations in the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict were inaccurate.

It said Bata is a privately held, family-owned company founded in the Czech Republic with no political ties to the conflict.

"It is deeply regrettable that some of our retail locations in Bangladesh have recently been subjected to vandalism, apparently triggered by these false narratives," it said.

"We firmly condemn all forms of violence," it added.

130 pro-AL lawyers sued

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general secretaries.

The complainant brought charges against all accused of entering the rooms of pro-BNP lawyers Omar Faruq Faruqi, Moazzem Hossain and Abdul Khaleque Milon on August 4 last year. The accused stole important valuables from the three rooms located in the building of the Dhaka Bar Association and stealing valuables.

The case records say former DBA general secretary Jobayer; senior vice-president Shahanara; cultural secretary Tuny; treasurers Hasibur and Shamim, also former public prosecutor of the Cyber Tribunal;

37 more Gazans killed

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On Sunday, Lebanon said an Israeli strike killed two people in south Lebanon's Zibqin, as the Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah operatives in the area.

The strikes come after US envoy Morgan Ortagus said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that Hezbollah and other armed groups should be disarmed "as soon as possible" and that Lebanese troops were expected to do the job.

Ortagus spoke to Lebanese broadcaster LBCI at the end of a three-day visit to Beirut, where she met with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri and other officials and political representatives.

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli offensive on Gaza killed more than 50,000 Palestinians.

In Cairo, Emmanuel Macron met

former senior assistant general secretaries Matiar, Fahim and Salah; and former assistant general secretary Tipu stole cheque books from the rooms.

Shawn, a former DBA general secretary, stole Tk 1 lakh, Sanzida stole Tk 1.3 lakh and Ramjan, a former DBA executive committee member, stole Tk 4 lakh, said the complainant.

All 144 accused, equipped with pistols, iron rods and bamboo sticks, hurt the complainant and 20 other witnesses with the intent to kill them, leaving them seriously injured, according to the case documents.

Following the incidents, the

victims received primary treatment from the clinic located inside the bar association and various hospitals.

However, the complainant did not mention in the case statement whether they were admitted to any hospital or clinic even though the charges mentioned are grievous. In addition, he did not mention anything about blasting crude bombs.

Meanwhile, 61 landed in jail on Sunday after their bail prayers were rejected.

On Sunday, the court also granted former DBA president Abu Sayeed Sagar and 18 female lawyers bail in the case.

his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

"We are firmly opposed to the displacement of populations and to any annexation of both Gaza and the West Bank," Macron said after the meeting.

"This would be a violation of international law and a serious threat to the security of the entire region, including Israel," he said.

Macron said Palestinian Islamist group Hamas should have no part in governing the Gaza Strip and reiterated his support for a reconstruction plan for the war-ravaged territory endorsed by the Arab League.

In January, Trump floated a proposal to move Gazans out of the territory, suggesting that Egypt or Jordan could take them in.

Both countries, along with other Arab allies, governments around the world and the Palestinians themselves, have flatly rejected the notion.

Robbers loot valuables

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others in. "They seemed to be aged between 15 and 40, but all had their faces covered. Residents couldn't recognise anyone," he said, citing the victims.

The robbers first stormed the flat of Mahbub and the flat of Saifullah. They tied up both families and took

away their belongings. They then moved to the fourth floor and robbed the flats of Mannan and Humayun.

The OC added that following an emergency call, police reached the spot and took the injured to the hospital.

Law enforcers are trying to collect CCTV footage from the surrounding area to identify the criminals.

Ezaz Khan, general secretary of the Green Model Town Society, said, "The residents came to my house after failing to reach me over the phone. I then called the police."

He added that officials from the police, DB, CID, and PBI visited the spot for investigation.

The filing of a case is underway, police said.