

## Ukraine reports bloody fighting in Bakhmut

### Russia's Wagner group releases 100 Ukrainian prisoners of war for Orthodox Easter

REUTERS, Moscow

Ukrainian and Russian armed forces are fighting extraordinarily bloody battles in the smothered eastern city of Bakhmut, but pro-Kyiv forces are still holding on, Ukraine's military said yesterday.

Russia's defence ministry said earlier that fighters from the Wagner mercenary group had captured two more areas of Bakhmut, the main target of Moscow's offensive in eastern Ukraine.

Wagner has spearheaded Russia's attempt to take Bakhmut since last summer in what has been the longest and deadliest battle of the war for both sides.

"Bloody battles unprecedented in recent decades are taking place in the middle of the city's urban area," said Serhiy Cherevatyi, spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern military command.

"Our soldiers are doing everything in bloody and fierce battles to grind down (the enemy's) combat capability and break its morale. Every day, in every corner of this city, they are successfully doing so," he told the 1-1 television channel.

The Russian defence ministry said Wagner units had taken two areas on the northern and southern outskirts of

the city. Russian army paratroop units were supporting the claimed advance by holding back Ukrainian forces on the flanks, it added.

Britain said in an intelligence update on Friday that Ukrainian troops had been forced to cede some territory in Bakhmut as Russia mounted a renewed assault there, with intense artillery fire over the previous two days.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made no mention of Bakhmut in his daily video address later on Saturday and reiterated Kyiv's desire to join Nato as soon as possible. Ukraine would need effective security guarantees before that happened, he said, but gave no details.

Meanwhile, Wagner group sent at least 100 Ukrainian prisoners of war back to Ukrainian forces to mark Orthodox Easter, according to a video posted by the group's founder, Yevgeny Prigozhin, yesterday.

"Prepare all of them, feed and water them, check the wounded," Prigozhin was saying in the video. A group of Ukrainian prisoners were then shown being told that they would be passed back to Ukrainian forces. "I hope you don't fall back into our hands," an armed Wagner soldier was told telling the men before they were ordered into a truck.



(From Left to Right) Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna and Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani pose at a welcoming ceremony for G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Karuizawa, Japan yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## HEADSCARF ROW

### Iran seals 150 businesses

AFP, Tehran

Iranian police said yesterday authorities had closed more than 150 businesses in 24 hours for not respecting the obligation for women to wear headscarves under Iran's strict Islamic dress code.

The closures were announced a day after police said they have now implemented a plan to deal with women who violate the law, using surveillance cameras and facial recognition technology.

The requirement for women to wear the headscarf in public was enshrined in law shortly after the Islamic revolution of 1979.

"Unfortunately, police have had to seal 137 shops and 18 restaurants and reception areas for not heeding previous warnings" on the dress code, the Tasnim news agency quoted police spokesman Said Montazerolmahdi as saying.

The crackdown comes after the number of women defying the code has risen since a protest movement triggered by the death in custody last year of Kurdish-Iranian Mahsa Amini, 22, for allegedly flouting it.

Last week, police chief Ahmad-Reza Radan said those who remove their headscarves would be identified using "smart equipment".

Police have warned that car owners will receive a text message if a female passenger breaks the code, and that they risk having their vehicle seized in the case of a repeat offence.

Last month, judiciary chief Mohseni Ejei said women who removed their headscarves "will be punished".

## POWER STRUGGLE

# 56 civilians killed as Sudan battles rage on

### Three UN workers among dead; around 600 injured; world powers condemn violence

AFP, Khartoum

Fighting in Sudan raged for a second day yesterday in battles between rival generals who seized power in a 2021 coup, leaving over 50 civilians including three UN staff dead and sparking international alarm.

Deafening explosions and intense gunfire rattled buildings in the capital Khartoum's densely-populated northern and southern suburbs as tanks rumbled on the streets and fighter jets roared overhead, witnesses said.

Violence erupted early Saturday after weeks of power struggles between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, commander of the heavily-armed paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with each accusing the other of starting the fight.

"The gunfire and explosions are incessant," said 34-year-old Ahmed Hamid from a northern Khartoum suburb.

"The situation is very worrying and it doesn't seem like it will calm anytime soon," said Ahmed Seif, another Khartoum resident, who fears his building had been damaged by gunfire but said it was too dangerous to go outside to check.

Both sides claim they control key sites, while state television broadcast patriotic songs without commentary.

Daglo's RSF say they have seized the

presidential palace, Khartoum airport and other strategic sites, but the army insist they are in charge.

Footage obtained by AFP showed heavy smoke billowing from a building near the army headquarters in Khartoum, with the military saying a building had "caught fire" amid the clashes but that it had been contained.



Yesterday, the stench of gunpowder wafted through Khartoum's streets, deserted except by soldiers as frightened civilians sheltered inside their homes.

The Central Committee of Sudan Doctors said they had recorded 56 civilians killed as well as "tens of deaths" among security forces, and around 600 wounded.

Fighting has also erupted outside Khartoum, including in the troubled western Darfur region and in the eastern border state of Kassala, where witness Hussein Saleh said the army had fired

artillery at a paramilitary camp.

The United Nations said three employees of its World Food Programme (WFP) had been killed in clashes in North Darfur.

It was not immediately clear whether the three deaths on Saturday were included in the tally provided by the medics.

UN Special Representative Volker Perthes condemned the killings in a statement, saying "civilian and humanitarian aid workers are not a target."

WFP said an aircraft managed by the organisation "was also significantly damaged" at Khartoum airport.

UN chief Antonio Guterres called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities", while US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the fighting "threatens the security and safety of Sudanese civilians". Similar appeals came from the African Union, Britain, China, the European Union and Russia, while Pope Francis said he was following the events "with concern" and urged dialogue.

The AU was to hold an emergency meeting yesterday, as is the Arab League, following a request by Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Medics on social media have continued to call for help, pleading for safe corridors for ambulances and a ceasefire to treat the victims, warning the streets were too dangerous to bring many casualties to hospitals.

## ALABAMA SHOOTING

### 4 killed, multiple people hurt

REUTERS

Four people were killed and at least 20 more were injured in a shooting on Saturday night in the small town of Dadeville, Alabama, a local TV station reported yesterday, citing investigators on the scene and a release from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

The shooting occurred around 10:30 pm ET on Saturday, according to the agency release cited in the report by TV station WRBL. The FBI, the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Fifth Circuit District Attorney's Office had also responded to the scene.

There was no confirmation about what led to the shooting and it was not known if any suspects had been taken into custody. Local reports indicated that the shooting occurred at a dance studio during what seemed to be a teenager's birthday party.

#### OPEN CALL FOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Bangladesh, is calling for applications for the fellowship titled "Young Voices in Geopolitics." Under this fellowship program, three next generation researchers and journalists will avail grants to conduct research on geopolitics in Bangladesh. To avail this fellowship, the candidate has to be a working journalist or a PhD student. To know more about the fellowship program, please visit: <https://cgs-bd.com/articles/13452/Fellowship>  
Deadline: 30 April, 2023.



## A resolute Hasina prevails

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an end. "My political career too will be over," he told the meeting, according to sources.

Hasina wouldn't buy it and said Sadiq, also the general secretary of Barishal city AL, will not bring any good for her or Hasnat, the sources added.

At that, Hasnat urged the PM to take him out of the game as well - if his son weren't picked, he would not continue to be in politics.

At one point, Hasnat fell sick. Hasina called in her personal doctor who checked his health and found nothing to worry about, said the insiders.

After the break, Hasnat proposed that his son be nominated for the mayoral polls and Khair for parliamentary election from Barishal-1.

In reply, Hasina said that as per the party decision, Khair would be nominated as mayoral candidate, and the AL Parliamentary Nomination Board will decide on Barishal-1 constituency when time comes, according to the meeting sources.

Recalling the memories of the August 15 bloodbath in 1975, Hasina said Khair was shot in the massacre. Yet he didn't get anything and never wanted anything and so he should be given a chance.

On August 15, 1975, when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most of his family members by a group of army personnel, Abdur Rab Serniabat, the father of Khair and Hasnat, was also shot to death at his Minto Road residence.

Serniabat was then the minister for irrigation and flood control. Six members of the family were killed on that fateful night.

Khair doesn't hold any portfolio of the party and was a member of the previous committee of Jubo League.

Barishal district and city AL units proposed only Sadiq's name as the mayoral candidate before the central committee though there were several other mayoral aspirants. A total of seven aspirants bought nomination papers for the mayoral post.

After being elected Barishal mayor and Barishal city AL general secretary, Sadiq Abdullah earned a bad name for his grip over launch, speedboat and bus terminals, locals said.

His relationship with the local administration deteriorated and it all came to the fore in August 2021 when an upazila nirbahi officer's home was attacked.

Later, indicating Abdur Rab Serniabat's residence on Kali Bari Road in the city, he told reporters that he also belongs to that house but is

not allowed there.

Meanwhile, sources said Khair may visit Barishal tomorrow to start electioneering.

Hasnat Abdullah is the president of Barishal district Awami League, the lawmaker from Barishal-1 and a member of AL's central working committee, all at the same time.

With Sadiq as the general secretary of Barishal city AL and city mayor, the father and son control the AL politics in the district, without giving their political rivals any space.

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Association even demanded his arrest.

There are several incidents where Sadiq disrespected and physically assaulted senior leaders of the party, according to locals.

During his tenure, he increased holding taxes by around four times, angering the city dwellers. Besides, he made approving building designs a lengthy process.

Yesterday, AL candidate for Sylhet Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, the joint general secretary of the party's UK wing, met AL chief at the Gono Bhaban and expressed his gratitude by offering bouquet.

Then PM asked him to go for all-out campaign and work with all party leaders and activists, said sources.

Anwaruzzaman is going to Sylhet today and will formally start his electioneering.

Leaders and activists of Gazipur visited Azmat Ullah Khan, the AL pick for the city, at his Tongi residence. He is the president of Gazipur city AL.

Apparently, there was no excitement among the leaders and activists of Khulna and Rajshahi cities as they were somehow convinced long ago that the incumbent mayors were getting the party tickets again.

## It's political

FROM PAGE 1

sector was ensured under political leadership.

"At least I can claim that from 2009 to 2023, the unprecedented development of the country was done through political decisions."

Hasina added that her government has adopted the ideals of independence and has followed them while running the administration.

"We are getting the results. Because of this policy, we have attained the status of a developing country."

She urged all to sustain this momentum of development and democracy to benefit the generations to come.

"We have to keep our focus particularly on this," she said.

The PM put utmost importance on training, saying it is urgently needed for a nation to develop.

"The world is changing and now an era of technology is underway. We have to advance further in compliance with the era."

She said it should be ensured that the country's manpower gets proper training for the appropriate advancement in the coming days.

**বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা**  
কেন্দ্রীয় লাইব্রেরি

লাইব/৪৭/সংগ্রহ/টেভার/২০২২-২০২৩/ডি-৬৯ তারিখঃ ১৫.০৪.২৩

**বই সংগ্রহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিদেশী প্রিন্সিপালদের/প্রকাশকদের/ডিস্ট্রিবিউটরদের প্রকৃত এজেন্টদের নিকট হইতে বুয়েট গ্রন্থাগারে বিদেশী বই সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে এতদ্বারা সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

স্থানীয় এজেন্ট/সরবরাহকারীদের দরপত্র কেবলমাত্র তখনই গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে যখন দরপত্র দলিলাদি ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে তাহারা বিদেশী প্রিন্সিপাল/প্রকাশকদের নিকট হইতে এজেন্সীশিপের কাগজপত্র এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র/সার্টিফিকেটসমূহ যেমন- (ক) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক-এর অনুমতিপত্র/এলসিএ (খ) ইনডেনটিং রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (গ) হালনাগাদ পরিশোধকৃত আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট (ঘ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (ঙ) ট্রেড সার্টিফিকেট এবং (চ) কাঠমস কর্তৃক হালনাগাদ বিল অফ এন্ট্রি সমূহ পেশ করিতে সক্ষম হইবে।

ইচ্ছুক ও যোগ্য দরদাতাগণ গ্রন্থাগারিকের নিকট হইতে লিখিত পূর্ব অনুমতিপত্র প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে গ্রন্থাগারের দস্তর হইতে সকল কর্মদিবসে (শনিবার-বুধবার) সকাল ১০.০০টা হইতে বিকাল ৪.০০টার মধ্যে দরপত্র দলিলা সমূহ ক্রয় করিতে পারিবেন। দরপত্র নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে ১০.০৫.২০২৩ইং বেলা ১১.৩০টা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১১.৩৫ মিনিটে দরদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে, যদি কেহ থাকেন, উক্ত দরপত্রসমূহ উন্মুক্ত করা হইবে। দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

দরপত্র দলিলা লাভ করিবার পূর্বে দরদাতাগণকে দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য বাবদ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে সোনালী ব্যাংক, বুয়েট শাখা, ঢাকা-এর হিসাব নং ৩৩০০০০১১ (খাত নং-৫০৩) খাতে টাকা ১৫০০.০০ (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র জমার রশিদ এবং যে কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের লাইব্রেরিতে ১ বছরে কমপক্ষে ২০ (বিশ লক্ষ) টাকার বিদেশী বই সরবরাহের সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হইবে।

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র আংশিকভাবে বা সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ বা প্রত্যাখ্যান করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

জিডি-৭০৩ লাইব্রেরিয়ান