

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Bangladeshi dies in attack on ship

Vessel was stranded in Ukrainian port Olvia since Feb 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Bangladeshi sailor was killed after the vessel Banglar Samriddhi, which remains stranded at a port in Ukraine, came under a "missile" attack yesterday.

The deceased, Hadisur Rahman, was the third engineer of the Bangladeshi flag carrying ship.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) owns the vessel.

Confirming the incident, BSC Managing Director Commodore Suman Mahmud told The Daily Star late last night the ill-fated sailor was killed in "a missile attack" on the ship's bridge at 9:25pm.

The other crew members managed to douse the blaze that ensued and they are safe, he said.

The vessel reached the outer anchorage of Ukrainian port Olvia on February 23 to load ball clay.

But due to delay in getting the port clearance, the ship failed to leave the port and it got stranded as the port's operations halted after the Russian invasion.

Late last night, three video clips have been making the rounds in social media.

One of them is apparently of crew members of Banglar Samriddhi trying to douse the fire in the bridge.

Another clip, which apparently was taken by a Ukrainian from the shore, shows a ship with its bridge on fire. Smoke was seen spewing out.

The third clip, apparently filmed with a handheld device, shows the bridge of a ship going up in flames.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the authenticity of the clips.



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A civilian is being trained to throw Molotov cocktails to defend the city, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Zhytomyr, Ukraine on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGLADESHI STUDENTS Odyssey out of Kharkiv

MOHAMMED ISHTIAQUE KHAN

Right after Russia launched its attack on Ukraine, Bangladeshi medical student Fabiha Binte Mahbub was bunkered up in an underground subway station in the city of Kharkiv.

She is a fourth-year student of Kharkiv National Medical University.

The city -- Ukraine's second largest -- is located in the country's north-east. It is roughly a thousand kilometres from the Polish border.

The Russian military has been shelling Kharkiv since February 24, and the death toll is at several dozens, including an Indian medical student.

Fabiha spent the first day and a half of the Russian offence holed up underground. "The attack began at dawn. I woke up to the sound of intense shelling and found my bed shaking. I called my friends, and started crying ... It [the shelling] just wouldn't stop," she described.

Even though it quietened after a while, the Russians restarted the offence in the afternoon again.

"This time they were targeting missiles and mortar shells. From there on, the situation went downhill ... I cannot describe in words how terrifying it is to be stuck in a bunker while the sky outside flashes with the light from explosions. At one point, we lost track of time."

When the shelling thinned out on the second day, Fabiha and her friends emerged from the underground bunker to restock food supplies. "Within 10 minutes of coming back home for supplies, the shelling began again. We ran back to the bunker with just the clothes on our back. That is when we realised the situation would just keep getting worse, and we must find an escape route."

Fabiha and three of her friends decided to head towards the Polish border -- but

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Invasion intensifies

Russian troops capture Ukraine's port city Kherson, pound cities in north, east; Biden vows Putin will 'pay a price'

AGENCIES

Russian forces said they had captured a port on the Black Sea yesterday as Russian and Ukrainian troops battled for another city and US President Joe Biden vowed to make his Russian counterpart "pay a price" for the invasion.

The Russian army said it had taken control of Kherson, as its troops

advanced and pounded cities across northern, southern and eastern Ukraine, defying sanctions and international isolation.

Russian paratroopers also landed in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-biggest city, triggering clashes in the streets, Ukrainian forces said.

The emergency services said four people were killed in the city and there was now "mass shelling and bombing"

in the centre.

In a video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces wanted to "erase our country, erase us all".

Ukraine said more than 350 civilians, including 14 children, have been killed in the conflict and the International Criminal Court has opened a war crimes investigation

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Twelve labourers carry a huge log on their heads up a steep incline on the Buriganga in Kamrangirchar. The log, which is to go to a sawmill, arrived at Baribashal ghat on a vessel recently. A slip by one of the workers could result in casualties. A crane could have made this job a lot easier and safer.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SALARY UPGRADE Strike disrupts work of dist, upazila admin

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Administrative activities at different government offices at district and upazila levels are being disrupted as a section of staffers have been abstaining from work for two days demanding upgradation of their salary grades.

The staffers, who mainly carry out paperwork in the offices of the district deputy commissioners, upazila nirbahi officers and upazila assistant commissioners (land), also staged sit-ins on their office premises under the banners of the Bangladesh Divisional Commissioner Office Staff Association and Bangladesh Collectorate Assistant Association.

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RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Soybean oil traders out profiteering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders in their bid to make a quick buck are siphoning out soybean oil from sealed 5-litre containers and selling the cooking oil in loose form while others are hoarding the oil driving the prices up in retail.

As edible oil has become expensive in the international market in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, dishonest traders have started creating an artificial crisis here.

Prices of edible oil have shot up and gone beyond the government's fixed rates at retail, and the consumers as always are paying the price.

Yesterday, a litre of loose soybean oil was going for Tk 175 per litre, 22 percent higher than the government's fixed rate of Tk 143, according to market prices data compiled by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Interestingly, the 5-litre containers

were selling for Tk 830, still 4.4 percent higher than the government fixed rate of Tk 795, and the per litre cost was about Tk 10 cheaper than loose soybean oil.

This prompted retailers to start selling oil of the containers in loose form.

They also sold bottled super palm oil at higher than the government determined rates yesterday.

A section of traders is hoarding bottled soybean oil claiming supply shortage to make huge profits in the coming weeks, when they expect the prices to go up even further.

A shopkeeper at Krishi Market in Dhaka's Mohammadpur refused to sell 5-litre containers of the cooking oil to this correspondent on March 1 even though several containers were seen stacked in the store.

Yesterday at a media briefing, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said government agencies have

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STUDY IN INDIA EDUCATION MEET 2022: BANGLADESH

DHAKA
DATE: 4TH & 5TH MARCH 2022
TIME: 10 AM - 5 PM
VENUE: RENAISSANCE DHAKA GULSHAN HOTEL, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

CHITTAGONG
DATE: 7TH MARCH 2022
TIME: 10 AM - 5 PM
VENUE: RADISSON BLU CHATTOGRAM BAY VIEW, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

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