





Bangladesh's Tawhid Hridoy raises his bat and helmet after reaching his century against South Africa on the opening day of the first Test at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday. The right-hander, who scored an unbeaten double century against West Indies in the previous Test at home, was dismissed off the final delivery of the day for 137 as Bangladesh reached 327 for six after electing to bat first.

PHOTO: **AFP**

BNP plans busy December to stay on streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will have a series of political and organisational programmes in December, the month of victory, to stay on the streets and prevent any attempts to disrupt peace and order in the country.

Party sources said the leadership had also decided against organising neighbourhood patrols similar to those the AL used to in an attempt to obstruct BNP programmes when it was in power.

However, the party will not organise counter-programmes against the Awami League, whose activities have been banned, or set up neighbourhood patrols to prevent its activities.

The decision was made during a nearly two-hour meeting between BNP Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and senior leaders of the party and its three affiliated organisations at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

At the meeting, Tarique instructed the BNP, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal and Swechchhasebak Dal to draw up separate programmes, according to party sources.

The programmes will also involve BNP-backed professional organisations and are expected to include protest marches, processions, demonstrations, and cultural events.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a BNP leader who attended the meeting said, "Our objective is neither to organise

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Iran strikes US base in Bahrain

Manama intercepts several Iranian drones; Saudi coalition downs missiles over Riyadh

AGENCIES

Blasts rang out over Bahrain early yesterday as Iran's Guards said they attacked a US military base in the Gulf nation, which has been heavily targeted during the Middle East war.

Sirens sounded and authorities posted several alerts on social media urging residents to seek shelter, their first warnings since September. After a lull in attacks Bahrain, which hosts a major US naval base, has been targeted twice in three days.

Bahrain's military said it intercepted several Iranian attacks, "preventing them from reaching their intended targets". The foreign ministry said air defence systems shot down Iranian drones, reports AFP.

Iran's Guards Navy also said two tankers had suffered explosions and were on fire after striking naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said yesterday it had intercepted two Houthi ballistic missiles launched towards the Saudi capital Riyadh and three drones in the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province.

The Houthis, who control most of the populous parts of Yemen, have intensified attacks on the Saudi capital in recent days. A Houthi attack last week damaged an administrative building of the state oil company Saudi Aramco in Riyadh's financial hub.

Yemeni forces fighting for the internationally recognised Saudi-backed government said yesterday that they were withdrawing from an area overlooking the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait, leaving the Iran-aligned Houthis in control, reports Reuters.

In a separate development, Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi has dismissed nine officials following an investigation into allegations of oil smuggling in the Jurf al-Sakher area, a stronghold of the pro-Iran Kataeb Hezbollah group.

"In light of the investigation's findings," Zaidi "ordered that all individuals accused of involvement in oil smuggling operations be referred to the judiciary," his military spokesman Sabah al-Numan says, without identifying the suspects.

Iran's Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali has said Tehran welcomes India's initiatives and diplomatic efforts to help establish peace in the region, IRNA reports.

Yemen forces pull back near Bab el-Mandeb ⋮ Tankers on fire after hitting mines in Hormuz ⋮ Iraq PM sacks officials over Iran-linked oil smuggling

Tarique, Erdoğan talked about defence industry investment: Kobir

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Türkiye held extensive discussions on expanding bilateral cooperation, including defence industry investment, during the recent meeting between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the sidelines of the UN climate summit in Antalya.

"The meeting with Erdoğan was extremely cordial. We are moving towards a new level of cooperation and a comprehensive partnership," State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir told a press briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday on the outcomes of the prime minister's visit to Türkiye for COP31.

He said the two leaders also discussed ways to boost trade and investment, strengthen cooperation in the energy and mineral resources sectors, and advance efforts to repatriate Rohingya refugees.

Humaiun noted that Erdoğan held bilateral meetings with only a limited number of heads of government during the summit, which, he said, reflected the importance Türkiye attached to its relationship with Bangladesh.

"It is rare for the host of a multilateral summit to hold bilateral meetings. One

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Nine more RMG units adopt 'no work, no pay'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine more garment factories were shut yesterday following the "no work, no pay" policy, taking the tally of shuttered factories since the labour unrest began in industrial zones to 64.

Earlier on Saturday, the leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at a press briefing announced that they will enforce Section 13(1) of the Bangladesh Labour Act (BLA) from the following day if they cannot run their units for labour agitations.

Declaring factories closed under Section 13(1) of the Labour Act fuels further resentment among workers, said Khairul Mamun Mintoo, legal affairs secretary of the Bangladesh Garments and Sweaters Workers Trade Union Centre.

This provision can provoke further agitation because workers do not receive any wages while factories remain closed under this section.

"The absence of wages could make workers even more aggrieved. We want discussions on wage determination to continue while industrial production also resumes," he added.

The shutdowns come even though the situation has remained relatively calm in the industrial belts around Dhaka.

Of the factories shut yesterday, more than 50 were in the industrial belt of Savar and Ashulia, and the factory owners have shuttered those for various reasons, said Mohammad Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of police of Ashulia Industrial Police-1.

"The absence of wages could make workers even more aggrieved. We want discussions on wage determination to continue while industrial production also resumes."

KHAIRUL MAMUN MINTOO, local labour leader

There are around 800 garment factories in Savar, Ashulia and Dhamrai, which fall under Industrial Police-1, and most were operating as usual.

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BRING DATA, DISCIPLINE TO GARMENT WAGE SETTING -- B1

NEWS IN FOCUS

8-year-old's body found in madrasa toilet

Director sent to jail, his 13-year-old brother-in-law to juvenile centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A Dinajpur court yesterday sent a madrasa director to jail and his 13-year-old brother-in-law to a juvenile centre in a murder case filed over the death of an eight-year-old student.

The body of Safayet Hossain was recovered from a toilet at Madrasatus Sunnah in Biral upazila on Saturday night.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Asif Uddin passed the order after the two were produced before the court, said Court Inspector Sohel Alam.

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2 killed after being 'pushed off' bus in Rangpur

Driver, helper arrested



OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Two passengers were killed and another injured after a bus supervisor and helper allegedly pushed them off a moving bus following a fare dispute in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Mukul Mia,

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Labourers wait with their tools in Gazipur's Tongi, hoping to be hired for the day. They allege that although they are supposed to earn around Tk 800 a day, they receive at least Tk 200 less after paying commissions to contractors who arrange work for them. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: **ANISUR RAHMAN**