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Two groups clash at NCP meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two groups claiming to be members of the National Citizen Party (NCP) clashed at a coordination meeting in the capital yesterday, reportedly over a financial dispute.

The incident took place around 6:30pm on the third floor of the Shaheed Abu Sayed Convention Centre in Shahbagh, and continued for about 30 minutes.

Party insiders said Riyan, who introduces himself as an NCP leader from Mohammadpur, had taken Tk 2 lakh two months ago from Imtiaz, who claims to head the party's Bangshal unit.

Riyan refused to return the money and the dispute reportedly flared up when the two groups came face to face during yesterday's meeting, leading to heated arguments and a scuffle.

Contacted, Mushfiq Us Salerin, NCP's joint

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A drone view shows tents sheltering displaced Palestinians amid the ruins of destroyed buildings, following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area in Gaza City, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Tarique likely to return by Nov

Says Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman is expected to return to the country by November, said Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed while talking to journalists at his Gulshan residence yesterday afternoon.

When asked if there is any specific date for Tarique's return, he said, "You will know the exact date very soon. We expect he will come back by November."

"Within this month, BNP will give the green signal to single candidates in 200 constituencies so that they can begin election-related preparations."

Speaking about forming an alliance, he said, "Discussions are ongoing with all parties, including the NCP. But it's too early to say anything about forming an alliance. Talks are still underway."

In reply to whether Tarique would contest in the national election, Salahuddin said, "No doubt, the acting chairman will take part in the election, but the constituency will be decided later. He can contest from any seat."

Responding to another question, he said, "Considering her health condition, our leader Khaleda Zia will decide whether to contest or not. We certainly want her to take part in the election."

Asked about BNP's call for the removal of "party-affiliated advisers", Salahuddin said, "We did not directly ask anyone to resign. If anyone wishes to take part in the election, then naturally they should step down from the government."



Dhaka slams 'Israeli claim of sovereignty' over the West Bank

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has strongly condemned the recent approval by the Israeli Knesset of draft laws aimed at imposing "Israeli sovereignty" over the occupied territories in the West Bank of the State of Palestine.

"Bangladesh reaffirms that Israel has no sovereignty over any part of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem," said foreign ministry in a statement yesterday.

It said Israel continued its unlawful occupation through the expansion of illegal settlements in West Bank, in blatant violation of international law, UN Charter, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2334.

The foreign ministry said Dhaka also welcomed the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, issued on October 22, 2025, which underscores Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law.

"Bangladesh reiterates its unwavering support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital."

AGENCIES

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said the United States and others must do more to push Israel to stop violating the Gaza ceasefire agreement, including the possible use of sanctions or halting arms sales.

Nato member Turkey, one of the most vocal critics of Israel's attacks on Gaza, has joined the ceasefire negotiations as a mediator after largely indirect involvement. Its increased role followed a meeting last month between Erdogan and US President Donald Trump at the White House.

"As Turkey, we are doing our utmost for the ceasefire to be secured. The Hamas side is abiding by the ceasefire. In fact, it is openly stating its commitment to this. Israel, meanwhile, is continuing to violate the ceasefire," Erdogan told reporters on his return flight from a regional Gulf tour.

"The international community, namely the United States, must do more to ensure Israel's full compliance to the ceasefire and

agreement," he said, according to a transcript of his comments shared by his office yesterday.

"Israel must be forced to keep its promises via sanctions, halting of arms sales."

• Ankara would join a "task force" to oversee implementation of truce

• Erdogan urges Gulf nations to fund Gaza reconstruction

• UN calls on Israel to open Rafah crossing, increase aid

Ankara has said that it would join a "task force" to oversee the implementation of the ceasefire, that its armed forces could serve in a military or civilian capacity as needed, and that it will play an active role in the reconstruction of the enclave.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

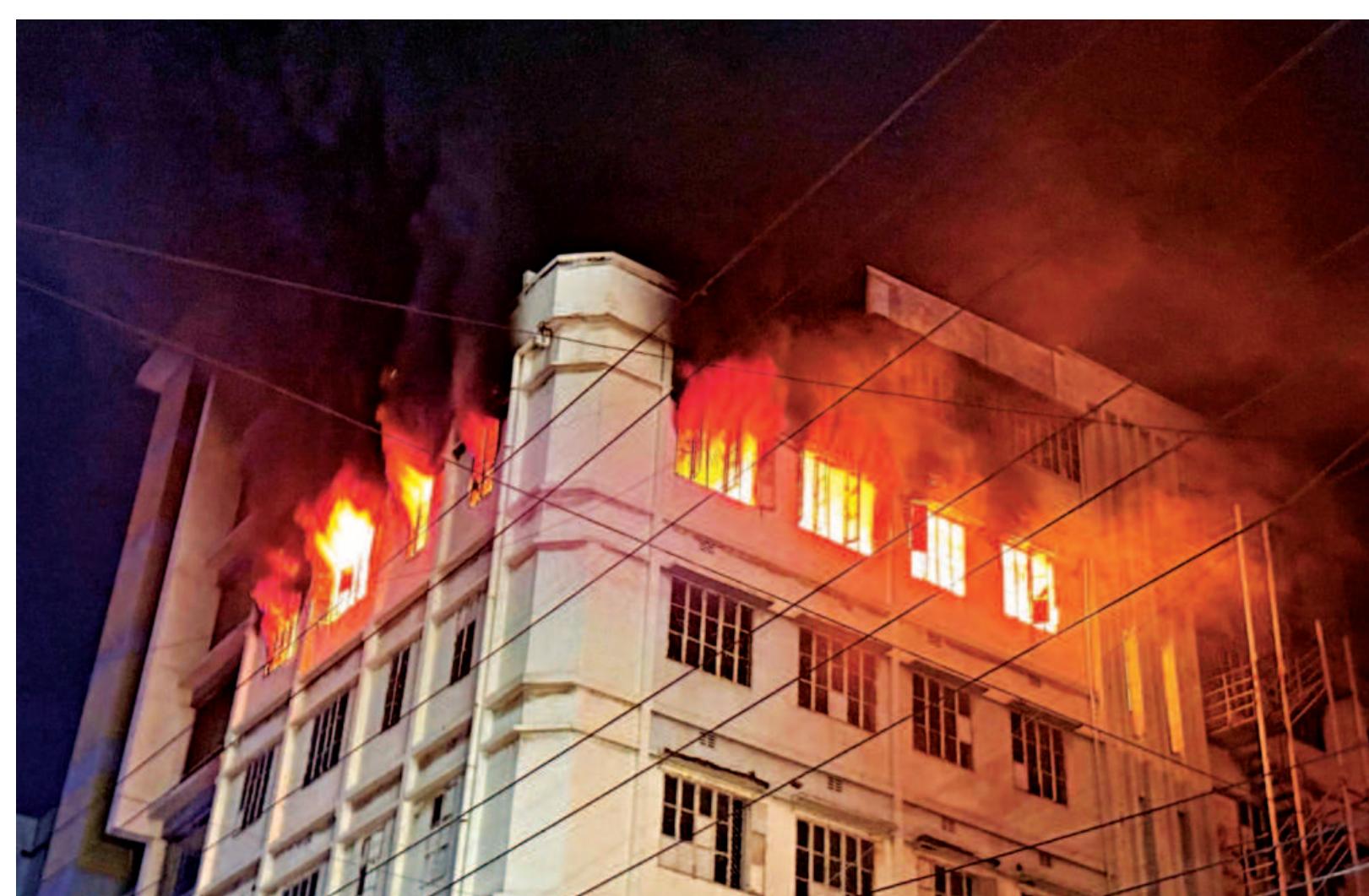
Netanyahu hinted on Wednesday at his opposition to any role for Turkish security forces in the Gaza Strip, reports Reuters.

Asked about Netanyahu's comments, Erdogan refrained from his usual criticism of the Israeli leader and appeared to soften his earlier commitment to taking a role on the field in Gaza, saying talks on the issue were still underway.

He also reiterated a previous call for Gulf countries to now take action on financing efforts to rebuild Gaza, saying nobody could single-handedly complete this task.

Meanwhile, the United Nations wants Israel to allow in "more [aid] trucks at more crossing points" to Gaza, an official said yesterday, as aid levels remain far lower than specified by the ceasefire agreement.

Palestinians in Gaza continue to struggle to find food and clean water despite the ceasefire, and many remain unable to return to their homes due to the presence of Israeli troops, reports Al Jazeera online.



A fire broke out at a readymade garments factory on the top floor of a five-storey commercial building on Kalshi Road in Mirpur-11 around 10:00pm last night. Seven fire engines responded to the scene and brought the blaze under control after two hours. No casualties were reported.

PHOTO: PALASH DAS

A life devoted to progressive politics

Speakers tell memorial event on Badruddin Umar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badruddin Umar was a shining example of intellectual courage – one of the very few academics who made the full transition from academia into politics, said Prof Rehman Sobhan yesterday, paying tribute to the late thinker and political activist.

"Umar, widely recognised for his prolific writings and lifelong commitment to progressive politics, was a rare scholar who combined academic brilliance with lifelong political commitment."

Prof Sobhan was speaking at a memorial event organised by the Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation at Bengal Shilpalay yesterday.

Urging young researchers to study Umar's political journey alongside his writings, Prof Sobhan, said, "Umar spent more than 50 years on the front lines of progressive politics. Studying his journey will help explain how the left movement developed, split into factions, and eventually declined."

Prof Rehman Sobhan

Umar spent more than 50 years on the front lines of progressive politics. Studying his journey will help explain how the left movement developed, split into factions, and eventually declined.

which Sobhan facilitated international publication.

Recalling his last meeting with Umar, Prof Sobhan said Umar, despite ill health, had shown "a great deal of intellectual vigour and a great sense of humour" during their last encounter in April.

Also present at the event, economist Prof Anu Muhammad hailed Umar's unwavering commitment to revolutionary ideals. "Umar never gave up. That was his greatest strength. He kept writing relentlessly, questioning and challenging the dominant explanations of his time."

Prof Anu said, "He believed that without intellectual struggle – without debate, discussion and theoretical work – no revolutionary transformation is possible."

He added, "If we want to review history critically, we must read Badruddin Umar. His writings are deeply rooted in facts and analysis. Even those who disagreed with him had to acknowledge his intellectual rigour."

Delivering opening remarks, Prof Rounaq Jahan, renowned political scientist and president of the trustee board at the Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation, said, "Badruddin Umar was a man of deep humour, conviction, and compassion. His books had great influence on my research and thinking and shaped my intellectual understanding during my doctoral research at Harvard."

"Even today... Umar's writings remain extremely relevant. Anyone wanting to understand the intellectual and cultural development of the 1950s and 60s must read him."

Former Dhaka University professor Meghna Guhathakurta said, "Badruddin Umar created a political space for us, the younger generation, to engage with critical issues. In the late 1980s and 1990s, we worked on women's movements, debating how socialist politics engaged – or often failed to engage – with women's issues. Omar encouraged and nurtured these debates."

Cox's Bazar airport upgrade put on hold

Civil aviation ministry instructs CAAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has asked the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to suspend its activities related to turning the Cox's Bazar domestic airport into an international one.

The ministry made the decision on Thursday, after the government officially declared Cox's Bazar airport an international airport on October 13.

Air Commodore Noor-e-Alam, member of air traffic management at CAAB, told The Daily Star, "On Tuesday [October 21], the CAAB chairman sent a letter to the ministry. We sought guidance on what we should do regarding Cox's Bazar [airport], since we are fully ready."

"Yesterday [Thursday], the Civil Aviation Ministry Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin and Secretary Nasreen Jahan visited the airport. There, I asked them about the matter. The adviser told me to keep it suspended for now, saying an official decision would come on Sunday," he added.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, in its October 13 statement, said, "The decision to declare Cox's Bazar airport an international airport has been suspended until further notice."

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