



## UN declares famine in Gaza, blames Israel

### Netanyahu calls report 'outright lie' as world condemns man-made mass starvation of Palestinians

#### AGENCIES

The United Nations officially declared a famine in Gaza yesterday, blaming "systematic obstruction" of aid by Israel during more than 22 months of war, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu swiftly dismissing the findings.

Netanyahu, whose defence minister meanwhile threatened to expand the offensive, rejected the UN-backed report as "an outright lie".

Hamas urged the United Nations and UN Security Council to "stop the war and lift the siege", calling for unrestricted access for food, medicine, water and fuel.

The Rome-based Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Initiative (IPC) said famine was affecting 500,000 people in the Gaza governorate, which covers about a fifth of the Palestinian territory, including Gaza City.

Israel has pressed ahead with plans to seize Gaza City despite an international outcry, saying that taking the territory's largest city is key to defeating Hamas.

The IPC projected that the famine would expand to Deir el-Balah and Khan Yunis governorates by the end of September, covering around two-thirds of Gaza.

With the vast majority of the territory's population displaced at least once, the UN said nearly a million people currently live in the Gaza governorate.

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IPC warns avoidable deaths will soar if no actions is taken now

UN rights chief says starving Gaza 'is a war crime'

UK slams famine as a 'moral outrage'

Hamas demands opening of Gaza crossings

Israel vows to destroy Gaza City if Hamas doesn't disarm, free hostages

At least 46 more people killed in Gaza



Palestinians jostle for food in front of a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, amid widespread hunger and devastation in the tiny Palestinian enclave.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## DUCSU POLLS Candidates start reaching out to voters

MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Ahead of the central students' union and hall union elections on September 9, informal campaigns have begun at Dhaka University.

The candidates have been meeting voters. They have taken to social media to introduce themselves and share their various ideas for the betterment of students and the campus atmosphere.

After Juma prayers, candidates from different panels were seen greeting students. They were seeking blessings from the voters.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's top three nominees offered their prayers in the mosques of three halls -

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## Healthcare reform begins, service yet to improve

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Over the past year, the health administration initiated a series of reforms to improve medical care but struggled to implement them, leaving little impact on the delivery of health services, say health experts.

It moved to grant long-overdue promotions to around 7,000 doctors and appoint 3,000 new ones to address the manpower crisis. However, political influence remains a key factor in the selection of candidates for top positions

in health agencies, medical institutions and facilities, experts point out.

Though the health ministry pledged to prioritise treatment of those injured during the July uprising, lapses in medical care for them triggered protests on several occasions.

Experts attribute the sector's poor state to the delay in launching reforms, apathy of ministry officials, commotion among health workers, and the sudden suspension of USAID funding early this year.

The ministry also drew

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## No let-up in violent crimes

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

The only fault of Rabbi, a resident of the capital's Jafraabad area, was that he questioned two unknown young men loitering near his home late at night on May 15.

A little later, a group of 10 to 12 men armed with sharp weapons stormed his house and attacked seven members of his family before fleeing, leaving a trail of blood and panic in the neighbourhood.

Two months on, the scars remain. Two of the victims are still fighting for life in the intensive care unit, while the rest continue to live with physical, emotional, and financial trauma.

In recent months, a string of brutal crimes like this across the capital and beyond, many caught on camera

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Hawkers move their shops on three-wheelers between two sets of rail lines for the train to pass at Jurain Level Crossing. After the train passes they move back on the rail lines. The photo of this blatant disregard for their safety and that of their customers was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Mob ties teens to bridge, beats one dead

### Two boys hospitalised, 2 suspects held



This is an image generated by AI from a photo of the teens being beaten up. The Daily Star is not publishing the actual photo due to its violent nature and the victims being underage.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 15-year-old boy was beaten to death and two others were injured in an attack carried out by a mob of seven or eight people in Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila early yesterday.

Deceased Md Rihan Uddin Mahin was the son of grocer Lokman of Chenga area. The injured two, aged around 15, were admitted to hospital.

Locals said Mahin used to help his father at their shop.

The mob attacked around 3:30am near Chengar Bridge when the

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## Youth found dead in Chakaria police custody; locals stage protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A man's body was found hanging inside the holding cell of Chakaria Police Station in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

Police claimed that Durjoy Chowdhury, 27, of Chakaria municipality died by suicide.



Durjoy

The claim was met with disbelief by several hundred locals and Durjoy's family members, who staged protests and surrounded the police station yesterday evening, demanding justice. They later demonstrated in front of the Upazila Land Office.

Durjoy worked as an office assistant/computer operator at Chakaria Government High School.

His father, Komol Chowdhury, said acting headteacher Rabeya Khanam handed his son over to police on Thursday accusing him of forging cheques and misappropriation of funds.

He said before being handed over to police, Durjoy was called into work and confined to a room until 5:00pm on Thursday.

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