

5 of a family die in bus-microbus collision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Five members of a family were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a microbus in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The deceased are Farzana Majumdar Liza, 25, wife of Aminul Haque of Batista area in Chaudhogram upazila of Cumilla; Aminul's mother, Rumena Begum, 60; his sister, Sadia Haque, 24; his mother-in-law, Rizwana Islam, 50; and his sister-in-law, Farhana Majumdar, 24.

Aminul, his father, Enamul Haque, and his six-year-old son, Sadman, were injured in the crash.

Officer-in-Charge Mehedi Hasan of Malumghat Highway Police Station said the accident occurred around 9:00am in the Malumghat area on the Cox's Bazar-Chattogram highway when Aminul's family was on their way to Cox's Bazar for a holiday.

A Chattogram-bound bus collided with their microbus, leaving two people dead on the spot and five others injured, he said.

The injured were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared three of them dead, the OC added.

6 jhut depots gutted in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

A fire gutted six warehouses filled with jhut (garment scraps) in the Ambag area of Gazipur city yesterday morning.

The fire broke out around 6:30am at a warehouse located at Barbuchi Mor under ward No. 11 of Konabari Police Station, locals and fire officials said. It soon spread to five adjoining warehouses, triggering panic among residents.

Locals initially tried to bring the blaze under control but failed and later called firefighters.

On information, four firefighting units – two from Konabari Modern Fire Station and two from Chowrasta Fire Station – rushed to the scene and brought the fire under control after about two hours of effort, reports UNB.

Inspector Saiful Islam of Konabari Modern Fire Service said it was not yet clear what caused the fire or the extent of the damage.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Palestinian boys walk past the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

US may seek UN Gaza force for two years

Document shows; Nasser hospital receives 15 Palestinian bodies under ceasefire exchange deal

REUTERS, United Nations

The United States has drafted a United Nations resolution that approves a two-year mandate for a Gaza transitional governance body and an international stabilization force in the Palestinian enclave, according to the text seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

The draft – which is still being developed and could change – was shared with some countries this week, but has not yet been formally circulated to the 15 member Security Council for negotiations, diplomats said. It was not immediately clear when Washington planned to do that.

A State Department spokesperson said discussions with UN Security Council members and other partners on how to implement President Donald Trump's Gaza plan were ongoing and declined to comment on "allegedly leaked documents."

The two-page text would authorise a so-called Board of Peace transitional governance administration to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza that could "use all necessary measures" – code for force – to carry out its mandate.

The ISF would be authorised to

protect civilians and humanitarian aid operations, work to secure border areas with Israel, Egypt and a "newly trained and vetted Palestinian police force, which the ISF will be responsible for training and supporting."

Draft shared with some countries, not yet circulated to Security Council

ISF to demilitarize non-state armed groups in Gaza

Hamas has not yet agreed to disarm or demilitarize Gaza

The ISF would stabilise security in Gaza, "including through the demilitarization of non-state armed groups and the permanent decommissioning of weapons, as necessary."

Meanwhile, Gaza's Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Yunis yesterday said it had received the bodies of 15 Palestinian prisoners under the US-brokered ceasefire exchange deal.

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Meanwhile, Gaza's Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Yunis yesterday said it had received the bodies of 15 Palestinian prisoners under the US-brokered ceasefire exchange deal.

"The tenth batch of the bodies of Palestinian martyrs has arrived at Nasser Medical Complex in the Gaza Strip, numbering 15 martyrs," the hospital said in a statement, noting that 285 bodies were received under the agreement in total.

The next phase of the plan, which the draft UN resolution would endorse, is to establish the Board of Peace and the ISF.

The Trump plan also ends Hamas governance of Gaza and says the enclave would be demilitarized. Hamas has not said whether it will agree to disarm and demilitarize Gaza – something the group has rejected before.

The ISF would deploy under a unified command agreed by the Board of Peace and in close consultation with Egypt and Israel after detailed status of mission and forces agreements have been reached, according to the resolution.

While the Trump administration has ruled out sending US soldiers into the Gaza Strip, it has been speaking to Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, Turkey and Azerbaijan to contribute to the multinational force.

It remains unclear whether Arab and other states will be ready to commit troops to the international force and Israel has repeatedly objected to the deployment of Turkish troops.

'A new era for New York'

FROM PAGE 1
conservative media commentators and Trump himself.

Mamdani wasted no time calling out Trump, formally kicking off the battle that will likely define relations between the 34-year-old mayor and the president whose celebrity is tied to the city.

"Donald Trump, since I know you're watching, I have four words for you: turn the volume up!" Mamdani said during a Tuesday night speech to a raucous crowd of supporters shortly after being declared the victor.

His win, as well as the Democratic Party's victories in the governor's races in Virginia and New Jersey, suggest a shift in the political mood across the United States as it looks to next year's midterm elections, when control of Congress will be up for grabs.

"If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him," Mamdani told supporters. "And if there is any way to terrify a despot, it is by dismantling the very conditions that allowed him to accumulate power. This is not only how we stop Trump, it's how we stop the next one."

Trump has repeatedly turned the massive powers of the presidency on political rivals, and already before the

election had threatened to possibly withhold billions of dollars in federal funding from New York City if Mamdani was elected.

"If you have a communist running New York, all you're doing is wasting the money you're sending there," Trump told CBS' 60 Minutes on Sunday, previewing how Republicans will use Mamdani's embrace of a socialist cause as a line of attack against the Democratic Party.

Mamdani acknowledged his win poses a challenge in implementing what he calls "the most ambitious agenda to tackle the cost of living crisis this city has seen" since the 1940s – including a proposed rental freeze, universal childcare and other government actions targeting the private sector.

But, in the meantime, Mamdani pledged to fight.

"So hear me, President Trump, when I say this: To get to any of us, you will have to go through all of us," Mamdani added.

Yesterday, he said he would take on Trump and fight antisemitism.

In another significant win for Democrats, voters in California also approved a proposition to redraw electoral districts in a bid to neutralise gerrymandering efforts ordered by

Trump in other states.

Trump refused to take any blame for Tuesday's results and tried to make an eleventh-hour intervention in the race, calling Mamdani a "Jew hater."

In a post on his Truth Social network, he also cited anonymous "pollsters" suggesting the Republican defeats were down to the government shutdown and the fact that his own name wasn't on the ballot.

Mamdani, a state lawmaker for New York's Queens borough, appealed to voters by pledging to tackle the soaring cost of living, offering free city bus travel, childcare and city-run grocery stores.

He focused on living costs facing ordinary New Yorkers, building support through his informal personal style, social media savvy and a massive canvassing ground game.

Mamdani was virtually unknown before his upset victory to secure the Democratic nomination over former governor Andrew Cuomo, whom he trounced again on Tuesday.

When the race was called in his favour, excitement was palpable across the city.

It was a "local victory" that offered a means of "resisting and pushing back" against the political establishment in

Washington, Ben Parisi, 40, told AFP, adding that the night stood in stark contrast to Republican Trump's victory a year ago.

Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels citizen crime patrol group, came in third after weeks of Cuomo insisting he bow out to increase his chances.

Turnout was high in this year's vote with 2.06 million ballots, or 98 percent of votes cast, counted by 12:31am yesterday – more than the total number of voters in the 2021 race.

Mamdani's improbable rise highlights the Democratic Party's debate over a centrist or a leftist future, with some leading national figures offering only tepid endorsements of Mamdani ahead of voting.

Syracuse University political science professor Grant Reeher said ahead of the result mayor Mamdani would face an uphill battle.

"Everybody's got their knives out, and it's a very difficult city to govern," he told AFP.

In New Jersey, Democratic Party candidate Mikie Sherrill beat out a Trump-backed businessman and in Virginia, Democratic candidate Abigail Spanberger took back the governor's mansion from the Republicans.

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