VOTER LIST ROW

Priyanka, Rahul briefly detained

AFP, *New Delhi*

Indian police briefly detained opposition leader Rahul Gandhi yesterday during a protest march to demand the resignation of the country's election chief over a large-scale revision of voter lists.

Officers detained him along with other lawmakers but released them soon after.

The revision of voter lists has drawn criticism over alleged irregularities in the decision-making process, with opposition politicians accusing the election commission of acting at the behest of Bharatiya Janata Party. Critics also say the drive has disproportionately affected marginalised and minority communities, especially Muslims.

The Election Commission of India has rejected allegations of wrongdoing, saying the revision process is aimed at ensuring the accuracy and integrity of electoral rolls.

Yesterday, opposition members began a march from parliament towards the commission's headquarters, but were stopped by a heavy police presence.

"What has been done to our country is called treason. Nobody is going to escape," Rahul told during the protest.

The protest has been ignited by a report last month by The Indian Express newspaper, which said that two of the election commission's three members had formally objected at least 14 times to key decisions linked to the revision, and that the names of 130 million citizens had been deleted since the exercise began in 2025.

Protests began on Friday, demanding that commission chief Gyanesh Kumar step down. Kumar has not commented publicly.





Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi speaks to his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra (not in the picture), after police detained her during a protest organised by opposition parties demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi, yesterday. Inset, TMC leader Derek O'Brien speaks with Rahul and Priyanka during the protest.

Houthis claim Riyadh attacks

Deny losing territory; Qatar says US, Iran still in talks to end war

AFP, *Sanaa*

Yemen's Houthis yesterday claimed an attack on the Saudi capital's main airport and denied being pushed back by government forces, who have launched a major operation to recapture lost territory.

The Houthi statements come as Yemen's military said it had removed the pro-Iran group from areas around the Bab al-Mandeb strait, a Red Sea chokepoint, and the port city of Mocha.

Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group still held all territory seized last month when they swept through coastal areas along the Red Sea oil-and-cargo route.

On Monday, the Houthis said they had struck Riyadh airport and a refinery belonging to Saudi state oil giant Aramco.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said talks with the US were "meaningless" and only resulted in renewed attacks.

Loud explosions rattled the Saudi capital on Monday evening. They were followed by another explosion yesterday that echoed through northern parts of the city, residents told AFP.

Saudi authorities have not publicly acknowledged the closures or confirmed any strikes targeting the facility.

But yesterday, the civil aviation authority said at least three people were wounded in attacks on Jazan and Najran airports near the Yemen border a day earlier.

Pakistan and Turkey on Monday pledged to deploy troops to Saudi Arabia under a mutual defence pact following weeks of Houthi attacks.

Meanwhile, Mediator Qatar yesterday said the United States and Iran were still engaged in talks to end the Middle East war, despite an apparent deadlock.

Also yesterday, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni in Doha, a statement from the royal palace said.

THIRD ANNIV OF ISRAEL'S WAR

Gaza bleeds on

Trump's plan has not stopped killings of Palestinians

INTERNATIONAL DESK

Israel killed two more Palestinians as United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza ahead of the third anniversary of Israel's war on the enclave.

"It is time for the ceasefire to become permanent. It is time to allow humanitarian assistance at scale. And it is time to respect international law," Guterres said in a statement, calling for a "political path to lasting peace across the whole region."

He said Palestinians in Gaza had faced a "massive loss of life, displacement and destruction", adding, "Their suffering, too, demands an end, now."

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 74,200 people.

US President Donald Trump's year-old plan to end the war has also stalled, with Israel carrying out near-daily attacks and maintaining control over around two-thirds of the shattered enclave, where Palestinians face dire conditions.

The initial phase of Trump's 20-point plan resulted in a ceasefire on October 10, 2025.

However, other goals of the plan -- including disarming Hamas, securing an Israeli withdrawal and rebuilding Gaza -- remain far from reach. Gaza's health ministry says at least 1,400 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire.

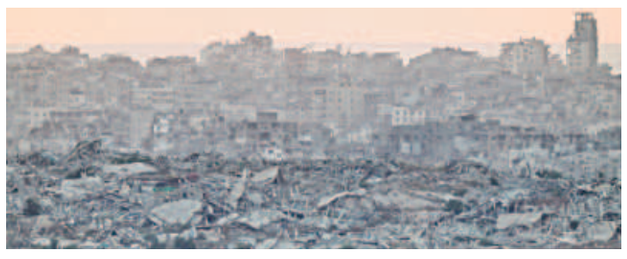
The initial plan foresaw Israel withdrawing to a so-called "yellow line", leaving its troops in control of 53 percent of Gaza. Since then, the Israeli military has expanded its effective control to around 70 percent.

The promised surge in aid also failed to materialise amid Israel's resistance. Global hunger watchdog IPC says more than 1.2 million people still face acute hunger in Gaza.

Israel, however, called the plan unacceptable, saying it would not withdraw until Hamas was fully disarmed. The international force that the plan envisioned has yet to be formed.

A year on, Palestinians continue scavenging rubble for materials to prop up tents and other shelters. The Board of Peace unveiled a $2.45 billion plan in September to begin rebuilding Gaza, but that is a fraction of the estimated $71.4 billion needed over the next decade, according to UN.

On the other hand, Israeli right-wing politicians are now openly calling for Gazans' mass removal through "voluntary emigration". Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said last month there was "no real solution for Gaza in the end without this migration".





High school students march during a demonstration as part of a nationwide protest movement for better learning conditions in Rennes, western France, yesterday. Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets across France yesterday, as unions and teachers joined high school students. PHOTO: **AFP**

IN BRIEF

Trump approval rate hovers at 32 percent

REUTERS, *Washington*

President Donald Trump's approval rating held at a record low in recent days, as many Hispanic voters panned his job performance and planned to spurn his Republican Party in next month's midterm elections, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on Monday.

The six-day poll showed 32% of Americans giving a thumbs up to Trump's presidency, unchanged from a September Reuters/Ipsos survey that saw the leader's rating at the lowest of his political career.

Just 24% of Hispanic Americans, who propelled Trump to victory in the 2024, approve of Trump's performance in the White House, the lowest share in either of Trump's two presidential terms.

Republicans' advantage among older Americans has dwindled too. Voters age 50 or older preferred Trump's party over the Democratic Party by just 2 percentage points -- 44% to 42% --compared to an 8-point Republican advantage in December.

Ex-German spy chief arrested for 'treason'

AFP, *Berlin*

Germany's former foreign spy chief was arrested yesterday on suspicion of espionage, accused of seeking to pass sensitive information to overseas intelligence services, prosecutors said.

August Hanning, who ran Germany's BND intelligence agency between 1998 and 2005, is suspected of charges including "attempted treason" and "espionage", according to a statement from federal prosecutors.

Hanning's former chief of staff, partially named as Manfred D, was also arrested on suspicion of "aiding and abetting attempted treason and treasonous espionage". Premises linked to both men were searched in several locations, including the capital Berlin.

Prosecutors say that Manfred D also served as the chief of staff for Hanning's successors between 2012 and 2026, and used this role to gain access to confidential information which he then passed on to Hanning "in exchange for remuneration".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Labour and Employment
Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) Modernization & Strengthening of DIFE and Construction of 13 District Offices Project
Shromo Bhaban, 196, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Soroni,
Bijoynagar, Dhaka-1000

Memo No: 40.01.0000.105.07.026.23-1758 Dated: 04/10/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP Portal for following Procurement. Interested tenderers are requested to visit (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) website for details.

SI. No	Tender ID	Name of the Goods	Tender Document Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Method
01	1344859	Equipment	18/10/2026 & 17:00	19/10/2026 & 13:30	e-GP

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal. For further information and guidelines please contact with e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

04/10/2026
(Md. Abdul Awal)
Assistant Project Director
Modernization & Strengthening of DIFE and Construction of 13 District Offices Project
Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE)

GD-2419

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.ugc.gov.bd

Viva-voce announcement for the Commonwealth `Scholarships tenable in the UK (Ph.D & MS) from September/October-2027

The Viva-voce exam of the Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the UK (MS & Ph. D) from September/October-2027 will be held on 11 and 12 October 2026 respectively, at UGC Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka. The applicants are requested to visit the UGC website (www.ugc.gov.bd) for the purpose of finding short listed candidates, Viva-voce exam date(s) with time, etc. All the relevant information and directions will be timely uploaded at the UGC website under the heading of "Notice Board/International Collaboration, Scholarship and Fellowship Box". The applicants must visit and collect all the information and directions from the UGC website by their own responsibilities. Any attempt of persuasion regarding the Viva-voce will disqualify the applicant(s).

06.10.2026
Director
International Collaboration Division
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

GD-2423