

Palestinians bid farewell to slain Al Jazeera journo

Thousands of people packed Jerusalem's tense Old City yesterday for the burial of veteran Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh, after Israeli police stormed the start of the funeral procession.

Israel and the Palestinians have traded blame over the fatal shooting of the Palestinian-American on Wednesday during an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank.

The interim findings of an Israeli army investigation could not determine who fired the bullet that killed Abu Akleh, the military said. But an army statement noted a soldier could have fired the bullet that killed the 51-year-old journalist, in what Al Jazeera called a deliberate "killing in cold blood".

TV images showed Abu Akleh's coffin nearly falling to the ground as Israeli police grabbed Palestinian flags from the crowd around the procession outside Saint Joseph's hospital in Israeli annexed east Jerusalem.

Thousands of mourners attended the funeral at a church in Jerusalem's Old City in the afternoon. Grief over her killing spilled beyond Palestinian territories, with protests erupting in Turkey, Sudan and elsewhere.

The United States, European Union and United Nations have backed calls for a full investigation into Abu Akleh's killing. The Palestinian Authority has rejected holding a joint probe with the Jewish state.

On Thursday, Israel advanced plans for 4,427 housing units for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank, an Israeli non-governmental organisation said. The Civil Administration's high planning committee gave final approval to 2,791 units and initial endorsement for another 1,636 units, said Peace Now.



Family and friends carry the coffin of Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed during an Israeli raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, as clashes erupted with Israeli security forces, during her funeral in Jerusalem, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

COUNTERING CHINA Biden pledges \$150m to Asean

US President Joe Biden opened a gathering of Southeast Asian leaders with a promise to spend \$150 million on their infrastructure, security, pandemic preparedness and other efforts aimed at countering the influence of rival China.

On Thursday, Biden started a two-day summit with the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in Washington with a dinner for the leaders at the White House ahead of talks at the State Department.

While Russia's invasion of Ukraine is on the agenda, Biden's administration hopes the efforts will show the countries that the US remains focused on the Indo-Pacific and the long-term challenge of China, which it views at the country's main competitor.

In November alone, China pledged \$1.5 billion in development assistance to Asean over three years to fight Covid and fuel economic recovery.

The summit marks the first time that Asean's leaders gather as a group at the White House and their first meeting hosted by a US president since 2016.

Fighting rages in Donbas

Ukrainian forces destroy parts of Russian armoured column; another naval ship hit in the Black Sea

Ukrainian forces destroyed parts of a Russian armoured column as it tried to cross a river in the Donbas region, video from Ukraine's military showed yesterday, as Moscow appeared to be refocusing its assault in the east after a new pushback by Kyiv.

Ukraine has driven Russian troops away from the second-largest city of Kharkiv in the fastest advance since Kremlin forces pulled away from Kyiv and the northeast over a month ago, although Moscow is still bombarding villages north of Kharkiv.

The city, which had been under fierce bombardment, has been quiet for at least two weeks and Reuters journalists have confirmed Ukraine now controls territory stretching to the Siverskyi Donets River, around 40 km to the east.

Russia, which denies targeting civilians, said its forces had shot down a Ukrainian Su-27 aircraft in the Kharkiv region and disabled the Kremenchuk oil refinery in central Ukraine.

It was not immediately possible to verify the reports.

Southeast of Kharkiv, Britain said Ukraine had stopped Russian forces crossing the Siverskyi Donets river west of Severodonetsk. Footage released by Ukrainian Airborne Forces Command appeared to show several burnt out military vehicles near segments of a partially submerged bridge and many other damaged or abandoned vehicles, including tanks, nearby.

Reuters could not immediately verify the report, or when or where the clash took place.



The British defence ministry said Russia was investing significant military effort near Severodonetsk and Izium, and trying to break through towards Sloviansk and Kramatorsk to complete their takeover of Ukraine's industrial Donbas region.

Russian-backed separatists said they had taken the Zarya chemical plant in Rubizne near Severodonetsk.

The Kremlin calls its Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine a "special military operation" to demilitarise a neighbour threatening its security. Ukraine says it poses no threat to Russia and that the deaths of thousands of civilians and destruction of cities and towns show that Russia is waging a war of aggression.

In the southern port of Mariupol, Russian forces intensified their bombardment of the Azovstal steelworks, the last bastion of Ukrainian defenders in a city almost completely controlled by Russia after a siege of more than two months.

Reuters video showed explosions and thick smoke on Thursday and Ukrainian fighters released footage showing gunbattles.

Renewed fighting around Snake Island in recent days could help Ukraine resume grain exports vital to world supplies, some of which are now being shipped by rail.

Ukraine said it had damaged a Russian navy logistics ship near Snake Island, a small but strategic outpost that Ukrainian military intelligence said allows control of civilian shipping. Russia's defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

WOMEN RIGHTS G7 condemns Taliban over growing curbs

The Group of Seven industrialised nations condemned the growing restrictions placed on women and girls by the Taliban in Afghanistan, accusing the hardline Islamist group of isolating the country.

"We call on the Taliban to urgently take steps to lift restrictions on women and girls," the foreign ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States said in a statement.

When the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan last year, they promised a softer rule than during their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001, which was marked by human rights abuses.

But they have increasingly restricted the rights of Afghans, particularly girls and women, who have been prevented from returning to secondary schools and many government jobs.

Women across the country have been banned from travelling alone, and last week the authorities ordered them to cover up completely in public, ideally with a burqa.

Iran nuke talks have 'reopened'

Stalled negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme have been unblocked after fresh talks in Tehran, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said yesterday, adding that he believed a final deal was within reach. Borrell said a mission by EU envoy Enrique Mora this week to help revive the 2015 nuclear pact between Iran and world powers had gone "better than expected".

"The negotiations had stalled and now they have been reopened," Borrell told reporters on the sidelines of a G7 meeting in Germany. "There is a perspective of reaching a final agreement."

North Korea reports first Covid-19 death



At least one person confirmed to have Covid-19 has died in North Korea and hundreds of thousands have shown fever symptoms, state media said yesterday, offering hints at the potentially dire scale of country's first confirmed outbreak of the pandemic.

About 187,800 people are being treated in isolation after a fever of unidentified origin has "explosively spread nationwide" since late April, the official KCNA news agency reported. At least six people with fever symptoms have died, with one of those cases confirmed to have contracted the Omicron variant of the virus, KCNA said.

Scientists

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"Every plant -- whether in a lunar sample or in a control -- looked the same up until about day six," Anna-Lisa Paul, lead author of the paper, said in a statement.

But after that, differences started to appear: the plants in the lunar samples grew more slowly and had stunted roots.

After 20 days, the scientists harvested all the plants, and ran studies on their DNA.

Their analysis showed that the lunar plants had reacted similarly to those grown in hostile environments, such as soil with too much salt, or heavy metals.

27 dead

FROM PAGE 12

department officials, information about the blaze was received at 4:40 pm, following which 20 fire tenders were rushed to the spot, reported news agency ANI.

Part of dam

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He claimed that there was no irregularity in the previous year's work. "Any riverbank structures can be washed away by the torrents of water."

\$44b deal to buy Twitter

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on hold pending details supporting calculation that spam/fake accounts do indeed represent less than 5% of users."

Two hours after his first tweet, Musk took to the platform again to say he was "still committed to acquisition".

Reliable figures for the number of users are seen as vital to judge future revenue streams.

Rejoinder, our reply

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to the Law and Justice Division. Following this, the department sends the names of the candidates to the home ministry to conduct a background check. Upon getting a report from the home ministry, the Law and Justice Division sends proposal to the honourable president for recruitment of only those candidates who have no records of being accused of cognisable offences. The president appoints the shortlisted candidates according to article 117 of the constitution, and Bangladesh Judicial Service Rules-2007. Once the appointment by the president is complete,

first quarter of this year, and just five percent were regarded as false or spam accounts.

Analyst Dan Ives from Wedbush said the Twitter "circus show" was likely to translate into a "Friday 13th horror show".

"The nature of Musk creating so much uncertainty in a tweet (and not a filing) is very troubling," he said.

broke, the Law and Justice Division consulted with the Bangladesh Supreme Court and stayed his recruitment. As a result, Shah Paran could not join as an assistant judge of the Bangladesh Judicial Service.

OUR REPLY

It is understood that the home ministry failed to point out that Shah Paran was an accused in a case. The fact remains that Shah Paran's recruitment was confirmed by the law ministry, not by the home ministry. It was also mentioned in our story that after realising their mistake, the law ministry took prompt measures to rectify the situation. We stand by our report.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No. 25.36.4600.320.50.004.19 ১৩৪৮

Date: ২৯/০১/১৪২৯ বাং
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e-GP Tender Notice (OTM, NCT)

e-Tender invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement as follows:

Tender ID No.	Invitation Ref. No.	Description of Works	Tender Document Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time	Remarks
697371	egp/pwd/khagra/OTM/2021-22/24	Repair & renovation of electrical works at first class Meteorological research office and dormitory building in Diginala upazila under Khagrachari district.	22/05/2022 17:00	23/05/2022 15:00	23/05/2022 15:00	---
697369	egp/pwd/khagra/OTM/2021-22/23	Construction of Secondary Gate at Deputy Commissioner Office at Khagrachari.	22/05/2022 17:00	23/05/2022 15:00	23/05/2022 15:00	---

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP system.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details about procurement package, please contact the official inviting the tender.

(Md. Anowarul Azim)

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GD-958