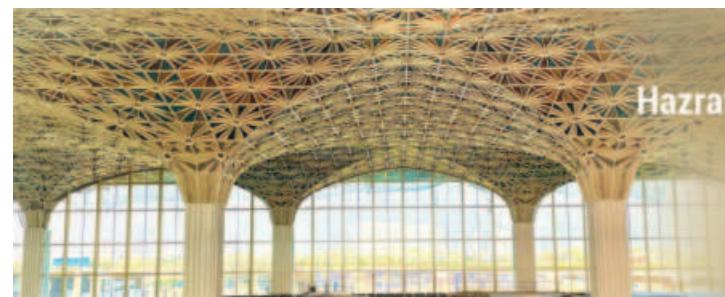


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## Rohingya crisis posing new security risks

Foreign adviser tells UN

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain has warned that the unresolved Rohingya crisis could soon escalate into a serious threat to regional security if a sustainable solution is not urgently pursued.

"Our humanitarian act has put us in immense socio-economic and environmental challenges, and the situation is now posing new security risks."

The adviser made the remark while addressing a high-level open debate at the United Nations Security Council titled "The impact of poverty, underdevelopment and conflict on international peace and security" on Thursday at the UN headquarters in New York, BSS reported yesterday.

Touhid pointed out that for over eight years, Bangladesh has been hosting 1.2 million Rohingya people who fled from Myanmar in the face of persecution by the military junta.

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## Two SUST students arrested over rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Syhet

Police have arrested two students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology on charges of raping a female student of the minority community and filming the incident.

According to a complaint filed by the victim, Shanto Tara Adnan and Swagato Dash Partha, both third year students of sociology department, took her to a mess in the Surma residential area on May 2 and drugged and raped her.

The woman told officers that she had not filed the complaint earlier as the accused had threatened to spread the video online if she told anyone what happened.

Mohammad Saiful Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said one of the accused was detained from the campus and the other from the Surma area around 9:30pm on Thursday.

The university proctor's office informed police that it had interrogated the accused and primarily verified the complaint, Saiful said, adding that the men face charges under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and the Pornography Control Act.

SUST students demonstrated and marched on the campus yesterday afternoon, demanding justice for the victim.

## Seven killed in Mymensingh road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least seven people were killed and several others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a human haulier in Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila last night.

The identities of the victims, all of whom were on the human haulier, could not be known immediately, said police.

Quoting witnesses, Md Abdul Hadi, officer-in-charge of Phulpur Police Station, said the accident took place around 8:45pm when the Mymensingh-bound bus collided head-on with the human haulier in the Kaziakadna area on the Mymensingh-Halaughat road.

Six passengers of the human haulier were killed on the spot, and 10 others were injured, he said.

The duty doctor declared one of the injured dead when they were taken to Phulpur Upazila Health Complex, Hadi said. The doctor advised taking four of the injured to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment.

Angry locals set the bus on fire.

On information, police and Fire Service and Civil Defence personnel went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Phulpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sadia Islam said traffic was halted on the road for more than one hour after the accident.

She said the scene of the accident had little light and the road was slippery due to rain and a truck was parked on one side.

The accident might have happened when one of the vehicles was passing the truck, she added.



For seven years, the Wasa Road in the Munshi Bari area of North Jurain has remained in a deplorable state due to continued negligence by the Dhaka South City Corporation. In the absence of a functioning drainage system, even light rain causes dirty water to flood the road, causing residents to suffer immensely -- particularly schoolchildren and office-goers. The area is under Ward 51 of the DSCC. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Israeli forces kill 60 Palestinians across Gaza

31 of them aid seekers; Unicef warns Gaza faces man-made drought as water systems collapse

AGENCIES

Gaza's civil defence agency said 31 Palestinian aid seekers were among at least 60 people killed yesterday by Israeli forces, the latest in a string of deadly incidents near aid distribution sites.

Civil defence spokesman

Mahmud Bassal told AFP that five people were killed while waiting for aid in the southern Gaza Strip and 26 others near a central area known as the Netzarim corridor, an Israeli-controlled strip of land that bisects the Palestinian territory.

Thousands of Palestinians have gathered there daily in the hope of receiving food rations, as famine looms across Gaza after more than 20 months of war.

The Israeli army told AFP that its troops in the Netzarim area had first fired "warning shots" at "suspects" approaching them. When the individuals continued advancing, "an aircraft struck and eliminated the suspects in order to remove the threat," the army said.

Similar incidents have occurred in that area regularly since late May, when the US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation opened its distribution centres, as Israel eased a two-

month aid blockade.

The privately run foundation's operations in Gaza have been marred by chaotic scenes. UN agencies and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with it over concerns it was designed to cater to Israeli military objectives.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has kept Israel on its "blacklist" of countries committing abuses against children in armed conflict for a second straight year, as its war on Gaza continues for nearly 20 months.

The listing on Thursday came as the UN said in a new report that violence against children in conflict zones reached "unprecedented levels" in 2024, with the highest number of violations committed in the Gaza Strip and the

occupied West Bank by the Israeli army.

Elsewhere in the territory yesterday, Bassal said 14 people were killed in two separate strikes in and around the central city of Deir el-Balah, and 13 others in three Israeli air strikes in the Gaza City area.

One of those strikes, which killed three people, hit a phone charging station in the city, Bassal said. In southern Gaza, two people were killed "by Israeli gunfire" in two separate incidents, he added.

UN agencies shun US-led aid agency over Israeli link

40pc of water production facilities remain functional in Gaza: UN

Israel included in UN blacklist for violations against children



A Bailey bridge over the Mallbari canal in Pirojpur's Indurkandi upazila collapsed early yesterday as a coal-laden truck attempted to cross, halting vehicular movement. The Roads and Highway Department had put up warning signs at both ends of the bridge, marking it as "risky". Moreover, locals claim the vehicle was carrying several times the weight that the bridge was designed to support. The photo shows people perilously crossing the collapsed bridge.

PHOTO: KM HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Tarique urges pressure on Myanmar for Rohingya return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday urged the government to intensify diplomatic efforts and maintain pressure on Myanmar to ensure the safe, dignified, and voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas who took shelter in Bangladesh after fleeing persecution.

He said it is very important to solve what he called one of the world's biggest humanitarian crises.



In his verified Facebook page marking World Refugee Day, the BNP leader said, "The international community must ensure this is acted upon by all parties, as the crisis is far from over."

He expressed solidarity with the millions of people who have been forced to leave their homes, adding that for Bangladesh, this is not just a global issue but a lived reality.

He said that with over 1.4 million Rohingyas taking shelter in Cox's

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## Man shot dead in Rangunia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 34-year-old Marma man was fatally shot yesterday in Sarabjhata Union of Rangunia upazila.

The incident occurred around 11:30am as Shibu Marma was returning alone from his in-laws' home in Raikhal.

Police and local sources said Shibu, son of Chingchala Marma and a resident of Borokholapara's Marma Palli, made a living selling lemons harvested from nearby hills.

He had visited his in-laws Thursday with his wife, and this morning set off home solo when the assailants opened fire on him.

South Rangunia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sabir Mohammad Selim stated that Shibu was hit by shotgun pellets and died instantly at the scene.

He said, "We received the alert around noon, recovered his body, and transported it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

"A case has been filed and a drive is underway in an effort to track down those responsible."

## Archer Alif wins gold at Asia Cup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a landmark moment for Bangladesh archery, 19-year-old Abdur Rahman Alif claimed his first international medal by winning the recurve men's individual event at the Asia Cup Stage 2 in Singapore yesterday.

Alif, a 12th-grader at BKSP, edged out Japan's Miyata Gakuto by 6-4 set points in a tense final, becoming only the third Bangladeshi archer to win gold at the Asian level -- after Sajjad Hossain in 2009 and Ruman Sana in 2019.

His victory comes at a crucial time for the sport in Bangladesh, following the migration of top recurve archers -- Ruman and Abdul Hakim Rubel -- to the United States, which left a significant gap in the national squad.



Alif started strong in the final, winning the first two sets before Miyata rallied to level the score at 4-4. But the former national champion from Pabna held his nerve to win the fifth and final set, sealing the match and delivering a historic gold for his country.

This victory marks Alif's first international medal in an individual event. His success was not a fluke -- he had impressed throughout the tournament with consistent world-class performances, defeating top contenders such

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## BNP man dies in police custody

Family alleges foul play

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A BNP activist has died in police custody in Cumilla's Muradnagar upazila.

The family of the victim, Sheikh Juel, 45, a resident of Bangra village, alleged he was tortured to death by police at Bangrabazar Police Station on Thursday.

The law enforcers denied the allegations and said Juel died due to illness.

Juel was among four people arrested with yaba tablets during a raid on a house at Uttar Para around 4:30pm on Thursday, according to a statement published by the office of Cumilla superintendent of police yesterday.

They were taken to the police station as a case was filed against them under the Narcotics Control Act, 2018.

Juel felt pain in his chest around 8:00pm while in police custody, the statement said.

It also said police informed Juel's family members about his illness and rushed him to the Muradnagar

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