

## Gaza war is over: Trump

US, Egypt, Qatar, Turkey sign Gaza declaration; Hamas, Israel exchange hostages, prisoners

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday hailed a "tremendous day for the Middle East" as he and regional leaders signed a declaration meant to cement a ceasefire in Gaza, hours after Israel and Hamas exchanged hostages and prisoners.

Trump made a lightning visit to Israel, where he lauded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an address to parliament, before flying to Egypt for a Gaza summit where he and the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkey signed the declaration as guarantors to the Gaza deal.

"This is a tremendous day for the world, it's a tremendous day for the Middle East," Trump said as more than two dozen world leaders sat down to talk in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"The document is going to spell out rules and regulations and lots of other things," Trump said before signing, repeating twice that "it's going to hold up."

As part of Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, Hamas yesterday freed the last 20 surviving hostages it held after two years of captivity in Gaza.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A man greets a freed Palestinian prisoner released by Israel as part of a hostage-prisoner swap and a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

- Israel says all 20 surviving Gaza hostages back home
- World leaders welcome positive developments

## 50% women don't know where to report abuse

BBS-UNFPA survey on violence against women reveals alarming figures



- ⌚ 3 in every 4 women face intimate partner violence, 28% working women likely to be victims
- ⌚ 62% survivors are married girls aged 15-19
- ⌚ 7% faced violence during pregnancy
- ⌚ Over 50% with disabilities faced non-partner violence

NILIMA JAHAN

Over half of Bangladeshi women do not know where to report incidents of violence, according to a 2024 survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on violence against women.

Only 48.5 percent of the respondents knew where or how to report incidents, with the police being the most recognised authority.

The survey, launched at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, was based on interviews with 27,476 women aged 15 and above nationwide. It is the third national study of its

kind, following earlier rounds in 2011 and 2015.

The findings capture trends over the past decade, showing how violence continues to affect women in every social group, including those in slums, disaster-prone areas, and women with disabilities.

Awareness of specialised support services remains alarmingly low -- only 2.2 percent of women had heard of One-Stop Crisis Centres.

Despite years of awareness campaigns, knowledge of the government's national helpline 109 remains limited. Women who had experienced physical or sexual violence were less aware of the helpline (9.3 percent)

than those who had not (15.7 percent).

Awareness was lowest among divorced, separated, and widowed women -- just 3.3 percent -- exposing a serious information gap among the most vulnerable. Many survivors said they only learned about available support services after years of abuse.

This lack of awareness exists alongside a staggering level of violence.

Three in every four women (76 percent) have experienced some form of intimate partner violence at some point in their lives, and nearly half (49 percent) within the past year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### WORLD STANDARDS DAY

Far from reaching the level needed' Weak enforcement, poor awareness to blame

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN and SUKANTA HALDER

Bangladesh continues to grapple with ensuring the quality and safety of its products, even after setting national standards for more than 4,500 items and making certification mandatory for 315 of them.

Many goods -- from food and construction materials to daily essentials -- still fall short of acceptable standards thanks to weak enforcement, limited lab facilities in rural areas and poor awareness among producers, according to analysts and stakeholders.

Amid this backdrop, Bangladesh is observing the 56th "World Standards Day" today to raise awareness about product and service quality.

To mark the day, the BSTI has announced various programmes, including a seminar at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Although products are labelled BSTI certified, consumer awareness of what that means remains limited, said Eleaf Mridha, managing director of Pran Group, a major manufacturer, processor and exporter of fast-moving consumer goods.

If all relevant bodies, the BSTI, the City Corporation and the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority could coordinate under a unified regulatory framework, it would create a much more efficient system.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

### ICT CASES AGAINST ARMY OFFICERS

## Sub-jail declared in Dhaka cantonment

The accused will be produced before tribunal from there: source

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has designated a building of the Military Engineer Services (MES) in Dhaka Cantonment as a temporary jail.

According to a gazette notification issued by the home ministry on Sunday, MES Building No. 54, located north of Bashar Road, has been declared as a temporary jail under the provisions of the Prisoners Act, 1984.

The declaration, approved by the authorities concerned, took immediate effect, said the notification signed by Md Hafiz al-Asad, deputy secretary of the ministry.

Confirming the development, a senior official of the home ministry told The Daily Star, "The building has been declared a sub-jail to keep the 15 army officers formally charged at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)."

The 15 serving officers were charged in three cases on October 8 -- two over enforced disappearances during the Awami League rule and the other over killings during the July uprising.

Another serving officer, who the army said has been missing, and nine retired ones were also charged along with ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Brig Gen Syed Muhammad Motahar Hussain, inspector general of prisons, said, "The government's declared temporary facility will function as the sub-jail of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj. Upon receiving the ministry order, we have already taken steps to deploy security personnel and make other necessary arrangements."

According to sources with knowledge of the process, the army intends to keep the officers in its custody at the sub-jail and produce them before the tribunal on scheduled hearing dates, after which they will be returned to the sub-jail, with the permission of the ICT.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Only law enforcement agencies can arrest them ... Once a person is officially shown arrested, law enforcers are legally bound to produce them before the court within 24 hours.

Tajul Islam, ICT chief prosecutor

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WORLD STANDARDS DAY  
14 OCTOBER 2025

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