



Tarique slams new Israeli annexation in West Bank

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday voiced deep concern over Israel's latest plans to expand illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

In a statement on his verified Facebook page, he warned that this move would further erase hopes for a viable Palestinian state and push the region closer to chaos.

"I strongly call upon the international community to condemn and put pressure on the Israeli government for their settlement plans and ask that the International Court of Justice not delay their verdict of a clear genocide in Gaza by the Israeli government while Palestinians suffer even more," the BNP leader said.



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Residents waded through pitch-black, foul-smelling sewage in Mir Hazirbagh of South Jurain, Dhaka. Although the sewerage system collapsed almost four years ago, the south city corporation has yet to take any action. When it rains, commuters suffer the most as contaminated water floods their homes. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

JULY CHARTER BNP ready to sign; Jamaat, NCP hesitant

MD ABBAS

Several political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party and Islami Andolan Bangladesh, have yet to decide on signing the July Charter, saying the document needs a clear legal framework before they can endorse it.

They argue that without such a basis, signing would bring no meaningful outcome.

The BNP and several other parties, however, have agreed to sign.

According to BNP sources, the party held a meeting yesterday evening to finalise the names of representatives to be sent to the National Consensus Commission. As of 9:15pm, the meeting was still underway.

The BNP is likely to nominate Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed for the signing, said the sources.

On Thursday, the commission sent the final version of the charter to political parties, saying it reflected the views of all sides.

It asked each party to submit the names of two representatives by 5:00pm today for signing. The commission will meet experts tomorrow morning before sitting with political parties in the afternoon, and again Monday if needed, to discuss implementation.

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Dengue cases surge, Sept off to alarming start

Experts say intermittent rain, lax mosquito control may fuel outbreak

HELEMUL ALAM

Dengue infections and deaths are once again on the rise, with the first half of September showing a sharp spike, raising questions about the effectiveness of government initiatives to tackle the menace.

In just 12 days into September, 23 deaths and more than 5,451 hospitalisations have been reported, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

If the trend continues, September is set to surpass the peak months of July and August.

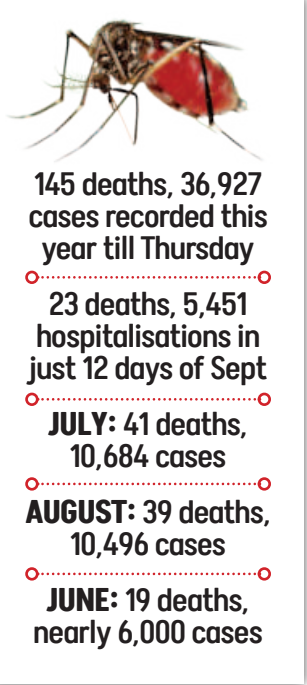
August saw 39 deaths and 10,496 cases over the entire month, while July recorded 41 deaths and 10,684 cases.

In June, there were 19 deaths and nearly 6,000 cases, with significantly lower numbers reported between January and May.

The total number of deaths this year up to Thursday was 145, while cases stood at 36,927, DGHS data shows.

Experts say the recent spell of intermittent rain and the lack of sustained, nationwide efforts to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes – the carriers of dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus – have created ideal conditions for the disease.

"We urgently need intensified mosquito-control efforts in hotspots," said entomologist GM Saifur Rahman. "This includes locating breeding



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AGENCIES

Israeli strikes killed at least 50 Palestinians, including 14 from a family, in the Gaza Strip yesterday, local health authorities said, most of them in Gaza City, where many residents are staying put despite Israeli evacuation orders because they have nowhere safe to go.

Israel has stated its intention to take full control of the ruined city, where about a million people are sheltering, as part of its plan to wipe out Hamas, and has been intensifying its attacks.

"The explosions never stopped since yesterday," said father-of-two Adel, 60, who lives in Gaza City close to Beach refugee camp. He did not wish to give his full name for safety reasons.

"Many families left their homes, and that is what the occupation wants," he told Reuters via a chat app. "By these bombardments they are telling people 'You either leave your area or die there.'"

The army said it had completed five waves of air strikes on Gaza City this week, targeting more than 500 sites, and that it had destroyed reconnaissance and sniper sites, buildings containing tunnel openings and weapons depots.

In a statement, it said it would "continue to intensify the pace of strikes in a focused manner, based on precise intelligence, with the aim of hitting Hamas' infrastructure".

Palestinian health authorities said

several deadly strikes had hit targets in the south of the territory, where some of those fleeing the bombardment of Gaza City have been heading.

Amjad Al-Shawa, head of the Palestinian NGOs Network, which liaises with the UN and international aid groups, told Reuters an estimated 10 percent of people in Gaza City had

according to local health authorities, caused a hunger crisis and wider humanitarian disaster, and reduced much of the enclave to rubble.

The territory's health ministry has said at least 411 people, including 142 children, have died of malnutrition and starvation in the enclave.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council has condemned Israel's attack on Hamas leaders in Qatar's capital, Doha.

The United Arab Emirates summoned the Israeli ambassador yesterday over Israel's attack on Hamas leaders in Qatar, in another sign of strain between the two countries with close economic and defence ties.

The Doha attack was especially sensitive because Qatar has been hosting and mediating negotiations aimed at securing a ceasefire in the Gaza offensive. Doha will host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit this Sunday and Monday to discuss the Israeli attack.

The UN General Assembly was set to vote yesterday on whether to back the "New York Declaration," a resolution -- presented by France and Saudi Arabia -- which seeks to breathe new life into the two-state solution between Israel and Palestine -- without the involvement of Hamas.

At the UNSC meeting on Thursday, the council condemned strikes on Qatar earlier this week and called for de-escalation, without naming Israel, which carried out the attack

- » UAE summons Israeli envoy over attack in Qatar
- » UNGA to vote on a Hamas-free Palestine state
- » Doha hosts emergency Arab-Islamic summit tomorrow

left since Israel announced its plan to take control a month ago.

The UN and many foreign governments, including those of countries traditionally allied with Israel, have condemned the Gaza City evacuation order, called for a ceasefire, and sharply criticised conditions in the humanitarian zone.

Israel's military assault on Gaza has killed 64,756 people, mostly civilians,

Kirk shooting suspect in custody Says Trump

REUTERS, Orem

A suspect in the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a Utah university has been taken into custody, US President Donald Trump said yesterday, ending an intense manhunt that followed what Trump described as a "heinous assassination."

Kirk's killer has eluded police and federal agents for more than 24 hours after Wednesday's shooting, in which a sniper fired a single gunshot that killed Kirk, 31, during an appearance at Utah Valley University in Orem.

"I think we have him," Trump told Fox News in an interview, adding that a person who knows the suspect had turned him in. "I think with a high degree of certainty we have him in custody."

Trump did not share the suspect's identity. Previously, US investigators said they had found the bolt-action rifle believed to have been used to kill Kirk and released images of a person of interest.

The FBI had circulated grainy images apparently taken from security cameras showing a person wearing a black top, black sunglasses and a dark baseball cap. The long-sleeved top appears to have been emblazoned with an image of a bald eagle flying across a US flag.

Kirk, an author, podcast host and close ally of Trump, helped build the Republican Party's support among younger voters.

Bay near Teknaf turns risky for fishermen

88 abducted by Arakan Army since August first week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Frequent abductions of fishermen by Myanmar's Arakan Army have turned some areas of the Bay of Bengal, particularly off Teknaf upazila and St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar, into unsafe waters for Bangladeshi fishing communities.

So far, nearly 88 fishermen have been taken away by the Arakan Army since the first week of August, according to local associations and administration.

Families of the victims are concerned about their loved ones' fate.

In the latest, the rebel group kidnapped 40 fishermen from five trawlers on Wednesday afternoon.

Sajid Ahmed, president of Teknaf's Kaukhali Trawler Owners' Association, said two of the abducted trawlers were owned by members of his association, carrying 13 fishermen. The group has taken away thirty-three people from five trawlers since August 10, he added.

The families of the victims have urged trawler owners to take action to ensure the safe return of their loved ones. "Owners are coming to us, but apart from informing the authorities, we cannot take further steps," Sajid said.

Faizul Islam, acting chairman of St Martin's Union

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Nepali soldiers take positions to disperse protesters in front of the President House during a curfew imposed to restore law and order in Kathmandu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BRAZIL COUP PLOT Bolsonaro given 27-year jail term

Trump says he is surprised, unhappy

REUTERS, Brasilia

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was sentenced on Thursday to 27 years and three months in prison hours after being convicted of plotting a coup to remain in power after losing the 2022 election, dealing a powerful rebuke to one of the world's most prominent far-right populist leaders.

It may further enrage Bolsonaro's close ally US President Donald Trump, who had called the case a "witch hunt" and in retaliation hit Brazil with tariff hikes, sanctions against the presiding judge, and the revocation of visas for most of the high court justices.

Asked about the conviction on



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