



A man carries the body of a child killed by Israeli bombardment on al-Bureij, outside al-Awda Hospital in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## What does recognising a Palestinian state mean?

AGENCIES

With Britain, Australia, and Canada's recognition, the prospect of a Palestinian state received a symbolic boost.

And, later this week, if United Nations member states vote in favour of Palestinians, it will be seen as a diplomatic and political milestone that could increase international pressure on Israel.

Palestine currently holds the status of a "non-member observer state" at the UN, a designation granted in 2012. Recognition by the UN General Assembly could build momentum for Palestine to seek full

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## Britain, Australia, Canada recognise Palestinian state

Strongly back two-state solution amid Gaza carnage

AGENCIES

Britain, Australia and Canada yesterday recognised a Palestinian state in a coordinated, historic shift in decades of Western foreign policy, triggering swift anger from Israel.

Portugal was also set to recognise Palestinian statehood later yesterday, with other countries, including France, due to follow suit today at the annual UN General Assembly opening in New York.

Israel has come under huge international pressure over its war in Gaza, which has sparked a dire humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territory.

Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu denounced the

Netanyahu says move endangers Israel's existence

Israeli ministers advocate for annexing West Bank

More Western nations set to follow suit

statehood moves and vowed, "It will not happen. No Palestinian state will be established west of the Jordan River."

He slammed the move as "absurd" and said it would "endanger" Israel's existence, later vowing to expand Jewish

settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Netanyahu spoke after UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Britain was formally recognising the State of Palestine "to revive the hope of peace for the Palestinians and Israelis, and a two-state solution".

The UK and Canada became the first members of the Group of Seven advanced economies to take the step, with Australia following suit.

Three-quarters of UN members now recognise Palestinian statehood, with at least 144 of the 193 member countries having taken the step, according to an AFP tally.

Canada "offers our partnership in building the promise of a

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## Dengue infection rate 81% higher than last year

Country logs record single-day deaths, cases this year

HELEMUL ALAM and TUNIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The country has seen a sharp year-on-year surge in dengue, with cases up 81 percent and deaths 43 percent, raising concern over the worsening outbreak.

Unlike previous years, most cases have been reported from outside the capital.

Amid the escalating crisis, the health directorate yesterday logged the highest single-day death toll and cases this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 12 dengue deaths were reported yesterday. Nine occurred between 8:00am Saturday and 8:00am Sunday, while three more from the preceding 24 hours were added as they had not been included in the earlier tally.

Yesterday, 740 new cases were recorded.

Previously, the highest single-day death toll was six, and daily infections had not crossed 700.

In September alone, 57 people died – the highest of any month this year. The death tolls in August and July were 39 and 41.

The death toll was 39 in August and 41 in July.

179 dead, 41,831 infected so far this year

Barishal bears heaviest caseload (12,170)

Barguna tops districts with 6,631 cases, 11 deaths

DSCC sees 85 deaths, 6,456 infections

Secondary infections, delayed admission driving fatalities



Since January, 179 people have died from dengue, 43 percent more than last year. Meanwhile, 41,831 cases have been recorded, an 81 percent year-on-year increase.

By September 21 last year, dengue had claimed 125 lives and infected 23,108 people, DGHS data show.

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## Bangladesh still locked out of key labour markets

MD ABBAS

Labour migration from Bangladesh to some major overseas markets has remained stalled for years, leaving tens of thousands of aspiring migrant workers stranded.

Countries including the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Oman and Bahrain have either shut or heavily restricted entry for Bangladeshi workers, with no clear timeline for reopening.

Despite repeated assurances and high-level engagements, including during the past 14 months of the interim government, Bangladesh has made little headway in having those markets reopened.

Experts and industry insiders say fraud in the migration process, over recruitment, commission for visa, and syndicate control have crippled the system.

They have warned that unless urgent measures are taken, Bangladesh may lose its foothold in the global labour market to competitors like the Philippines and Nepal and put steady remittance inflow into uncertainty.

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## 87% support election in February

Survey of 10,413 voters finds 56% unaware of PR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 94 percent of respondents in a survey said they are interested in casting votes if the 13th national election is held next year.

About 87 percent supported holding the election in February while nearly 70 percent expressed confidence that the interim government could conduct a fair election.

However, around 56 percent said they have no idea about the proportional representation (PR) system in parliament's upper house, found the survey

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Smoke rises from burning objects as demonstrators shout towards police officers during a protest denouncing what they say is massive corruption linked to flood control projects in Manila, Philippines, yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Try AL for crimes against humanity

Nahid says after ICT hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday demanded that the Awami League be put on trial for crimes against humanity.

He said the International Crimes Tribunal has the scope to try the party.

Nahid was speaking to reporters after his cross-examination at ICT-1 in a case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun.

"In this case, Sheikh Hasina is an individual accused. But this is not merely an organised crime by an individual – it is a political crime. The Awami League as a party should be brought under trial. The tribunal has that scope, and we will apply for it," he said.

Nahid, a key coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, argued that Hasina, as party leader, acted against her own people to secure absolute power, and the people ultimately resisted and overthrew her. "This is an organised crime of the Awami League. The party should be tried without delay."

Responding to a query, the NCP leader, who is the 47th prosecution witness in the case, said if the AL could be brought to justice and banned, then all those who were its "fascist accomplices" could also be brought to justice.

He added that his abduction and torture were not just attacks on him personally but on the movement and the nation. "This crime was against the people. That is why I extended my support to the tribunal and testified."

He also called for swift trials in cases of enforced disappearances as well.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam, briefing journalists later, said evidence presented in court already implicates the AL, its associate bodies, and the 14-party alliance.

"The law allows such scopes. If direct complaints are filed, it becomes easier for the investigation agency to proceed. But even without that, existing evidence shows the involvement of groups like Jubo League, Chhatra League, Swachhchasebak League,

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, **Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi)**, the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members

