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Accused dies in hospital after remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A 26-year-old accused died while undergoing treatment at Bagerhat District Hospital yesterday after being remanded at a police station.

The deceased is Mozaffar from Bhaga village in Rampal upazila.

Police said locals caught Mozaffar along with three others on September 18 for allegedly stealing wires and transformers in Rakhalgachhi area.

They were later handed over to the police and sent to jail the same day in a theft case. On Thursday, police secured a one day remand for Mozaffar.

While being held at Bagerhat Sadar Police Station, he suddenly fell ill early yesterday, said Bagerhat Superintendent of Police Md Asaduzzaman. Fellow detainees alerted police, who rushed him to the hospital around 7:30am.

Dr SK Sohelur Rahman of the hospital's emergency department said an ECG showed a severe heart attack. "We advised that he be referred to Khulna, but his heart stopped around 8:00am before the transfer could be made," he said.

The SP said Mozaffar had four theft-related cases against him.



Palestinians children react after an Israeli strike on a house in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Yunus vows labour reforms ahead of polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus reaffirmed his government's commitment to implementing key reforms aligned with International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions before the upcoming national elections in February.

Speaking at a high-level dinner hosted at the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York on Thursday, he underscored the critical role of labour reforms in attracting large-scale foreign direct investment to Bangladesh.

Yunus attended the event as chief guest. Leaders from three political parties – BNP, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party – also spoke, emphasising the importance of the garments industry and expressing support for continued labour sector reform.

The discussion, moderated by Lutfe Siddiqi, special envoy to the chief adviser, included comments from senior officials of the ILO and various UN agencies.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir described the garments industry as a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy. He noted that any future government must prioritise its growth and sustainability, and acknowledged the interim government's efforts to advance labour reforms and ILO commitments.

Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher, naye-e-amir of Jamaat, expressed support for the interim government's

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Faridpur, Cumilla divisions in works Move criticised by public admin officials

BAHARAM KHAN

The government is set to form two new administrative divisions – Faridpur and Cumilla – in line with recommendations from the Public Administration Reform Commission, taking the total to 10.

The development came at a meeting on September 8 of a high-powered committee on administrative reforms headed by Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid. The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the discussions.

▶ Proposed Faridpur division would include Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Shariatpur

▶ Cumilla would comprise Brahmanbaria, Cumilla, Chandpur, Feni, Laxmipur, Noakhali

The proposed Faridpur division would include Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Shariatpur districts, according to the recommendations made by the Public Administration Reform Commission in February.

The proposed Cumilla division would comprise Brahmanbaria, Cumilla, Chandpur, Feni, Laxmipur and Noakhali districts.

The meeting also decided to form two new upazilas in Cumilla and Chattogram: Bangra and Fatikhhari North.

Bangra will be created by splitting Muradnagar upazila of Cumilla, which has 22 unions. The proposed upazila would be formed with 10 unions that fall under Bangra Police Station.

Fatikhhari North will be formed by dividing the existing Fatikhhari upazila in Chattogram.

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'Won't allow Israel to annex West Bank'

Says Trump; Netanyahu denies genocide charge at UN amid walkout, protests

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump vowed to stop Israel from annexing the West Bank as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday vowed in an angry UN address to block a Palestinian state, accusing European leaders of pushing his country into "national suicide" and rewarding Hamas.

Netanyahu, in a defiant speech that was partially broadcast on Israeli military loudspeakers in Gaza, vowed to "finish the job" against Hamas even as Trump said he thought he had sealed a deal on a ceasefire.

Days after France, Britain and other Western powers recognised a state of Palestine, Netanyahu said that they had sent "a very clear message that murdering Jews pays off."

"Israel will not allow you to shove a terrorist state down our throats," Netanyahu said.

"We will not commit national suicide because you don't have the guts to face down the hostile media and antisemitic mobs demanding Israel's blood," he said.

Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas is a rival of Hamas and condemned the attack as well as antisemitism in his own address Thursday, which he delivered virtually after the United States refused him a visa.

Netanyahu – who has opposed a Palestinian state for decades – mocked



▶ Israeli PM says Palestinian state would be 'national suicide' for Israel

▶ PLO says Netanyahu's speech 'saturated with lies'

▶ Trump optimistic about Gaza peace deal

▶ UN identifies 158 firms linked to Israeli settlements

Western support for Abbas and called the Palestinian Authority "corrupt to the core."

But Netanyahu notably did not touch on the issue of annexing the West Bank, which some members of his cabinet have threatened as a way to kill any prospect of a real Palestinian state.

Trump, who has offered crucial support to Netanyahu as Israel comes under mounting global pressure, made clear he would not back annexation.

"I will not allow Israel to annex the West Bank," Trump told reporters at the White House. "No, I will not allow it. It's not going to happen."

Trump voiced optimism about ending nearly two years of devastating war,

echoing the confidence expressed a day earlier on the sidelines of the United Nations by his roving envoy, Steve Witkoff.

"We're getting pretty close to having a deal on Gaza and maybe even peace," said Trump, who also spoke to Netanyahu by telephone on Thursday.

Trump met Tuesday at the United Nations with the leaders of key Arab and Muslim nations who warned him of consequences if Israel moved ahead.

"I think the president of the US understands very well the risks and dangers of annexation in the West Bank," Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told reporters.

With Netanyahu facing an International

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Israel kills at least 47 more in Gaza

AGENCIES

Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip continued yesterday with more than 40 Palestinians killed and dozens injured as rescue teams comb through the debris attempting to save those buried.

At least 47 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since dawn, hospital sources told Al Jazeera. Among the victims were 28 people killed in Gaza City where Israel's army has launched a ground invasion and ramped up its bombardment in an effort to capture and occupy the territory's main urban centre.

As Israeli bombardment continues on Gaza's main urban centre, its military has sent a new warning that it plans to attack more besieged areas.

"Urgent warning to all those who have not yet evacuated the Gaza Port area and the Remal neighbourhood ... and the tents next to it on Amin al-Husseini Street," spokesman Avichay Adraee said in a statement.

"The [army] will attack the building soon due to the presence of Hamas terrorist infrastructure inside or next to it."

Israeli military on Wednesday claimed that more than 700,000 Palestinians have left the Gaza City area. The UN humanitarian agency OCHA reported a lower figure, saying 388,400 people have been displaced from Gaza's north since mid-August, most of them from Gaza City.

Babar summits 8,000m Manaslu peak without oxygen tank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh has scaled new heights in mountaineering as Dr Babar Ali became the first Bangladeshi to summit an 8,000-metre peak without supplemental oxygen yesterday morning.

The seasoned climber reached the top of Mount Manaslu, the world's eighth-highest peak at 8,163 metres, in the Himalayas.

This historic ascent marks Babar's fourth successful 8,000-metre peak, following his climbs of Everest, Lhotse and Annapurna I. Alongside him, fellow Bangladeshi climber Tanvir Ahmed also stood on the summit, achieving the feat on his very first 8,000-metre expedition.

The achievement in Nepal was confirmed by expedition manager Forhan Zaman, president of the mountaineering club Vertical Dreamers, which organised the climb under the banner "Manaslu Ascent: Vertical Duo."

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Staring into the horizon, Shahjahan Mizi stands on the edge of the Meghna river where his home once stood. To escape fast-approaching erosion, his house of 18 years had to be relocated. Hundreds like him have lost their roofs to the river's wrath and now live under the open sky. The photo was taken recently in Majherchar village of Bhola Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

Pak PM appeals for India talks at UN, hails Trump

AFP, United Nations

Pakistan's leader yesterday said he was ready for talks with India and hailed the role of US President Donald Trump, who has been peevish by New Delhi's reticence on his diplomacy.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed the United Nations a day after he met with Trump at the White House alongside Pakistani military chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, who has told the US leader he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for a ceasefire in Pakistan's May conflict with India.

"Pakistan stands ready for a composite, comprehensive and result-oriented dialogue with India on all outstanding issues. South Asia requires proactive rather than provocative leadership," Sharif said in his speech to the UN General Assembly.

Sharif called Trump's leadership "bold and visionary."

Had Trump not intervened in a timely way and "decisively, the consequences of a full-fledged war would have been catastrophic," he said.