



## NOMINATION ROW 23 hurt as BNP factions clash in Boalmari

STAR REPORT

At least 23 people, including three policemen, were injured yesterday in a clash between supporters of two BNP nomination aspirants in Faridpur's Boalmari upazila.

Meanwhile, 15 people were injured on Thursday night in a clash between supporters of BNP and Gono Odhikar Parishad over nominations in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila.

In Faridpur, the nearly two-hour-long violence erupted around 4:00pm near Wapda intersection during a programme marking the November 7 Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Khondakar Nasirul Islam, vice president of Krishak Dal, and Shamsuddin Mia, former joint secretary of Boalmari BNP, are both vying for the party's nomination for Faridpur I, a seat for which the BNP has yet to name a candidate.

According to locals, around 3:00pm, supporters of Shamsuddin and Nasirul -- both armed with sticks -- gathered separately at Wapda Mor

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Palestinians walk past rubble of destroyed buildings amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Onion prices soar by Tk 30 per kg in a week Traders point to supply crunch

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The retail price of onions in Dhaka has jumped by up to Tk 30 per kilogramme in just a week, driven by a sharp drop in supply.

Traders attributed the sudden spike to dwindling imports and the end of the local harvest, warning that prices could climb further if new shipments do not



arrive soon. Some also accused unscrupulous traders of hoarding onions to cash in on the shortage.

They said the market has been heavily reliant on domestic production this year as imports have remained unusually low.

Sajib Sheikh, proprietor of Messrs Matri Bhandar at Karwan Bazar, said supplies had been normal until October but have since shrunk.

"We bring onions from Faridpur and Pabna. Since the beginning of the week, wholesale prices there have been rising, reaching up to Tk 28 per kg," he said.

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## Scientists reveal the first atlas of a developing brain

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Scientists have achieved a significant milestone in an ambitious project to map the intricate development of brain cells from early embryonic stages through to adulthood.

This groundbreaking research, which has produced a preliminary atlas of the developing human and mammalian brain, holds promise for unlocking new approaches to conditions such as autism and schizophrenia.

The initiative primarily focused on human and mouse brain cells, with additional insights drawn from monkey brain tissue.

Researchers meticulously charted how various brain cell types are formed, differentiate, and mature, acquiring their unique functions. Crucially, they also monitored the dynamic activation and deactivation of genes within these cells over time.

Researchers have found more than 5,000 cell types in the mouse brain. It is thought there are at least that many in the human brain.

The findings were detailed in a collection of studies published in *Nature* and related journals. The research is part of the US National Institutes of Health's BRAIN Initiative Cell Atlas Network, or BICAN, an international scientific collaboration to create a comprehensive atlas of the human brain.

## Int'l stabilisation force in Gaza 'very soon'

Says Trump; Israel vows to destroy all Hamas tunnels as truce violations go on

## AGENCIES

President Donald Trump said Thursday he expects a US-coordinated international stabilization force to be on the ground in Gaza "very soon," following two years of war in the territory between Israel and Hamas.

The multinational force -- likely to include troops from Egypt, Qatar, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates -- is part of Trump's post-war governance plan for Gaza.

"It's going to be very soon. And Gaza is working out very well," Trump said at a White House function with Central Asian leaders. "You haven't been hearing too much about problems, and I'll tell you, we've had countries that have volunteered if there's a problem with Hamas."

The force is supposed to train and support vetted Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip, with backing from Egypt and Jordan, reports AFP.

It also will be tasked with securing border areas and preventing weapons smuggling to Hamas, which triggered the conflict with its October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

Meanwhile, Israel's defence chief ordered the army to "destroy all terror tunnels in Gaza" as air strikes and artillery fire pounded southern Khan Younis despite the US brokered truce.

'Gaza is working out very well', says Trump

Child hurt as Israeli forces fire a bomb from a drone

16,500 people in Gaza need urgent medical care: WHO

Israel's military kills 2 Palestinians in West Bank raid

Israeli forces have fired a bomb from a drone in Gaza City's Shujaya neighbourhood, wounding a child, reports the Wafa news agency. The child has been hospitalised at al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

In the occupied West Bank, Israel's military said its forces shot and killed two Palestinians whom it claims threw Molotov cocktails towards a road near the village of al-Judeira, between East Jerusalem and Ramallah.

The military shared footage on X appearing to show the incident, which it

said occurred Thursday night. It said its forces sustained no injuries, reports Al Jazeera online.

More than 16,500 Palestinians in war-battered Gaza are in urgent need of medical care, the World Health Organization chief said, pleading with the international community to immediately take them in for treatment.

"We urge more countries to receive patients from Gaza as over 16,500 people still need urgent medical care that is not available in the Strip," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

He also called for all evacuation routes -- particularly those from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem -- to be opened to facilitate the transfer of patients in need.

The WHO recently evacuated 19 critically ill patients and 93 companions from Gaza to Italy for medical treatment, he noted, expressing his gratitude to the Italian government for its solidarity and support.

In a separate development, Israel's military said yesterday it shot down a drone carrying weapons that crossed from Egypt into Israeli airspace.

The drone contained three assault rifles, according to the military.

The seizure comes a day after Defence Minister Israel Katz said he had ordered the military to designate the area around the Egyptian border a closed military zone because of alleged smuggling operations.

## 'BNP strayed from Zia's ideology' Alleges Jamaat leader Taher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders have forgotten the ideology of its founder Ziaur Rahman, the proponent of multi-party democracy in the country, Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher, nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, said yesterday.

He said the BNP is no longer practising democracy and can't understand the people's sentiments about reforms.

"The BNP doesn't want reforms, but the people do. If you fail to understand the people's sentiment and continue doing politics the way you are now, you may face the same fate as the Awami League," Taher said while addressing a discussion as the chief guest.

A referendum on July charter reforms must be held before the national election, the Jamaat leader said at the event organised by its Dhaka South City unit at the Paltan office, marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

"There's no point in wasting time. No matter how cleverly someone tries to delay the referendum, it must come first, then the national election," he said, urging the government to issue an order to implement the July charter.

"Those who oppose holding a

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An illegal battery-run van, loaded with metal pipes, drives down the middle of a thoroughfare, posing a risk to surrounding vehicles and their passengers. In the event of a collision, the unsecured cargo could cause severe damage or fatal injuries. The photo was taken yesterday on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital.

## No note of dissent in July charter

Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said there would be no "note of dissent" in the July charter.

"Whatever consensus we have reached will stand, and the people will decide the rest. If they agree, those decisions will be implemented," he said while speaking at a discussion marking the launch of University Teachers Forum at a Bangla Academy auditorium.

Nahid said they hoped to move towards an election soon after giving a legal basis to the July charter.

"We will carry forward Bangladesh by upholding the spirit of the uprising," he added.

He further stated that all who participated in the mass uprising should be represented in the next parliament.

"That parliament will form a reform council to work for a new constitution. Teachers must play an active role in that process, and NCP will try to ensure their participation," he said.

Nahid added that the upcoming parliament and the reform council would include young people, teachers, religious scholars, women, minorities, and professionals from different walks of life to implement the July charter.

"The July charter order must be issued by Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus, keeping up with the mass uprising.

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## Five killed in Afghan- Pakistan cross border fire Says Afghan hospital official; six hurt

AFP, Kabul

Five people were killed and six were wounded in brief cross-border fire between Afghanistan and Pakistan on Thursday afternoon, a hospital official on the Afghan side told AFP, in an incident both countries blamed on each other.

The violence was likely to complicate ceasefire negotiations underway in Turkey, which intended to finalise a truce aimed at ending deadly clashes between the South Asian neighbours.

Security issues are at the heart of their dispute, with Islamabad accusing Kabul of harbouring militant groups, particularly the Pakistani Taliban (TTP), that launch attacks in Pakistan. The Taliban government denies these allegations.

According to the anonymous official at the Spin Boldak district

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