



We knew everything, and I tried to save Iran humiliation and death.

Donald Trump on Israel's military strike on Iran

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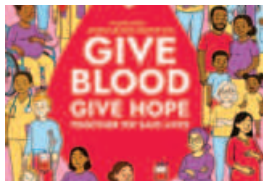
Citizens lament RTI paralysis in Bangladesh

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Give Blood, Give Hope: Together we save lives

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PSG have sights set on Club World Cup glory

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NEW POLLS TIMING

BNP upbeat, process irks Jamaat, NCP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government's revised election timeline with certain conditions has stirred cautious optimism as well as raised questions among political parties.

While many parties including the BNP have welcomed the proposed timeline -- mid-February next year -- concerns have emerged regarding how the decision was reached through discussions with only one party.

The BNP had long been demanding that the election be held by the year-end. It had been criticising the interim government for not unveiling a roadmap for the election.

The party, now the biggest one after the fall of the Awami League regime in August last year, pressed on with its call after Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus earlier this month announced that polls would be held in April next year.

The meeting between Yunus and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman in London on Friday, and the outcome now signal a potential thaw in the relations between the two sides.

This evolving dynamic suggests a realignment of political forces ahead of the next general election, according to party insiders.

The BNP is satisfied with the proposed election timeline,



Israeli troops and first responders gather in front of a building hit by a missile fired from Iran, in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv. The photo was taken in the early hours of yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Iran, Israel trade missiles

Strike on housing complex kills 60 in Tehran; 3 killed in Israel after Iran launches waves of missiles

AGENCIES

Iran and Israel traded missiles and airstrikes yesterday, the day after Israel launched a sweeping air offensive against its old enemy, killing commanders and scientists and bombing nuclear sites in a stated bid to stop it from building an atomic weapon.

In Tehran, Iranian state TV reported that around 60 people, including 20 children, had been killed in an attack on a housing complex, with more strikes reported across the country as Israel said it had attacked more than 150 targets.

In Israel, air raid sirens sent residents into shelters as waves of missiles streaked across the sky and interceptors rose to meet them, killing at least three people. An Israeli official said Iran had fired around 200 ballistic missiles in four waves.

US President Donald Trump has lauded Israel's strikes and warned of much worse to come unless Iran quickly accepts the sharp downgrading of its nuclear programme that the US has demanded in talks that had been due to resume today.

But with Israel saying its operation could last weeks, and urging Iran's people to rise up against their Islamic clerical rulers, fears have grown of a regional conflagration dragging in outside powers, with global economic and financial repercussions.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday threatened to strike "every target of the ayatollah regime" in Iran, adding that Israeli strikes had dealt a "real blow" to Tehran's nuclear programme.

"We will hit every site, every target of the ayatollah regime," Netanyahu said in a video statement.

"We have dealt a real blow to their nuclear programme" since Friday, he added.

"We have opened a path to Tehran. Very soon, you will see Israeli



Tehran vows 'more severe' response if strikes persist

Netanyahu says Israel to strike 'every target of Ayatollah regime'

Three more Iranian nuclear scientists, two more generals killed

Israel claims dealing major damage to Iranian nuclear sites

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IMF's two tranches to be placed to board on June 23

Reserves to get boost as another \$2b due this month

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The proposal to release the third and fourth tranches of the International Monetary Fund's \$4.7 billion loan is set to be presented to the multilateral lender's board on June 23 after the government fulfilled all prior conditions.

The two tranches amount to \$1.3 billion.

The fourth instalment of the loan programme was supposed to be disbursed in February, but the government failed to fulfil two of the prior conditions -- the introduction of a market-based exchange rate and restructuring of the National Board of Revenue -- then.

The two conditions were fulfilled in May. Subsequently, the IMF staff and the government struck a staff-level agreement on May 14.

On June 11, during a talk at London's Chatham House, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus commended the

Bangladesh's foreign exchange market has remained relatively stable since the adoption of the market-based exchange rate, with the taka depreciating marginally.

IMF for insisting on the two contentious reforms, particularly the liberalisation of the exchange rate.

"Opening this [exchange rate] to the market is really a big decision for us," he said, adding they had tried to convince the IMF by explaining the potential risks.

But the IMF stood firm.

"We opened it. Nothing happened. The same exchange rate -- just a little bit of movement. It's normal. It's okay. So, we are celebrating that. Finally, we are seeing strength in the economy, and so on," he added.

Bangladesh's foreign exchange market has remained relatively stable since the adoption of the market-based exchange rate, with the taka depreciating marginally.

On June 4, the last working day before the 10-day Eid holiday, the weighted average exchange rate of the dollar was Tk 122.97. A month earlier, it was Tk 122, according to BB data.

The request to top-up the existing loan amount will also be placed at the board meeting, according to the schedule published on the IMF website yesterday.

Should the board agree to release the two tranches and authorise the top-up,

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INDIA PLANE CRASH

Death toll rises to at least 279

AFP, Ahmedabad

The death toll from the fiery crash of a London-bound passenger jet in an Indian city climbed to 279 yesterday as officials sought to match the DNA of victims with their grieving relatives.

The Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner issued a mayday call shortly before it crashed around lunchtime on Thursday, bursting into a fireball as it hit residential buildings.

A police source yesterday said that 279 bodies had been found at the crash site in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad, making it one of the worst plane disasters of the 21st century.

There was just one survivor out of 242 passengers and crew on board the jet when it crashed, leaving the tailpiece of the aircraft jutting out of a hostel for medical staff.

Emergency services kept

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Queues of patients at the DNCC hospital in the capital's Mohakhali where the health directorate has begun coronavirus testing amid rising number of cases. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN

Over 35,000 cases unresolved for over 5 years

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

More than nine years have passed since a case was filed over the rape of a nine-year-old schoolgirl in Dhaka's Khilkhet area. The tribunal dealing with the case has framed charges against the lone accused and held 96 hearings but is yet to complete the trial.

However, a provision of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act says the court is supposed to dispose of such a case within 180 days from the start of proceedings.

The key reason behind the delay is that six of the 10 prosecution witnesses in the case have not appeared before the court to testify.

At a hearing on April 15 this year, the judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-8 said, "The failure to produce witnesses on time has caused the unnecessary delay in disposing of the case."

The tribunal issued non-bailable arrest warrants against four witnesses and ordered four police stations in Khilkhet, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Madaripur to produce them before it on May 21. However, they were not produced before the court that day, said a court staffer.

Contacted, officers in charge of the police stations said they didn't receive any court order to produce witnesses.

This is just one of 35,262 cases, filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, which remain pending with courts across the country for more than five years, prolonging the victims' wait for justice.

The number of pending cases filed under the Act stood

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