

No further violation of Bangladesh’s airspace

Myanmar border guards assure BGB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar has assured that it would not violate Bangladesh’s airspace after Bangladesh raised the issue during the conference between the border security forces that ended on Sunday.

“There have been some incidents of airspace violations. We have taken this issue seriously as it is an impediment to ensuring peace along the border,” Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, director general of Border Guard Bangladesh, told a press conference yesterday.

“We have asked them [Myanmar] to inform us if they need to fly a drone, an aircraft or a chopper in the border area so that we can monitor if any type of airspace violation occurs,” he said during a briefing at the BGB headquarters at the capital’s Pilkhana.

The BGB chief said Myanmar’s Border Guard Police (BGP) assured them that they would share real-time information and that such violations would not happen again.

Both sides agreed to share information about any incident of firing, explosion, and movement of security forces along the border and work jointly so that no terrorist or insurgent groups could trespass.

Replying to a query, the BGB chief said they would not tolerate any use of Bangladesh’s territory by Arsa (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army), RSO (Rohingya Solidarity Organisation) or any other group.

The two border security forces agreed to work together to prevent smuggling of drugs, added the BGB chief.

Replying to another query about the recent killing of a DGFI officer in the border area, the BGB chief said enquiries into the matter were ongoing.

On the sidelines of the conference held at Naypyitaw on November 23-27, the BGB DG met Myanmar’s deputy home minister, also the chief of police, and the union home minister of Myanmar and discussed repatriation of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and other issues.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges greetings with staffers, patients and their relatives at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in the capital’s Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. The premier, like any other outdoor patient, purchased a Tk 10 ticket and had her eyes checked there.

PHOTO: PTD

Putin using ‘winter as weapon of war’

Says Nato chief as the alliance eyes to ramp up aid for Ukraine

AGENCIES

Nato allies will ramp up aid for Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin is using winter as a weapon of war because his forces are failing on the battlefield, Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday.

“I think we all have seen these pictures taken from satellites where you see Europe in light and then you see Ukraine dark...so there is a huge task to rebuild all of this,” Stoltenberg said.

“President Putin is trying to use winter as a weapon of war,” he told reporters as Nato foreign ministers gathered in Bucharest for a two day meeting which he said would serve as a platform to mobilise more support for Ukraine.

Nato foreign ministers will focus on increasing military assistance for Ukraine such as air defence systems and ammunition, even as diplomats acknowledge supply and capacity issues, but also discuss non-lethal aid.

Part of this non-lethal aid - goods such as fuel, medical supplies, winter equipment and drone jammers - has been delivered through a Nato assistance

package that allies can contribute to and which Stoltenberg aims to increase.

Stoltenberg’s comments were echoed by several ministers from the 30 member alliance, who were also be joined by Finland and Sweden, as they look to secure full membership pending Turkish and Hungarian ratifications.

“The coming months will be a big test for us all. For Ukraine it is existential, for us moral. We must continue helping Ukraine for as long as necessary,” Slovak Foreign Minister Rastislav Kacer said.

Air raid sirens wailed across Ukraine yesterday for the first time this week. Ukrainians fled the streets for bomb shelters, although there were no immediate reports of major attacks away from the front.

The all-clear was later sounded in the capital Kyiv, but officials said the threat had not necessarily lifted. “Last time, the Russians also disguised the strike as a training flight... Let’s see,” said Vitaliy Kim, governor of southern Ukraine’s Mykolaiv region.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned his fellow citizens of new Russian attacks this week that could be as

bad as last week’s, the worst yet, which left millions of people with no heat, water or power.

Russia acknowledges attacking Ukrainian infrastructure. It denies its intent is to hurt civilians.

“It is going to be a terrible winter for Ukraine, so we are working to strengthen our support for it to be resilient,” a senior European diplomat said.

Ministers will also discuss Ukraine’s application for Nato membership. But they are likely to only confirm the alliance’s open-door policy while Nato membership still appears far away.

Meanwhile, Moscow has sent India a list of more than 500 products for potential delivery including parts for cars, aircraft and trains, four sources familiar with the matter said, as sanctions squeeze Russia’s ability to keep vital industries running.

The list, a version of which has been seen by Reuters in New Delhi, is provisional and it is unclear how many of the items will eventually be exported and in what quantity, but an Indian government source said the request was unusual in its scope.

England set up

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made by Gareth Southgate from that match and said the squad were keen to make amends from a lacklustre performance.

“We were a little bit disappointed as a team after the last game against the USA. I thought we could’ve played a lot better and the only way to bounce back is to have a good performance in the next game and we did that,” added Rashford.

“First half we defended brilliantly, didn’t give them any opportunities, and it was just about us killing the game off and taking the chances when they came.”

In the other match, Chelsea star Pulisic bundled home the do-or-die Group B game’s only goal on 38 minutes to set up a second round clash with Group A winners the Netherlands on Saturday.

The victory was no less than US coach Gregg Berhalter’s youthful side deserved in what was only the third international football clash between the bitter ideological rivals.

The build-up to a pulsating showdown had been marked by steadily escalating tension, with Iran’s Football Federation on Sunday demanding FIFA sanction US Soccer for posting a modified version of their country’s flag on social media.

But despite an electrifying atmosphere at Doha’s Al Thumama Stadium, Tuesday’s game played out without controversy as the US avenged their 1998 World Cup defeat to Iran to send the Asian qualifiers crashing out of the tournament.

Iran’s fans had roared their team onto the field at the start of the game amid a deafening cacophony of air-horns and cheers from the crowd of 42,127.

But despite the intimidating reception it was the Americans who looked more comfortable, quickly establishing their dominance.

200 fishermen rescued from drifting ice in US lake

AFP, Washington

About 200 early-season ice fishers were caught by surprise and stranded in a Minnesota lake when the frozen slab under their feet broke free and drifted into open water – triggering a complex rescue operation.

A member of the group called emergency services Monday when they realized the people ice fishing – a popular winter sport in the northern US state known as the Land of 10,000 Lakes – were slowly drifting away from the shoreline of Upper Red Lake, local police said on Facebook.

Govt, BNP at odds over venue

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The permission for Suhrawardy Udyan was given following an intelligence report from the Special Branch of police, they added.

WHY SUHRAWARDY UDYAN?

The ruling party wants the BNP to hold its rally at Suhrawardy Udyan as the venue is fenced and there would be no escape for BNP men if they get involved in any untoward incident, party sources said.

The AL also thinks the BNP can fill the Nayapaltan venue with just 50,000 people and then boast about overflowing crowds. It will be a lot more difficult to fill Suhrawardy Udyan and the AL thinks it will give the ruling party the opportunity to say afterwards that the BNP does not have the public support.

Law enforcement sources said that if a rally at Nayapaltan had more than 50,000 people, it would spill over to adjacent Motijheel, Rajarbagh and Arambagh areas, which would be impossible for police to police.

“The BNP will have to abide by the rule of the land. As the party has been given permission for Suhrawardy Udyan, police will not allow it to hold the rally anywhere else in the city,” DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq told The Daily Star.

Talking to reporters at his Secretariat office, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the government would take tough actions if the party holds its rally at Nayapaltan with the aim of creating chaos.

“The BNP is getting Suhrawardy

Udyan to hold its public meeting smoothly and without any hassles. Even the conference of Chhatra League has been rescheduled,” said Hasan, also joint general secretary of AL.

The BNP discussed the issue at its standing committee meeting on Monday night, and all the members opined for negotiations with the government to hold the rally at Nayapaltan.

Party’s senior leaders questioned the government’s insistence on Suhrawardy Udyan. They said it was a strategy of the government to confine the rally to the park with an ill intention.

A BNP standing committee member, however, said Suhrawardy Udyan was not a large venue to hold such a massive rally as it has many establishments and structures inside.

“There are only two gates for entry and exit. There will be a strong presence of Chhatra League on Dhaka University campus. The BNP men wishing to join the rally will face obstacles at Shahbagh. If a chaotic situation is created, then who will take the responsibility?” he said.

At the standing committee meeting, party leaders said BNP activists feel comfortable in front of the party office. “If a chaotic situation arises, there are many alleys and streets for escape, which are not there at Suhrawardy Udyan,” one of them said.

“Firstly, we did not want Suhrawardy Udyan. Secondly and most importantly, no movement can be dictated by a fascist and uneducated

government,” Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, standing committee member of the party, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The meeting also discussed possible public sufferings if the rally was held at Nayapaltan.

The BNP leaders said December 10 is a weekend. “If the streets around Nayapaltan are closed, it will not create any major problems. Rather, Shahbagh and Purana Paltan are more busy and important areas.”

According to the police, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has instructed them not to “hit” BNP leaders and activists, and AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader asked AL and pro-AL men not to go for any confrontation with the BNP.

Hasina, also AL president, during a meeting with her party colleagues on Sunday directed them to ensure that no transport strike is called ahead of the rally and that there are no obstacles to holding the rally.

AL insiders, however, said its city unit leaders will be in their areas to prevent any unwanted incident.

BNP policymakers believed that whatever the government is saying is nothing but an eyewash. Rather, the government will do everything to stop people from joining the rally.

Regarding the preparations, a high official of DMP, told this newspaper yesterday, “The venue will be totally cordoned-off by police in plainclothes and in uniform. There will be a special deployment throughout the capital.”

The dog squad and the SWAT team will be on standby, the official added.

At least 448 killed in Iran protest crackdown

Says rights group

AFP, Paris

Iranian security forces have killed at least 448 people in a crackdown on protests that began in mid-September, over half in ethnic minority regions, a rights group said yesterday.

Of the 448 people confirmed to have been killed, 60 were children aged under 18, including nine girls, and 29 women, the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) group said.

It said 16 people were killed by security forces in the past week alone, of whom 12 were slain in Kurdish-populated areas where protests have been particularly intense.

Confident Brazil

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for the Hexa (sixth), which has eluded them for two decades after their World Cup triumph in 2002.

The Switzerland match was a tough test for Brazil, doubly so without inspirational playmaker Neymar, who missed the match due to an ankle injury sustained against Serbia. Right-back Danilo also missed the game due to an injury.

But though their talisman’s absence was felt, Brazil were hardly made to look uncomfortable after the injection of some exciting players into the side.

With Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr providing the firepower from the left and his young teammate Rodrygo oozing flair down the middle after coming on as a substitute for Lucas Paqueta at half time, this Brazil team at least dispelled the disturbing notion of ‘Neymar and 10 others’.

There were patches of sharp, slick and imaginative passes and improvised one-tws, but the final ball lacked incision against the deep-sitting Swiss. Besides that, the attack, mostly spearheaded by Vinicius, did not work as the forward was constantly marked by two Swiss defenders.

Brazil coach Tite compensated for the loss of Neymar by advancing Paqueta into the front of the midfield three, with Fred joining his Manchester United teammate Casemiro further back in Paqueta’s usual position.

However, Casemiro, famous for his defensive exploits during his glorious Real Madrid days, has been a revelation for Brazil with his attacking exploits in this World Cup so far.

Incidentally, Casemiro’s switch to Manchester United ahead of this season allowed him to express the attacking instincts that the 30-year-old had repressed at Real Madrid, when he played in the shadow of eagle-eyed passers like Luka Modric and Toni Kroos.

His 78th-minute winner, a half-volley with the outside of his right foot at Stadium 974, might not have been as spectacular as Richarlison’s bicycle ballet against Serbia, but it was another strong statement from an ever-evolving midfielder.

Sitting in the stands, the great Ronaldo – the last Brazilian No. 9 to have led the nation to the World Cup with a brace in the final against Germany – did not hide his admiration for Casemiro’s brilliant goal. El Fenomenon was seen clapping with a trademark toothy smile on his face.

Brazil were eliminated from the 2018 World Cup in Russia after a 2-1 defeat to Belgium in the quarterfinals. Fernandinho headed the first goal into his own net off a corner while Belgium’s second goal originated from a rampant Romelu Lukaku run against little Brazilian resistance in the middle. They desperately missed Casemiro in that ill-fated game due to a yellow card

Wasa MD paid Tk 5.8cr as salaries, benefits in 13yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Taqsem A Khan has been paid Tk 5.8 crore as salaries and other benefits over the last 13 years.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority provided this information to the High Court yesterday in compliance with its directive issued earlier.

In a report, Wasa said the MD has drawn Tk 4.51 crore of the total amount as Tk 1.29 crore was deducted as house rent and repairs, income tax, and other costs.

Wasa lawyers AM Masum and Syed Mahshib Hossain placed the report by swearing an affidavit to the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo.

AYAT MURDER

Parents of accused now placed on remand

UNB, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday granted a three-day remand to the parents of Abir Ali, the prime accused in the case over the kidnapping and murder of seven-year-old Alina Islam Ayat in the port city.

After questioning Azharul Islam and his wife Aleya Begum, it will become clear whether Abir had killed the child for ransom or any other purposes, said the plaintiff’s counsel Adv Selim Ullah Chowdhury.

Abir was put on seven-day remand on Monday.

BSF hands over farmer’s body to BGB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Border Security Force yesterday handed over the body of a farmer 17 days after they allegedly picked him up from his cropland along the border at Parshuram upazila in Feni.

Md Mejbahar, 47, was picked up by BSF on November 13, said his wife Mariam Akhter.

Three days later, his body was allegedly found in Indian territory.

Worker dies after falling off building

UNB, Dhaka

A 32-year-old worker died after falling off the third floor of a 10-storey under-construction building in the capital’s Bhasantek area yesterday.

Julhas Mridha was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead upon arrival, said Md Bachhu Mia, inspector of the hospital police outpost.