



## ‘Kneel and fire below the waist’

Ex-DMP chief ordered during July uprising, says witness at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During the July uprising, then Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Habibur Rahman instructed police to open fire with “maximum force” to bring the situation under control, a prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 (ICT-1) yesterday.

Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Kamrul Hasan, who was serving as a wireless operator at the DMP’s Crime Command and Control Centre at that time, testified that he relayed the commissioner’s message to all DMP units.

The directive, issued via a wireless message on July 17, 2024, was played in the tribunal yesterday.

Kamrul was testifying in a case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two of her top aides.

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A Palestinian father mourns as he holds the body of his 3-year-old son, killed in Israeli strikes on houses at Shati (Beach) refugee camp in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Yunus seeks WTO support for smooth LDC graduation

Says country ready for Feb polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the World Trade Organization (WTO) to provide full support to ensure a smooth transition for Bangladesh as it prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status.

He raised the issue during a meeting with WTO Director-General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

He requested the director-general’s involvement in the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to achieve a meaningful outcome that would assist countries on the path to LDC graduation, ensuring they are not adversely affected by the potential withdrawal of trade concessions or preferential trade access in developed markets.

The director-general assured him of her full support.

Bangladesh is expected to graduate from LDC status in late 2026.

Their discussion also touched on long-anticipated WTO reforms and current global trade challenges, amid growing concerns over protectionism and a possible retreat from globalisation.



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## ‘Recognition won’t stop the killings’

As world celebrates symbolic moves, exhausted Gazans seek an end to war

AGENCIES

Israel’s military pushed deeper towards the most populated areas of Gaza City yesterday, a stark reminder for Gazans that Western powers’ recognition of a Palestinian state does not mean an end to the horrors of war as tanks approach.

Israel pressed on with its Gaza offensive a day after dozens of world leaders gathered at the United Nations to embrace a Palestinian state. Israel says the moves will undermine the prospects of a peaceful ending to the war in the Palestinian enclave, much of it devastated by Israeli airstrikes and a humanitarian crisis, including widespread hunger.

Local health authorities said Israeli fire on Tuesday killed at least 29 people across the Gaza Strip, 18 of them in Gaza City, and the Gaza health ministry said hospitals in the enclave would run out of fuel in the coming few days, endangering lives.

“We are not steadfast, we are helpless. We don’t have money to leave to the south and we don’t have guarantees that if we do, the Israelis will not bomb us, so we are staying,” Huda, a mother of two from Gaza City, told Reuters via a chat app.

“The children tremble all the time from the sounds of explosions, we do too, they are wiping out a city that is thousands of years old, and the world is celebrating a symbolic recognition of a state that won’t stop our killing.”

On Monday, France, Luxembourg, Malta, Belgium and Monaco joined the more than three-quarters of the 193 UN members who already recognise a Palestinian state. On Sunday, Britain, Australia and Canada recognised a Palestinian state.

- Trump to meet officials from Muslim-majority countries
- At least 29 people killed across Gaza as explosions destroy homes, roads
- Luxembourg, Malta, Belgium and Monaco recognise Palestinian state

## Trump mocks UN at UN

Accuses the world body of ‘funding an assault’ on West through migrations, calls on countries to close borders, expel foreigners

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump relentlessly mocked the United Nations yesterday in his first address since his White House comeback, blasting it for failing to bring peace and claiming the world body encourages illegal migration.

In his return to the UN General Assembly podium, Trump accused the UN of fostering an “assault” through migration on Western countries that he said were “going to hell.”

He likewise used the major forum to denounce efforts to reduce global warming, calling climate change concerns “the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world.”

“What is the purpose of the United Nations?” asked Trump.

“The UN has such tremendous potential, but it’s not even coming close to living up to that potential,” he said. “All they seem to do is write a really strongly-worded letter and then never follow that letter up. It’s empty words, and empty words don’t solve war. The only thing that solves war and wars is action.”

Speaking on the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Trump called for countries to close their borders and expel foreigners, accused the UN of leading a “globalist migration agenda.”

“It’s time to end the failed experiment of open borders,” he said to world leaders and visiting delegations



- Trump says UN failing to bring peace
- Says Palestinian state recognitions ‘reward’ for ‘horrible atrocities’
- Calls climate change ‘greatest con job ever’
- Demands Europe stop buying Russian oil, slams India and China

in the grand general assembly hall in midtown Manhattan. “You have to end it now... Your countries are going to hell.”

Directly addressing European leaders, he accused them of “destroying your heritage” and of

allowing international migration because of misplaced “political correctness”.

“Your countries are being ruined,” he also said, pointing to UN programs that he said provide food, shelter and debit cards to fund migrant journeys to the United States. “The UN is funding an assault on Western countries”.

The 79-year-old even complained about a broken escalator and teleprompter at the New York headquarters of the UN, which he has repeatedly targeted during both of his presidential terms.

“This is these are the two things I got from the United Nations, a bad escalator and a bad teleprompter,” he said.

Touting what he said were his efforts to end seven wars, Trump turned to two where his outreach has produced no results -- Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Israel’s war in Gaza.

He called recognition by a slate of Washington’s allies of a Palestinian state a “reward” to Hamas for “horrible atrocities” and urged the group to release hostages to reach peace.

Trump lashed out at European allies, as well as China and India, for failing to stop oil purchases from Russia, while remaining relatively restrained on Moscow even as he said Washington was ready to impose unspecified sanctions.

## NCP will not get Shapla symbol: EC

Sarjis slams decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday announced that the National Citizen Party will not be allocated the “Shapla” (water lily) symbol, as it is not included in the EC’s reserved symbol list.

Hours after the announcement, Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (northern region) of NCP, protested the decision and said, “We too shall see how the election is held and who dreams of coming to power.”

In a Facebook post, Sarjis said the EC secretary’s claim that “Shapla” is not on the list of electoral symbols indicated that there was “no legal barrier” to allocating the symbol to the NCP.

Earlier, speaking to reporters at the commission’s headquarters, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said NCP must now submit an alternative proposal, and a final decision would be made through mutual agreement.

The EC also announced that it plans to begin dialogues with various election stakeholders, including civil society, political parties, women representatives, and election experts from September 28.

“The first phase of the discussions will begin with academics from September 28. The aim is to understand their views on the upcoming national elections,” he said.



## Iconic umpire Bird dies at 92

AFP, London

Former Test umpire Harold “Dickie” Bird, one of the most famous officials of his era, has died at the age of 92, Yorkshire County Cricket Club announced on Tuesday.

Bird stood in 66 Tests between 1973 and 1996 as well as 69 men’s ODI, including three World Cup finals.

His home county, Yorkshire, issued a statement saying Bird, “one of cricket’s most beloved figures”, had died peacefully at home.

“Dickie Bird enjoyed an illustrious career as an international umpire, writing his name into history as the most famous and popular official in the game’s history,” the club said.

Yorkshire said he had become a

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## A lie that cost a life

How false info from Tongi depot owner led to firefighter’s death

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and KEERO ADHMAN AHMED

A routine firefighting mission in Tongi’s Sahara Market took a deadly turn, all because of false information.

What began as a seemingly manageable blaze at a chemical warehouse on Monday ended in tragedy, with a devastating explosion that killed firefighter Shamim Ahmed, 40, and left two others fighting for their lives with critical injuries.

Minutes after receiving information about the fire, Station Officer Shahin Alam of Tongi Fire Station rushed to the scene with 15 firefighters around 3:00pm to handle the situation.

Following protocol, Shahin asked about the contents of the warehouse to determine the best approach for tackling the fire.

One of the warehouse owners, Solaiman, assured the firefighters that there was nothing hazardous inside, said police and firefighters.

Being assured that there were no highly flammable or explosive materials, the firefighters moved closer to assess the situation, ready to tackle the blaze with standard firefighting methods.

Then, without warning, disaster struck.



Shamim Ahmed

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Mohammad Nawaz and Hussain Talat embrace after guiding Pakistan to a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Chasing 134, Pakistan briefly stumbled, but Nawaz (38\*) and Talat (32\*) steadied the innings to secure victory with 12 balls to spare. The much-needed win followed a six-wicket loss to India last Sunday, while Sri Lanka now face the risk of elimination after two consecutive defeats.

PHOTO: AFP