



‘2,000 killed in Iran unrest’

Regime official tells Reuters as Trump urges Iranians to keep protesting, promises ‘help’ on its way

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday urged Iranians to continue nationwide protests, promising that help “was on its way,” as the death toll from more than two weeks of violence crossed 2,000.

World condemnation of Iran’s crackdown on protesters also intensified, with the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the European Union summoning Iran’s ambassadors to demand answers over what they described as horrific reports of mass killings.

With the Islamic Republic’s clerical establishment facing its biggest demonstrations since 2022, Trump has repeatedly warned of intervention if force is used against protesters.

➔ Trump announces 25% tariffs on Iran trade partners

➔ China vows retaliation over new US tariff

➔ Iran to press capital crime charges for ‘rioters’

He was scheduled to meet his national security team at the White House to discuss options on Iran, as the country’s foreign minister said Tehran was “ready for any action.”

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Charred musical instruments, documents, and books stand in quiet testimony during an exhibition of items recovered after the December 19 mob attack and arson at the Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi office. The exhibition was organised at the office on Topkhana Road yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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BCB unmoved in ICC video conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday reaffirmed its decision not to travel to India for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, citing security concerns, during a video conference with the International Cricket Council.

During the meeting, ICC urged BCB to reconsider its position, pointing out that the schedule for the tournament, to

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BNP man dies in army custody

Family alleges torture; army forms probe body, withdraws officers concerned

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustitia

A BNP leader died in army custody in Chuadanga in the early hours of yesterday, triggering protests and condemnation.

The deceased was identified as Shamsuzzaman Dablu, 52, general secretary of the BNP’s Jibannagar municipal unit.

Family members, local residents and party leaders alleged that he was tortured to death after being picked up by some army personnel.

However, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a press release yesterday afternoon,



Shamsuzzaman Dablu

said Dablu died after falling ill during a joint forces operation.

According to the release, joint forces conducted a special operation around 11:00pm on Monday, acting on specific intelligence to recover illegal firearms.

During the operation, Dablu was detained from a pharmacy near Jibannagar Upazila Health Complex, on allegations of possessing illegal weapons, the release said.

Based on information obtained from him, the patrol team later searched the pharmacy and recovered a 9mm pistol, one magazine and

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11-party plans contingency

Mulls leaving up to 10% seats ‘open’ if seat-sharing deal not sealed

MAMUNUR RASHID

If the 11-party alliance is unable to agree on backing a single nominee in some constituencies, it will keep those seats “open” for its all members.

Sources in the coalition said the number of such seats could be up to 10 percent of the 300 constituencies.

Leaders of the 11 parties, including Jamaat, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and the National Citizen Party (NCP), have been engaged in seat-sharing discussions since the first half of December but are yet to finalise a deal.

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