



If a war can be stopped in one region [Gaza], then surely other wars can be stopped as well – including the Russian war.

Zelensky, Ukrainian president in phone call with Trump

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ICT CASES

Army takes 15 officers into custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army has taken 15 officers into custody after they were formally charged in three cases at the International Crimes Tribunal over enforced disappearances during the Awami League rule and killings during the July uprising.

Of the 15, one is currently on leave preparatory to retirement (LPR).

Among the serving officers facing arrest warrants, one remains missing.

So far, 25 current and former military officials have been formally charged; of them, nine are retired or suspended, the army said at a press briefing at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Speaking at the presser, Major General Md Hakimuzzaman, adjutant general of the army, said the army issued an attachment order on October 8, instructing the serving and the one on LPR to report to a designated facility at Dhaka Cantonment by October 9.

Of them, 15 were in custody, while the other -- Major General Kabir Ahmed -- has been missing since the morning of October 9.

"He left home that morning saying he was going to consult a lawyer. He did not return, and no one has been able to contact him since," said Hakimuzzaman.

Standard protocols were activated in line with army regulations, he added. "When any serving member goes missing, we declare them AWL (absent without leave) and follow a prescribed appendix listing which departments must be informed and what actions must follow."

He said the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, National Security Intelligence, and Border Guard Bangladesh have been alerted at all ports to prevent anyone named from leaving the country illegally. "Army teams have also been checking homes, relatives' residences, and hospitals for any clue to the missing officer's whereabouts."

Hakimuzzaman said the army law does not apply to the nine retired or

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

- 'We acted even before receiving warrants'
- All serving officers named in charge sheets were ordered to report by Oct 9
- 15 of them complied with the order
- Maj Gen Kabir Ahmed remains absent without leave



PHOTO: REUTERS

Palestinians walk among rubble following Israeli forces' withdrawal from the area as a ceasefire took hold between Israel and Hamas in Gaza yesterday.

Palestinians return to devastated Gaza City

Truce holds; Hamas official says disarmament 'out of the question', second round of talks will be difficult

AFP, Gaza City

Hundreds of thousands of war-weary Palestinians returned to a devastated Gaza City yesterday, with families picking their way through rubble-strewn streets only to find many of their homes in ruins.

On the second day of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the scale of the recovery operation was daunting, even as negotiations and preparations for a prisoner swap continued.

US President Donald Trump is due in the Middle East in the next two days to celebrate the promised release of Israeli hostages -- still held in Gaza two years after Hamas's October 7 attack -- and to promote the next phase of his plan.

But in an early sign that much political wrangling remains, a senior Hamas official told AFP that it was "out of the question" that the Palestinian Islamist movement would disarm,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

NCP weighing its paths to JS

Half of the central leaders favour alliance with BNP

SHAMIMA RITA and ZYMA ISLAM

Nearly half of the NCP's central leaders favour forging an alliance with the BNP ahead of the 13th national election in February.

The other members are considering three options -- an alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami, a broader centrist coalition without the BNP, or just running independently.

At a recent executive committee meeting, half of the party's leaders proposed allying with the BNP and finalising

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Police use a water cannon as officers approach the stage after dispersing the participants of a Jatiya Party rally, organised by blocking the street in front of the party's central office in the capital's Kakrail yesterday afternoon. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

Teacher who accused BNP leader of rape held in a gold smuggling case

ANIS MONDOL, Kusthia

A music teacher who had accused Chuadanga BNP General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif of rape by deception has been arrested and sent to jail in a gold smuggling case.

The district's additional superintendent of police, however, said she has no prior criminal history, and investigators have yet to find any evidence linking her to the smuggling.

The teacher worked as an assistant music instructor at several educational institutions, including a high school, under the Darshana upazila administration.

Rape by deception is when a perpetrator tricks the victim into a sexual act they would not have otherwise consented to. In this case, Sharif allegedly lured the victim with a false promise of marriage.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

LPG remains overlooked despite great potentials

Say speakers at conclave

LPG INDUSTRY


- 27 importers, 5,000 dealers, 45,000 retailers
- Current demand: 1.5 million tonne/year
- Projected demand by 2030: 2.5 million tonne/year
- 80% household users, 12% industries, 8% autogas
- Local production 2%, imports 98%
- \$3b investment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sector has grown on its own and remained largely overlooked for years even though it could serve as an alternative fuel amid the ongoing pipeline gas shortage, speakers said at a policy conclave yesterday.

LPG is the only energy product that grew without any subsidy and it

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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