

ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Boat with 185 land in Aceh

REUTERS, Jakarta

A boat with 185 Rohingya refugees landed on the shores of Indonesia's Aceh province yesterday, a local disaster agency official said, following hundreds who arrived late last year fleeing desperate conditions in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Over half of those who arrived around 2:30 p.m. Sunday were women and children, Ridwan Jamil, head of Aceh Besar disaster agency, told Reuters.

Photos Ridwan shared showed the refugees sitting in groups and lying down on the sand.

Hundreds of Rohingya have reached Aceh in the past few months, including a boat that washed ashore carrying 174 in late December.

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said that 2022 could be one of the deadliest years at sea in almost a decade for the Rohingya, who have long been persecuted in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

For years many Rohingya have fled to neighbouring states such as Thailand and Bangladesh, and to Muslim-majority Malaysia and Indonesia.

Fishermen in Aceh had spotted three boats they strongly suspected were carrying Rohingya refugees in waters near Rondo Island, state news agency Antara reported late on Saturday.

It was unclear whether the boat that landed was one of them.

Nearly 1 million Rohingya live in crowded conditions in Bangladesh, including many of the hundreds of thousands who fled a deadly crackdown in 2017 by Myanmar's military, which denies committing crimes against humanity.

Rights groups have recorded a significant increase in the number leaving the camps. It is not clear what is driving the larger exodus, but some activists believe the lifting of Covid restrictions around Southeast Asia could be a factor.



Rohingya refugees walk towards a temporary shelter following their arrival by a boat in Lamnga beach, Aceh province, Indonesia, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMIC CRISIS IN PAKISTAN

Pak minister in Geneva to secure IMF bailout fund

Army chief visits S Arabia; Islamabad seeks \$16b for flood rebuilding

AGENCIES

Pakistan has stepped up efforts to secure money from an international money lender and a friendly state as the South Asian country faces an unprecedented economic crisis.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation will meet Pakistan's finance minister on the sidelines of a conference in Geneva beginning on Jan. 9, a spokesperson of the lender said yesterday, as Pakistan struggles to restart its bailout programme.

The lender is yet to approve the release of \$1.1 billion originally due to be disbursed in November last year, leaving Pakistan with only enough foreign exchange reserves to cover one month's imports.

The conference in Geneva, co-hosted by PPM Shehbaz Sharif and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, will look to gather international support for the country in the aftermath of devastating floods last year.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's new army chief has held talks with top Saudi officials, including the defence minister, on his first official trip to the Gulf kingdom.

Pakistan's General Syed Asim Munir, who took charge in November, has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors in visiting Saudi Arabia – a close defence and economic ally – on his maiden overseas trip. He will also visit the United Arab Emirates during the nearly one-week trip.

The current visit by General Munir came at a time when Pakistan faced a crippling economic crisis. Inflation has been skyrocketing while the country is also dealing with the aftermath of last year's catastrophic floods that resulted in an estimated loss of more than \$30b.

Earlier this week, Pakistani finance minister Ishaq Dar in a news conference expressed hope that Saudi Arabia will park its deposits in the central bank to provide some relief to the economy.

Islamabad needed Saudi money to shore foreign reserves and ensure a safety valve from default. Riyadh deposited \$3b in November 2021, under the tenure of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Last month, the kingdom extended the terms of the fund.

SWEDEN'S NATO BID

PM says can't accept some Turkey demands

AFP, Salen

Turkey, which has for months blocked Nato membership bids by Sweden and Finland, has made some demands that Sweden cannot accept, Sweden's prime minister said yesterday. "Turkey has confirmed that we have done what we said we would do, but it also says that it wants things that we can't, that we don't want to, give it," Ulf Kristersson said during a security conference also attended by Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg. Sweden and Finland broke with decades of military non-alignment and applied to join the alliance in response to Russia's February invasion of Ukraine. But Turkey has refused to approve their bid until the two countries take steps, including joining Turkey's fight against banned Kurdish militants. Most of Turkey's demands have involved Sweden because of its more robust ties with the Kurdish diaspora.

CHEMICAL TERROR PLOT

Iranian man held in Germany

AFP, Berlin

An Iranian man has been arrested in western Germany suspected of preparing an "Islamist attack" using cyanide and ricin, police and prosecutors said yesterday.

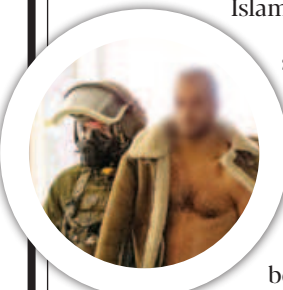
The 32-year-old Iranian was "suspected of having prepared a serious act of violence threatening the security of the state by obtaining cyanide and ricin with a view to committing an Islamist attack", said investigators.

The arrest was carried out shortly before midnight on Saturday, a spokeswoman for the police said. Another person, said to be the main suspect's brother, was also taken into custody during the operation, she said.

The 32-year-old suspect will be presented in the coming days to an investigating judge ahead of possible pre-trial detention, police said.

Ricin is a highly toxic substance, which is classed as a "chemical weapon" in Germany. Similar to cyanide, ricin can be lethal.

German authorities were tipped off to the risk of an attack with a "chemical bomb" several days ago by a foreign intelligence service, the German daily Bild reported.



Protesters pose in mock gallows as they gather in central London yesterday for a march against the Iranian regime, on the third anniversary of the downing of Ukrainian passenger jet, flight PS752, shortly after it took-off from Tehran.

PHOTO: AFP

Road accident kills 19 in China

AFP, Beijing

Nineteen people died and 20 were injured yesterday in a road traffic accident in eastern China's Jiangxi province, state media reported.

The accident took place just before 1:00am (1700 GMT) in Nanchang County, state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing local authorities. An investigation has been launched to know the cause of the accident.

Local news outlet Jimu, affiliated with the state-owned Hubei Daily Media Group, reported the accident took place when a truck hit a funeral procession.

Around an hour after news of the accident emerged, Nanchang County traffic police issued travel tips to drivers saying the area was experiencing "foggy weather".

CONTROVERSIAL MEMOIRS

Prince Harry to defend book in TV interviews

AFP, London

Prince Harry was scheduled to discuss his memoirs in television interviews yesterday after the book's explosive revelations about royal rifts, sex and drugs cast doubt on his future in the British royal family.

The 38-year-old prince's ghost-written book "Spare" was widely leaked after it mistakenly went on sale in Spain ahead of the official publication date Tuesday.

Details include an allegation his brother Prince William, the heir to the throne, attacked him during a row about his wife Meghan; an account of how he lost his virginity; an admission of drug use; and a claim he killed 25 people while serving in Afghanistan.

British media reported yesterday that the book had deeply hurt William and the boys' father, King Charles III, but the monarch wants to reconcile with his son.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak declined



any comment on the scandal in a BBC interview while stressing his "enormous regard for the royal family".

The TV channels have already released clips where Harry speaks about his fractious relationship with William and accuses his family of planting negative stories about him and Meghan in the media.

Britain's ITV television will be the first to air its show "Harry: The Interview" at 9:00 pm (2100 GMT).

Harry told ITV he still believes in the monarchy, although he does not know if he will play any part in its future.

US channel CBS was later to broadcast its interview with Harry on its "60 Minutes" evening show.

Another US network, ABC, was to air its interview a day later.

The interviews were recorded before Harry's book was widely leaked Thursday – prompting a backlash from media, royal commentators, military veterans and even the Taliban.



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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below:

SL.	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender last selling Date & Time
1	771257	OTM	Procurement of Research accessories	08-Jan-2023 16:00	30-Jan-2023 16:00
2	746642	OTM	Procurement of Chemicals	08-Jan-2023 16:00	30-Jan-2023 16:00
3	774806	OTM	Procurement of Laboratory equipment	10-Jan-2023 16:00	05-Feb-2023 16:00
4	774938	OTM	Procurement of Online UPS	10-Jan-2023 16:00	01-Feb-2023 16:00
5	774956	OTM	Necessary repair and renovation of dilapidated electrical main lines of 123 and 124 No buildings in the residential area of BJRI head office.	08-Jan-2023 16:00	31-Jan-2023 16:00
6	774962	OTM	Necessary repair and renovation work of common space (staircase and outside wall), roof, toilet, bathroom and five rooms of VIP rest house, an waiting room, one large VIP room with attached bathroom, one dining room on 1st floor and one training room in ground floor on north side of BJRI head office PTC building of BJRI Dhaka-1207.	10-Jan-2023 16:00	31-Jan-2023 16:00
7	769791	OTM	Repairing & Maintenance works & others necessary works of Staff quarter C-Type-118/4, 119/2, 120/2, 120/4, 120/5, 120/6, 121/1, 121/5, 122/8, F-Type-127/6, 127/7, H-Type-130/3, 129/7, 129/8, 129/9, 129/13, 129/16, H-Moni-145/6, 145/19, 145/21, C-Type-1 (Kishoreganj), H-Type-2 (Kishoreganj) & and Manipuripara (for four rooms on the south side of Tin shed Quarter) at BJRI H.Q Dhaka.	09-Jan-2023 16:00	05-Feb-2023 16:00
8	769966	OTM	Repairing & Maintenance works & others necessary works of Officers Quarter A-Type-116/4, B-Type-117/2, 117/3, 117/5, 124/2, 124/7, 123/4, 123/6, E-Type-125/2, 125/5, 125/6, 125/7, 125/8, 126/1, E-Moni-1/1, 1/2, 1/5, 1/6 & Officers Dormitory-5 at BJRI H.Q Dhaka.	09-Jan-2023 16:00	01-Feb-2023 16:00

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. Interested Persons/Firms can see details in the website: <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>



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