

N Korean troops killed missing S Korean official

Says Seoul

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korean troops shot dead a South Korean fisheries official who went missing earlier this week, before dousing his body in oil and setting it on fire in what was likely an effort to prevent a coronavirus outbreak, South Korea's military said yesterday.

South Korea's military said evidence suggested the man was attempting to defect to the North when he was reported missing from a fisheries boat on Monday about 10 km (6 miles) south of the Northern Limit Line (NLL), a disputed demarcation of military control that acts as the de facto maritime boundary between the two Koreas.

Why the 47-year-old official was shot was not known but North Korean troops appear to have been acting under anti-coronavirus orders, South Korea's military said.

The presidential Blue House's national security office said the killing was a "crime against humanity", and called on North Korea to apologise and put measures in place to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

Citing intelligence sources, the military said the unidentified man

appeared to have been questioned at sea, north of the NLL and about 38 km (24 miles) from where he went missing, before he was executed on an "order from a superior authority". Troops in gas masks then doused the body in oil and set it on fire.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said the North's shooting of a South Korean civilian was "shocking" and "unpardonable", Yonhap news agency said, citing a presidential Blue House spokesman.

Moon also ordered the South Korean military to tighten their alert to protect the lives of citizens.

The military said it sent a message on Wednesday to the North through the land border demanding explanations, but has not received any response yet.

"Our military strongly condemns such an atrocity, and strongly demands North Korea provide explanations and punish those who are responsible," General Ahn Young-ho, who is in charge of operations at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a briefing.

The U.S. military commander in South Korea said this month that North Korean troops had been given "shoot-to-kill orders" to prevent the coronavirus entering the country.

Woman gang-raped

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Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station.

The victim is undergoing treatment at Khagrachhari General Hospital.

Her mother demanded exemplary punishment for the offenders.

In Jashore, two teenagers were gang-raped in Benapole on Wednesday night.

Police yesterday arrested three people in Benapole and Jhikargachha in this connection.

The arrestees are Rafiqul Islam, 34, of Raipur village under Benapole Port Police Station, Shahin Ali, 28, of Dhanyakhola village, and Biplob Ghosh, 31, of Jhikargachha upazila.

According to police sources, the arrestees were trying to traffic the girls to India. On the way, they took the girls to a secluded place in Putkhali border area and raped them.

As the trio failed to traffic the girls, the victims returned to Dhaka and filed a case with Mirpur Police Station.

[Our Bandarban and Benapole correspondents contributed to this report]

34 policemen

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workplaces by September 29 and be present at a scheduled briefing at Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka around 10:00am the next day.

Fatah, Hamas

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government following the 2006 polls, but it soon collapsed and bloody clashes erupted in the Gaza Strip between the two sides the following year.

Hamas has since ruled Gaza, while Fatah has run the Palestinian Authority based in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Numerous attempts at reconciliation have failed to close the rift, including a prisoner exchange agreement in 2012 and a short-lived unity government two years later.

The recent talks have been fuelled by two Arab states -- the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain -- normalising their relations with Israel.

The accords break with decades of Arab consensus that ties with the Jewish state should not be normalised until it has signed a comprehensive peace deal with the Palestinians.

Trump hedges

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United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House."

Mitt Romney, a rare Trump critic among Republican senators, said on Twitter: "Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus. Any suggestion that a president might not respect this Constitutional guarantee is both unthinkable and unacceptable."

However, US Senate leader Mitch McConnell, who is Republican, yesterday assured that the results of the November 3 presidential election would be implemented in an orderly way.

"The winner of the November 3rd election will be inaugurated on January 20th. There will be an orderly transition just as there has been every four years since 1792," McConnell said in a tweeted statement.

Trump, who is moving quickly to nominate a successor to liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday, said earlier on Wednesday he thinks the election "will end up in the Supreme Court and I think it's very important that we have nine justices." Trump plans to announce his nominee on Saturday.

A Senate confirmation vote before the election would seal a 6-3 conservative majority on the court, potentially spelling trouble for Democrats should it be called on to decide any legal dispute over the results of the election.

"This scam that the Democrats are pulling, it's a scam, the scam will be before the United States Supreme Court, and I think having a 4-4 situation is not a good situation," Trump said.

Only one US presidential election, the 2000 contest between Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore, has had its outcome determined by the Supreme Court.

Earlier, in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was campaigning to win the crucial black votes, Biden said Republicans were "violating the essence" of what the country's founders had intended in quickly seeking to fill the Supreme Court seat.

"This is an abuse of power of what they're doing, and I think we should focus on what this is going to mean for healthcare," Biden said, suggesting such a conservative majority could roll back abortion rights and the Obamacare healthcare law.

Trump has already appointed two conservatives to lifetime posts on the court, Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. Supreme Court appointments require Senate confirmation, and Republicans hold 53 of the chamber's 100 seats.

Mitch McConnell has said he intends to act on any nomination Trump makes. Democrats accuse McConnell of hypocrisy, pointing out he refused to have the Senate even consider Democratic President Barack Obama's nominee to fill a vacant Supreme Court seat in 2016 because it was an election year.



Pro-democracy protesters flash lights from their phones and hold placards during a mass rally to call for the ouster of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and reforms in the monarchy in front of parliament in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Constituent assembly

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Bangabandhu today calls upon female students of the country to come forward along with others and play their role in reconstructing the war-ravaged Bangladesh. In a message to the annual conference of Rokeya Hall and Shamsunnahar Hall branches of Bangladesh Chattr League, Bangabandhu says that the peace, progress and prosperity of sovereign and independent Bangladesh lay on the united endeavours of the people.

SIRIMAVO ASSURES FULL SUPPORT TO BANGLADESH

Khurram Khan Panni, personal envoy of Bangabandhu, has an hourlong meeting with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandarnaike today. Among the topics discussed is admission of Bangladesh into the United Nations for which Bandarnaike is learnt to have assured total support. Panni hands over a message from Bangabandhu to the Sri Lankan premier.

SOURCES: September 26, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

US WWII bomber

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of ice, the war plane has re-appeared, mangled and torn but still able to provide a fascinating glimpse into the past.

Locals such as the former mayor of Isafjorour, Guomundur Gunnarsson, see the wreck as a tourist attraction and have rejected calls to clean it up.

An experienced hiker, Gunnarsson said: "Ever since I heard about the wreck, I've been restless. I found the story compelling, and once I told my friends about it, they became restless too."

They hiked to the American wreck last week to inspect the area and take photos which were later shared on social media.

In 1996, the US Air Force revealed details behind the 1944 crash. The US bomber was on its way to England after landing at Keflavik Airport to refuel.

However, the weather conditions were poor in Iceland and the bomber was caught in a down-draught before crashing into the ice cap.

Fortunately, the plane landed on soft snow and kept sliding along its fuselage until coming to an abrupt stop at a snow bank.

One of the plane's wings was ripped off and the engines caught fire.

Some crew members were thrown into the snow through tears in the fuselage while those left on board managed to escape the plane before it caught ablaze.

Giving it all for a dream

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their daughters. If girls get such an opportunity, they will be able to defend themselves when the need comes."

She thinks not just girls, but all young students can discipline themselves through taekwondo.

Swantana used to teach the martial art to children in her village. She would make it a point to visit various schools and colleges to consult with teachers and exchange views with the students, especially the girls, and would also give training during the visits.

The martial artist is currently working as a taekwondo teacher at Cambrian School and College in Dhaka. She has been providing taekwondo training to students on 15 campuses of the institution since 2018.

Swantana won the "Joy Bangla Youth Award-2018" for her role in building self-reliant women by training them in Taekwondo.

Since 2012, she participated in national and international taekwondo competitions and bagged 10 gold medals as a champion martial artist.

Santwana's father Subhash Roy is a farmer. With her mother Jamuna Rani and three younger siblings, they live in Taluk Haridas village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

Whenever Swantana gets a break from her work in the capital, she rushes to her village to spend time with her family.

She passed her SSC examinations in 2001 from a local school.

As a student, she had to earn the money to continue her studies by herself and remained in Rangpur division as her family did not want her to go far away to study.

In 2001, she began working for various non-govt organisations (NGO) and travelled to different villages in her own district, Kurigram and Rangpur on a motorcycle for work.

She was admitted to Rangpur

Government College in 2004 and had the opportunity to learn martial arts there. In 2008, she did her Master's in History from Rangpur's Carmichael College.

Juggling her job, studies and taekwondo practice was quite a struggle, but that was where all her determination stemmed from.

She passed her LLB from Rangpur Law College in 2013, but continued working for NGOs till 2017.

Throughout that time, she did not give up on her passion for martial arts.

"I used to do yoga with my mother since I was a child. And so, picking up martial arts wasn't much of a trouble. I was trained in taekwondo fairly quickly," she said, adding "I still practise to make myself the self-reliant woman I want to be. Taekwondo is still teaching me many lessons."

With the help of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has granted her Tk 10 lakh in July, she has been spending part of her income on conducting taekwondo practise sessions for students, especially for the girls in her village.

Her father Subhash Roy told The Daily Star that his daughter Santwana had come as far as she has after many a struggle. "She is still struggling. She trains students in taekwondo even when she comes home from Dhaka. She also teaches handicraft to the older women of our village."

He added, "I'm proud of our daughter, but there are also things that make me feel bad. I haven't been able to marry her off yet. The age to marry has passed but the girl just won't listen."

Swantana said that she might get married but that isn't for now. "If I find someone who is against taking dowry, I might consider marrying him."

The ultimate dream Swantana is and has been working towards is building a taekwondo institution in her district. "I am still struggling [to do so] but I will fight till the last day of my life to fulfil my dream."

2,191 died with Covid

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yesterday, 28 patients died of Covid-19 and 1,540 people tested positive for coronavirus, read a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths due to the highly transmissible virus rose to 5,072 which is 1.43 percent of all confirmed cases.

Besides, the total number of confirmed cases rose to 355,384 since the first three cases were reported on March 8.

Ten days after March 8, the DGHS reported the first casualty in the country due to the virus.

As new 2,139 patients were added to the total number of recoveries. The recovery rate was 74.59 percent of all confirmed cases, according to the press release.

Against 12,900 tests in the same 24 hours, the positivity rate was almost 12 (11.94) percent.

Since January 21, more than 18,755

lakh samples were tested across the country. The total number of RT-PCR laboratories for Covid-19 tests was 103 as of yesterday.

With yesterday's number of tests, the overall positivity rate stands at nearly 19 percent (18.95).

Of yesterday's deceased, 21 were males and seven were females. All of them died in hospitals, according to the press release.

One of them aged between 21 and 30 years, one between 31 and 40, three between 41 and 50, six between 51 and 60 and the highest 17 were over 60 years.

As of yesterday, more than half of the deceased were over 60 years old.

One each was from Sylhet, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, two were from Khulna, six from Chattogram and the highest 17 from Dhaka division.

As of yesterday noon, a total of 2,668 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment in Covid-19 hospitals, read the press release.

HC forms judicial body

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inquiry committee during recording of statements.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman ordered the judicial probe committee to submit its inquiry report to this court by November 4.

The bench fixed November 5 to hear and pass order on this issue.

The HC came up with the directives following a revision petition that challenged the police action of

arresting three accused, and the latter's confessional statements to a magistrate about the alleged rape and killing of the child who was rescued alive in Narayanganj.

During hearing on the revision petition on September 17, Shamim Al Mamun, the investigation officer of the case and Sub Inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, and current IO of the case and SI Mostafizur Rahman appeared with case records before the HC bench as per its August 27 order.

<p>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Chattogram Zone, Agrabad, Chattogram. Tel: 031-712811, Fax: 031-714330. e-mail: acechi@rhd.gov.bd; acetgzone@gmail.com</p>	
Memo No.- 461	Date: 24-09-2020
<p>Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Short listing of Firm for</p>	
<p>"Providing Consultancy Services for Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and Supervision of Construction works for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) under Chattogram Road Division."</p>	
Ministry Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Road Transport & Highways Division.
Agency	Roads and Highways Department.
Procuring Entity	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chattogram Zone, Chattogram
Procuring Entity District	Chattogram
EOI for Selection of Operation & Management (O&M) Operator	Time Based Contract.
Title of Services	Providing Consultancy Services for Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and Supervision of Construction works for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) under Chattogram Road Division.
EOI ref No.	EOI/CZ-02/CTG/Consultancy/LOC/2020-2021
Date	24-09-2020
Procurement Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Source of Fund	GoB
Program Name	i. Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and ii. Supervision of Construction works for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) under Chattogram Road Division.
EOI Closing / Submission Date & Time	With all supporting documents, the EOI must be submitted at or before 12:30 pm on 26-10-2020 in sealed envelopes.
EOI Submission Place	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chattogram Zone, Chattogram.
Brief Description of Assignment	1. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has decided for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) from 5.50m. to 11.30m., construction of 9(nine) bridges and several culverts thereon with the fund jointly invested by the GoB and the Indian Government (Line of Credit III). The length of the road is 38.00 KM starts from Barayerhat, Mirsharai, Chattogram and ends at Ramgarh, Khagrachari. The GoB has allocated public funds for engaging a consulting firm for Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and Supervision of highway Construction works (Length 38.00 Km.) under Chattogram Road Division. 2. The consultancy services include but not limited to the following: a) Review of Pavement Design & Preparation and review of Bridge/Culvert Design. b) Supervision of highway Construction Works. c) Ensure Quality and Quantity of Works. d) Examine Interim Payment Certificate and BoQ of Work done. e) Provide comments and engineering solutions regarding the problem originated during construction period. f) Other services as per instruction of the employer.
Experience, Resources and Delivery capacity Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Firm should be nationally or internationally reputed. Interested Consultancy firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Registration Certificate, Registered Address, Legal Status, Brochures, Company profile (including management, personnel, firm's specialty, performance), Description of Similar Assignments (List of rendered services in last 10 years for: i. Design review of Pavement, Bridge/Culvert. ii. Supervision of Construction Works.), Experience in Similar Conditions, Average annual turn-over of the last 5 years, Availability of Appropriate Skills among Staff, Number of Highway and Bridge Engineers, those who belong to the firm more than a year and average working experiences (years) of those Highway and Bridge engineers etc.). Following information should be provided for the experience certificates: Client's name, nature of services, contract amount, man-months included in the contract, duration of the service with actual commencement and actual completion date; A Firm may constitute Joint Venture to enhance their capabilities. Interested firms may associate with other firm (Local or Foreign) to enhance their qualifications. The formation of joint venture shall be done on non-judicial stamp paper of value BDT 300. The share and role of each partner of the joint venture shall be mentioned clearly in the agreement. <p>Key Professionals – Senior Bridge Engineer & Pavement Specialist as Team Leader, Bridge Engineer, Pavement Engineer, Civil Engineer specialization in highway construction, Material Engineer and other key personnel etc.</p>
Other Details	Submission of EOI shall be in closed envelope mentioning the name and address of the applicant, EOI ref. no. & date addressing the EOI issuing authority in 2(Two) copies; 01 (One) marked as "ORIGINAL" and other as "COPY" in separate envelope in the form of bound book, both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" shall be inside a single envelope. The applicant shall put the page number on EOI documents serially and authorized person shall sign on every page.
Name of Official Inviting EOI	Md. Abdul Wahid
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Chattogram Zone, Chattogram.
Address of Official Inviting EOI	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chattogram Zone, Chattogram
Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Tel: 031-712811, Fax: 031-714330. Email: acechi@rhd.gov.bd; acetgzone@gmail.com
The interested applicants should visit the site before submitting the EOI.	
The client shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firms in connection with the preparation and submission of the EOI.	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reasons whatsoever.	
<p><i>(Md. Abdul Wahid)</i> ID No.- 005109 Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Chattogram Zone, Chattogram.</p>	
GD-1518	