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## JEWISH HOLIDAY EVENT 12 killed, 29 hurt in Australia beach shooting

REUTERS, Sydney

At least 12 people were killed and almost 30 wounded when gunmen fired on a Jewish holiday event at Sydney's Bondi Beach yesterday in what Australian police and officials described as a terrorist attack.

One suspected gunman was killed and another was in a critical condition, New South Wales Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon told a press conference. At least 29 people injured, including two police officers, were taken to hospital, he said.

Police were investigating whether a third gunman was involved in the shooting, and a bomb disposal unit was working on several suspected improvised explosive devices, Lanyon said.

Mike Burgess, a top Australian intelligence official, said one of the suspected attackers was known to authorities but had not been deemed an immediate threat.

Yesterday's shootings were the most serious of a string of antisemitic attacks

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Health workers move a woman on a stretcher to an ambulance after a shooting incident at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Remains of a rare sun temple found in Egypt

AFP, Cairo

An Italian archaeological mission has discovered the remains of a sun temple belonging to an ancient Egyptian king near Cairo, the Egyptian antiquities ministry said on Friday.

The temple of King Nyuserre is believed to be from the Fifth Dynasty and the remains were found in the Abusir necropolis south of the Egyptian capital.



It is part of a monumental complex dedicated to the cult of the sun god Ra and is one of the few solar temples identified to date.

The site was identified as early as 1901 by the German archaeologist Ludwig Borchardt — known for his 1912 discovery of the famous bust of ancient Egyptian queen Nefertiti — but a high water table prevented any excavation at the time.

According to the ministry, the mission has uncovered for the first time more than half of the temple, long buried under River Nile sediment.

The ministry described a colossal structure of over 1,000 square metres "with a unique architecture that ranks it among the largest and most remarkable valley temples in the Memphis necropolis", a stretch of ancient funerary complexes.

# Mass resistance and global efforts shaped country's birth

Say speakers at Star discussion on Liberation War

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The struggle of the independence-loving people of this country, supported by expatriate Bangalees and foreigners against the genocide committed by the Pakistani occupation forces, ultimately led to Bangladesh's birth, said academics and journalists said at a programme yesterday.

Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan in 1971, amid a complex geopolitical reality, was a miracle, they said while speaking at an event titled "The Global History of Liberation War", organised by The Daily Star at its auditorium in the city.

Noted economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said, "Today the United States and other Western countries are breaking up countries left and right and have no qualms about it whatsoever. But in 1971, this was an absolute taboo issue, for one to in fact support any attempt where there was a separatist movement."

As a special envoy of the Mujibnagar Government during the Liberation War, Sobhan represented Bangladesh in various countries, including the US and the UK.

He said for geopolitical reasons during the Cold War era, the US, China and Pakistan opposed the

creation of Bangladesh, while other powerful Western countries remained neutral.

The UK government was

were the United States and the World Bank.

"The idea was that if we could reach out to the World Bank and to



REHMAN SOBHAN

**Their [Pakistan's] view essentially was that Bangladesh was eventually going to be liberated, but it should not be liberated through the Muktiyoddhas, but through the process of a bilateral international war between India and Pakistan.**

not inclined to openly support Bangladesh's position. Therefore, Sobhan's campaign focused on the media and the opposition, who later became an important support base in putting pressure on the British government to support Bangladesh's cause.

He said he found a similar position in the US, where many senators supported the struggle of Bangladeshis.

Sobhan said he was successful in his campaign to stop aid to Pakistan, a heavily aid-dependent country whose principal donors

the US to persuade them that they should no longer give unconditional support to Pakistan."

Pakistan, without access to external assistance, could not afford to sustain the war without international backing, and expatriate Bangalees and US senators played a critical role in the process.

By November 1971, he said, the situation changed after India signed a treaty with the Soviet Union, committing to support Bangladesh. Before that, Pakistan

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*Fifty-three years after independence, many stories of the Liberation War remain untold. Part 9 of this 12-part series explores how the Mujibnagar Government financed the war — tracing the daring recovery of treasury funds, the mobilisation of domestic and foreign aid, and the financial backbone that sustained Bangladesh's fight for independence.*



**TALES OF FREEDOM**

## The funding network of 1971

AHMAD ISTIAK

On April 17, 1971, in the mango grove of Baidyanathata at Bhoberpara, an isolated border area in Meherpur, the acting president and cabinet members of the Mujibnagar Government were sworn in, formally establishing the provisional Government of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.



Volunteers collecting money to aid Bangladesh war victims, in Chandni Chowk, Delhi (August 1, 1971).

PHOTO: TIMES OF INDIA

Although the government took shape in mid-April, the need for funds emerged from the earliest days of the war. Freedom fighters initially gathered money from treasuries and banks across the country.

Among the ministries formed at Mujibnagar, finance held a crucial portfolio, responsible for raising funds, collecting revenue, mobilising foreign aid and managing wartime expenditures.

Accounts of the Mujibnagar Government's financial operations are documented in several sources, including "Bangladesher Shadhinota Juddho Dolil Potro Volume III", "Bangladesh Sarkar 1971" by H T Imam, "Mujibnagar Government 1971" by Mohammad Fayequzzaman, "Spring: 1971" by Faruk Aziz Khan, and "Muktijuddher Chikitsa Itihas" by Shahaduzzaman and Khairul Islam.

Financial aspects are also referenced in Akbar Ali Khan's memoir "Purono Shei Diner Kotha" and "Muktijuddher Purbapor Kothopokothon" by A K Khandker, Maidul Hasan and S R Mirza.

**THE SEARCH FOR FUNDS**

According to these sources, senior Awami League leaders led by Tajuddin Ahmad began forming a provisional government in India in late March. With most leaders fleeing with little, raising funds proved difficult.

After the government was formed on April 10, the urgency intensified. In his April 14 diary entry, Tajuddin noted that at least Tk 1 crore were required initially, with hopes of securing loans from India and other friendly nations.

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## No change in Khaleda's condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia remains in critical condition in the intensive care unit of Evercare Hospital in Dhaka, where she has been receiving treatment for the last 21 days.

The BNP Media Cell said last night that her condition remains unchanged.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir expressed deep concern over Khaleda's health, describing the situation as worrying.

"We cannot even speak with a smile. Every moment it feels like she is in a serious condition. She has spent her entire life fighting for the people of this country," he said at a programme in Dhaka.

Doctors said on Thursday that the former prime minister has been placed on elective ventilator support to allow her lungs and other organs to rest.

The BNP chief has developed several additional complications, including ineffective endocarditis, acute pancreatitis, and severe bacterial and fungal infections.



Workers sorting and packaging tomatoes brought in from various districts of the Rajshahi division at the Rajshahi Court Bazar area in the city yesterday. Despite a good yield this year, tomatoes are being sold at Tk 2,000-2,200 per tonne at the wholesale market, up from Tk 1,000-1,200 just a few days ago. In the retail market, prices have risen to Tk 80-100 from Tk 40-50 per kg.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## 2 killed, 9 hurt in Brown Univ shooting

US police detain  
'person of interest'

REUTERS

Providence police have detained a "person of interest" in connection with the Brown University shooting that left two students dead and another nine people wounded at the US Ivy League school.

Brown said in an advisory yesterday that police had also lifted a shelter-in-place order for its campus in Rhode Island.

More than 400 law enforcement personnel had been deployed on Saturday as police sought a suspect who had entered a building where students were taking exams with a firearm.

The Providence university said that police officers remained in areas still considered an active crime scene.

Access to parts of the campus remained restricted yesterday as police maintained a security perimeter around Minden Hall and nearby apartment buildings, said Brown, which has hundreds of buildings, including lecture halls, laboratories and dorms.