



## Parties ‘eager for conflict’ ahead of polls

### Says Mahfuj, warns against use of religion for political gain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam yesterday said political parties appear eager for conflict ahead of the upcoming election.

“And you will see it unfold within a few months,” he said at a dialogue titled “Mazar Culture: Violence, Crisis, and Future Thinking” held at BM Bhaban in Dhaka’s Segunbagicha.

He added that the situation in Bangladesh could worsen if a religious dimension is added to it.

The event was organised by Maqam, a research platform focused on the Sufi community, where Mahfuj attended as the chief guest.

The adviser said that while state-level fascism may have ended, traces



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Fishermen prepare their nets and boats at Fishery Ghat in the port city yesterday, ready to sail into the Bay of Bengal as the 22-day fishing ban ends at midnight.

PHOTO: STAR

## Kamaruzzaman, SQ Chowdhury, Mir Quasem framed

### Says Fakhrul, urges all parties to unite, join polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged all political parties to participate in the upcoming polls to help restore the democratic process in Bangladesh.

“I call upon all political parties to join the coming election by putting aside small differences so that together we can bring back democracy in the country and return to the democratic system,” he said while speaking at an event marking the 21st founding anniversary of the Daily Nayadiganta.

Fakhrul said he believes the election will be held on time in February next year.

“We also think that through an acceptable election to all, we will get an opportunity to return to a democratic system.”

The issue of reforms has already been settled as the political parties agreed upon them and signed the July National Charter.

Fakhrul also said that Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Mir Quasem Ali, as



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## Safari park’s last giraffe dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The only giraffe at Gazipur Safari Park has died while undergoing treatment for tuberculosis (TB). The adult female giraffe, brought from South Africa, passed away on Thursday afternoon, but the news was made public yesterday.



Speaking to this newspaper yesterday, Safari Park Officer-in-Charge Tareq Rahman said the giraffe had been ill for the past week.

“After learning about the illness, the park authorities quickly formed a special medical board and started treatment. After running some tests, the board learnt that the giraffe was infected with tuberculosis (TB).”

The giraffe’s body has been sent to the medical board for autopsy, the OC added.

In this connection, Wildlife Inspector Raju Ahmed filed a general diary with Sreepur Police Station on Friday, confirmed Sreepur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Abdul Barik.

In the GD, he mentioned, “An adult female African giraffe died while undergoing treatment at Gazipur Safari Park around 4:00pm on October 23.”

Gazipur Tourist Police Inspector Kamal Hossain said that an investigation report has been prepared into the giraffe’s death, which was to be submitted to the authorities yesterday.

## First Ban-Pak JEC meeting in 20 years tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Pakistan are set to hold the ninth Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting tomorrow, 20 years after the last JEC, as the two countries are gearing up to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation after the July uprising.

Economic Affairs Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed will lead the Bangladesh delegation in the JEC, while Pakistan’s Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik will lead the Pakistan side.

The two countries have been discussing a few memorandums of understanding (MoUs) including on agriculture research, Halal food, IT, shipping etc, according to diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Islamabad.

Those discussions were at the final stage, but it is yet to be confirmed if the MoUs will be signed during the JEC, an official at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) told The Daily Star yesterday.

“When it comes to bilateral trade, it is quite imbalanced, with Pakistan

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## 1.5m in Gaza need emergency assistance

### Says UN as Israel blocks crossings despite ceasefire

AGENCIES

The United Nations said yesterday at least 1.5 million in the Gaza Strip need “emergency assistance”, as Palestinians returning to their homes say they are finding only rubble amid a constant struggle for necessities, including food and water.

Many found neighbourhoods razed to the ground, tangled metal and even dangerous weapons where there used to be residential buildings and homes.

Top US diplomat Marco Rubio voiced hope Friday of soon putting together an international force to police the ceasefire in Gaza, as Palestinian factions agreed that a committee of independent technocrats would run the post-war territory.

The secretary of state visited Israel on the heels of Vice President JD Vance as part of an all-out effort by the United States to persuade both Hamas and Israel to respect the truce.

Rubio said it was critical for the deal to create “the conditions for the stabilisation force to come in as soon as it possibly can be put together”.

He expressed optimism for a durable end to the two-year Gaza war as he met Israeli, US and other Western forces monitoring the ceasefire from inside a vast converted warehouse in southern Israel.

The main Palestinian factions, including Hamas, said Friday they had agreed during a

meeting in Cairo that a temporary Palestinian committee of independent technocrats would take over the running of Gaza.

The committee would “manage the affairs of life and basic services in cooperation with Arab brothers and international institutions”, according to a joint statement published on Hamas’s website.

Meanwhile, Israeli army hindered access of Palestinians to olive trees, reports Al Jazeera online. “Everybody was fleeing because the settlers attacked suddenly, maybe 100 of them,” witness Yasser Alkam told AFP news agency, adding that one Swedish activist also had his arm and leg broken by settlers.

“Fighting back would only bring more violence, sometimes with the army’s backing,” lamented Nael al-Qouq, a Turmus Aya farmer who was prevented from reaching his olive trees that same day.

Near Turmus Aya, in the village of al-Mughayyir, one villager was prevented from harvesting altogether.

According to a poll published by Israel’s Channel 12, 52 percent of respondents believe that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should not run in the next elections.

Of them, 42 percent of respondents said that Netanyahu should run for prime minister again as the leader of his Likud party, while 7 percent said they were unsure about his candidacy, reports Al Jazeera online.

» Rubio seeks quick deployment of int’l Gaza force

» Hamas agrees to a committee for post-war Gaza

## NY MAYOR RACE Mamdani defends his Muslim faith

AGENCIES

New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani gave an emotional speech addressing “racist, baseless attacks” from his opponents, a day before early voting begins in the race he is projected to win.

Speaking outside a mosque in the Bronx on Friday, Mamdani criticised his opponents for bringing “hatred to the forefront”, noting that their Islamophobia not only affects him as the Democratic nominee for mayor but also close to one million Muslims living in New York.

Later in the day, US Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York, a top elected Democrat in the US Congress, endorsed him in the race for mayor of New York City, reports Reuters.

“I deeply respect the will of the primary voters and the young people who have been inspired to participate in the electoral process,” Jeffries said in a statement. “Zohran Mamdani has relentlessly focused on addressing the affordability crisis and explicitly committed to being a mayor for all New Yorkers,” he said.

Outside the mosque in the Bronx, Mamdani said: “To be Muslim in

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Rows of trucks have been parked illegally along this entire stretch of road near the Samakal and Channel 24 offices in Tejgaon, leaving barely any space for traffic. Pedestrian movement is also risky, as pavements have been encroached upon by local businesses. Such irregularities are common on roads across the Tejgaon Industrial Area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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