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NCP slams border killings, calls for July declaration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said the border areas of Thakurgaon are plagued by frequent killings.

"Killings in the bordering areas of Thakurgaon are a major problem. The Indian Border Security Force indiscriminately shoots and kills Bangladeshi citizens," he said while addressing a rally at the Old Bus Stand area of Thakurgaon town around 12:30pm.

"Recently, we have seen attempts to push Muslims living in India into Bangladesh by labelling them as illegal immigrants," he said.

"We want to warn that this is not Hasina's Bangladesh. This is the Bangladesh of students and people after the mass uprising. Bangladesh will run in the hands of pro-Bangladeshis. We will stop these border killings at all costs," he warned.

The rally was a part of the NCP's ongoing "July March to Rebuild the Country" campaign.

He said, "In the past, we have seen our Sanatan Hindu brothers being persecuted a lot, and their land being occupied. The Awami League has repeatedly claimed that they are a secular party, but they have never treated the followers of the Sanatan faith with justice."



SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

3 of a family injured in acid attack in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jashore

Three members of a family, including two children, have been injured in an acid attack at their home in Jashore's Jhikargacha.

The incident took place around 9:00pm on Thursday in the Godkhali area, police said. The victims are a woman and her two children -- a 20-year-old daughter and an 8-year-old son.

According to Jashore General Hospital's Medical Officer Dr Zubair Ahmed, the boy sustained burns on his legs and other parts of his body. His condition is critical.

His mother and sister also suffered burn injuries and are being kept under close observation, he added.

A additional Superintendent of Police Noor-e-Alam Siddique said an investigation has been launched.

The father of the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Gaza's hospital 'one massive trauma ward'

Says WHO after influx of patients injured at food distribution sites; Israeli strikes kill 41 Palestinians

AGENCIES

Nasser hospital in Gaza is operating as "one massive trauma ward" due to an influx of patients injured at non-United Nations food distribution sites, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday.

"They've seen already for weeks, daily injuries ... and (the) majority coming from the so-called safe non-UN food distribution sites. The hospital is now operating as one massive trauma ward," Rik Peepers told reporters in Geneva.

On the ground in Gaza, intensified Israeli strikes killed at least 41 people, reports Al Jazeera online.

Civil defence official Mohammad al-Mughayir said that seven people, including a child, were killed in an Israeli air strike on displaced people's tents near the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis.

Mughayir said eight more people were killed in two other strikes on tent encampments on

- Hamas holds consultations on ceasefire proposal
- Trump expects Hamas decision in 24 hours
- US president had spoken to KSA about expanding Abraham Accords

the coast of Khan Yunis, including one that killed two children early yesterday.

Israel's leaders have held firm to their aim of crushing Hamas, even as the Palestinian group said it was holding consultations with other Palestinian movements on the truce proposal.

The statement came ahead of a visit on Monday by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Washington, where President

Donald Trump is pushing for an end to the war.

Trump said yesterday it would probably be known in 24 hours whether the Hamas has agreed to accept what he has called a "final proposal" for the ceasefire in Gaza.

The president also said he had spoken to Saudi Arabia about expanding the Abraham Accords, the deal on normalisation of ties that his administration negotiated between Israel and some Gulf countries during his first term, reports Reuters.

"I want the people of Gaza to be safe more importantly," Trump told reporters when asked if he still wanted the US to take over the Palestinian territory as he announced in February. "I want to see safety for the people of Gaza. They've gone through hell."

Two previous ceasefires mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States have seen a temporary halt in fighting, coupled with the return of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Govt denies rights abuse in arrest of Rupa, Shakil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government said the arrest of journalist couple Farzana Rupa and Shakil Ahmed did not violate provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

In a formal reply on July 2 to a joint communication dated March 7, 2025, from the UN Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression, judicial independence, and arbitrary detention, the government reiterated its commitment to respecting every individual's right to liberty and security under the ICCPR.

The reply noted that the couple were not imprisoned for their journalistic work against the incumbent government.

"They are imprisoned for their actions committed under the previous regime after being sued by individuals, not the government," said the response.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Roman bigfoot? UK archaeologists probe 'unusually large' shoes

AFP, London

A stash of "unusually large" 2,000-year-old shoes dug up at a Roman site in northern England has left archaeologists searching for an explanation, they told AFP on Thursday.

The 30cm+ (11.8in) long shoes -- equivalent to size 49 in Europe and size 15 in the US -- have been found by archaeologists from the Vindolanda Charity Trust in recent months.

The trust was established in 1970 to excavate, conserve, and share Roman remains at Vindolanda and Carvoran, both part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site in northern England.

The eight large shoes were discovered in a defensive ditch, often used by Romans as a rubbish dump, at the Magna Roman Fort in Northumberland.

Only a tiny fraction of shoes in Vindolanda's vast existing collection are of a similar size, whereas around a quarter of those from the Magna site are in this size range, according to Rachel Frame, a senior archaeologist on the project.

She called it "really unusual". "We're all now off trying to work out who might have been here," Frame told AFP.

She added they were eager to know "which regiments would have been stationed in Magda" and why exactly there are "so many large shoes at this site compared to others".

Russia hits Kyiv with largest drone attack

23 hurt; Polish embassy among damaged buildings; Trump-Putin call yields no results

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia pummeled Kyiv with the largest drone attack of the war, injuring at least 23 people and damaging buildings across the capital only hours after US President Donald Trump spoke with Russia's Vladimir Putin, officials said yesterday.

Air raid sirens, the whine of kamikaze drones and booming detonations reverberated from early evening until dawn as Russia launched what Ukraine's Air Force said was a total of 539 drones and 11 missiles.

Residents huddled with families in underground metro stations for shelter. Acrid smoke hung over the city centre.

Trump said that the call with Putin on Thursday evening resulted in no progress at all on efforts to end the war, while the Kremlin reiterated that Moscow would keep pushing to solve the conflict's "root causes".

President Volodymyr Zelensky, who also spoke to Trump later yesterday, called the attack "deliberately massive and cynical."

During their talks, Trump and Zelensky discussed escalating Russian strikes on Ukraine and supply of air defence systems, Axios reports.

Kyiv officials said the Russian attack damaged about 40 apartment blocks, passenger railway infrastructure, five schools and kindergartens, cafes and many cars in six of Kyiv's 10 districts. Poland said the consular section of its embassy was damaged in central Kyiv, adding that staff were unharmed.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



As dengue cases continue to surge, the dedicated ward at Mugda Medical College and Hospital almost reached full capacity yesterday. Hospital staff were trying their best to tend to the growing number of patients. Story on Page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS