



"How does this end? Somebody in Russia has to step up to the plate... and take this guy out."
US Senator Lindsey Graham calls for Putin's assassination

The Daily Star

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SECOND EDITION

"The situation may become complicated if there are more sanctions on [Russian] banks or SWIFT, or the big companies."
Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen on projects involving Russia



DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2022

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXII No. 51

FALGUN 20, 1428 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 1, 1443 HJRI

16 PAGES : TK 12.00



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Tales that need to be told

No recognition yet for two Liberation War martyrs



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Her new film to hit cinemas on Sept 30



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Tigers look to seal series

Face Afghanistan in second T20I today

ATTACK ON NUKE POWER PLANT

The West horrified

Kyiv accuses Kremlin of 'nuclear terror'; more civilian casualties as Russia intensifies strikes

AGENCIES

Ukraine accused the Kremlin of "nuclear terror" and the West expressed horror yesterday, after Europe's largest nuclear power plant was attacked and taken over by invading Russian forces.

Blasts lit up the night sky as the plant at Zaporizhzhia came under shell fire, while Russian troops advanced in southern Ukraine and bombarded several cities elsewhere.

Ukrainian firefighters said they were prevented from accessing the site initially, before they were able to douse a blaze at a training facility on the site.

The six reactors at Zaporizhzhia, which can power enough energy for four million homes, were apparently undamaged and international monitors reported no spike in radiation.

The attack killed three Ukrainian soldiers, according to Kyiv's nuclear operator Energoatom, and was slammed in Washington, London and other Western capitals as utterly irresponsible.

"We survived a night that could have stopped the story, the history of Ukraine, the history of Europe," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

An explosion at Zaporizhzhia would have equalled "six Chernobyls", he said, referring to the plant in Ukraine

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Ukrainian service members walk near a school building destroyed by shelling in Zhytomyr, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

28 STRANDED SAILORS

To be evacuated thru' Romania

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Efforts are under way to evacuate the 28 rescued crewmen through Romania, said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

The crewmen are now in a safe place in Ukraine, he told journalists at the foreign ministry yesterday.

The body of deceased third engineer Hadisur Rahman will also be repatriated, he said.

Rahman was killed on Wednesday in a missile or bomb attack on the state-owned vessel Banglar Samridhhi, which has been stranded at the Ukrainian port of Olvia since February 23.

The other 28 on board were rescued with the help of Bangladeshis in Ukraine and the authorities of Olvia port, said a press note from the Bangladesh embassy in Warsaw.

Asked if it could be ascertained which party attacked the ship, Momen said Bangladesh sought to know if from the Russian authorities.

"Russia has condoned the death, but they said they did not do it [attack]. It is very difficult to determine who did it in the fog of war. But Russia said they would let us know exactly what happened."

Quizzed if the Ukrainian authorities have been

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Even jail stay not free

Some prisoners forced to pay staff, inmates for 'better services'

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Arrested for marijuana possession, rickshaw puller Abdul Kuddus landed in Dhaka Central Jail in October 2020.

While he was in quarantine for the first 14 days and in "poor" living condition, some of the prisoners told him his life in jail would be "much better" if he paid them Tk 2,500. They settled for Tk 700 after Abdul informed them what he does for a living.

The money was paid, and Abdul was sent to a ward on the third floor of the jail's "Rupsha" building. After that, he had to pay the ward's in-charge Tk 500 and the food supplier Tk 100 every month for more than a year before he was freed late last year. The money, sent by his wife, a domestic help, made its way inside the prison with the help of some jail guards.

"Whoever pays such money gets

better treatment inside. They get slightly better food, spots to sleep and relatively cleaner washrooms," Abdul told The Daily Star a couple of days ago. "Those who can't pay, keep languishing in the severely cramped conditions of the jail. Their food is bad, and they hardly have enough space to sleep."

- Number of jails **68**
- Capacity **42,538** inmates
- Now staying **83,626**

The situation is more or less similar in other prisons, The Daily Star has learnt after talking to at least a dozen people who have got out of the prisons recently.

There is a nexus between some prisoners and prison guards in each jail and it is responsible for such irregularities, they said, adding that the nexus takes money from

inmates, assuring them of better treatment in jail.

Sources at the Department of Prisons said the 68 jails across the country can accommodate 42,538 inmates in total, but there were 83,626 prisoners as of February 24.

As per the jail code, each inmate should get at least 36sqft of space for themselves. But there is one jail -- in Cox's Bazar -- which accommodates inmates six times its capacity, the sources said.

A jail ward is usually around 30-foot long and 20-foot wide. Half that space is designated for 10 prisoners who bribe the nexus while the other half is shared by around 30 prisoners who don't, said a man who was released recently.

"When we couldn't pay them any money, we were forced to sleep in front of the toilet," the man also said, adding that he started paying Tk 400 monthly only to get some

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SHANE KEITH WARNE (1969-2022)

The spin stops

SAKEB SUBHAN

For some time yesterday, the cricket world stopped spinning.

Disbelief gripped even the most casual cricket fan as one of cricket's most transcendent personalities, arguably its greatest bowler, and inarguably the best leg-spinner, breathed his last.

Australian legend Shane Warne passed away in Thailand last night of a suspected heart attack.

He was 52. Warne tweeted condolences for the death of great Australian cricketer Rodney Marsh just 12 hours

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Volunteers dressed up as characters of *Sisimpur* amuse children at the "Children's Corner" of the Amar Ekushey Boli Mela in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. The fair has dedicated Shishu Prohor (children's hour from 11:00am to 1:00pm on weekends) to make their visit more pleasant. Story on page 3

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PAKISTAN SHIA MOSQUE ATTACK

56 dead, 194 hurt

AFP, Peshawar

At least 56 people were killed and 194 wounded yesterday by a suicide bomb at a Shia mosque in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar, the deadliest attack in the country since 2018.

The blast tore through the Kocha Risaldar area of the city moments before Friday prayers were to start, shattering the interior and showering the streets with broken glass.

It came on the first day of a cricket Test match in Rawalpindi -- around 190 kilometres to the east -- between Pakistan and Australia, who have not toured the country in nearly a quarter of a century because of security concerns.

Muhammad Asim Khan, a spokesman for Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, said the death toll had climbed to 56, the deadliest since a July 2018 blast -- claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State group -- killed 149 people at an election rally.

He said 50 of the 194 wounded were in "critical condition". No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Muhammad Ali Saif, a spokesman for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government, told AFP the blast was a "suicide attack" and numerous witnesses recounted the moment of detonation.

Ali Asghar saw a man enter the mosque before Friday prayers and open "fire with a

pistol", picking out the worshippers "one-by-one".

He "then blew himself up", Asghar said. "I saw a man firing at two policemen before he entered the mosque. Seconds later I heard a big bang," said another witness, Zahid Khan.

The head of Peshawar's bomb disposal unit, Rab Nawaz Khan, told AFP the attacker detonated five to eight kilograms (two to four pounds) of "highly explosive TNT" packed with ball bearings to amplify the damage.

An AFP reporter saw body parts strewn at the blast site, where desperate family members were held back by police.

Peshawar police chief Muhammad Ijaz Khan told AFP two attackers were involved. He said two police officers were shot at the entrance of the mosque.

"One policeman died on the spot while the other was critically injured," he said. Muhammad Asim Khan, the spokesman for Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, said "we have declared an emergency at the hospitals and more injured are being brought".

A spokesman for Prime Minister Imran Khan's office said he "strongly condemned" the attack.

Sunni majority Pakistan has recently been battling a resurgence of its domestic chapter of the Taliban, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

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