

EASTERN UKRAINE

100K Russian troops dead, hurt: US

AGENCIES

More than 20,000 Russian troops have died and another 80,000 were wounded in five months of fighting in eastern Ukraine, particularly in Bakhmut, a White House official said Monday.

"We estimate that Russia has suffered more than 100,000 casualties, including over 20,000 killed in action," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

"Russia's attempt at an offensive in the Donbass, largely through Bakhmut, has failed... Russia has been unable to seize any really strategically significant territory," Kirby said.

Kirby, citing newly declassified US intelligence, said that about half of those killed were soldiers recruited by the private military company Wagner, reports AFP.

The toll from fighting -- with the most intense battle being for Bakhmut, where Ukrainian troops have been driven from all but a sliver of the city -- accounts for losses since the start of December.



A Palestinian kicks a burning tire during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers following the death of Palestinian prisoner Khader Adnan during a hunger strike in an Israeli jail, in Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. The Israeli military also traded fire with Gaza militants in a flare-up of violence following the death of Adnan. PHOTO: REUTERS

**TENSIONS WITH CHINA
US, Philippines
reaffirm 'ironclad'
alliance**

REUTERS, Washington

President Joe Biden told his counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday that the US commitment to the defense of its ally was "ironclad," including in the South China Sea where Manila is under pressure from China.

Marcos, on the first White House visit by a Philippines leader in 10 years, stressed the importance of the US as his country's sole treaty ally in a region with "arguably the most complicated geopolitical situation in the world right now."

The two countries reaffirmed their decades-old security alliance in a trip that marks a dramatic turnaround in US-Philippine relations as both countries seek ways to push back against what they see as China's increasingly aggressive actions near Taiwan and in South China Sea.

US officials said the leaders would agree new guidelines for stronger military cooperation. "The United States remains ironclad in our commitment to the defense of the Philippines, including the South China Sea," Biden told Marcos.

A joint statement said this meant that any armed attack on Philippine armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in Pacific, including in the South China Sea, would invoke US mutual defense commitments.

**Over 430,000 fled homes
amid Sudan fighting**

Says UN as fierce battles rage despite latest truce

AFP, Geneva

The fighting in Sudan has caused more than 330,000 people to flee their homes within the country, with over 100,000 others escaping over the borders, the United Nations said yesterday.

UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency, is estimating that more than 800,000 people could potentially flee to neighbouring countries as the conflict continues in Sudan between the army and a paramilitary group.

The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) said an estimated 334,000 people had been internally displaced by the fighting, which broke out on April 15.

"Over 100,000 refugees are estimated to be among those who have now fled Sudan to neighbouring countries, including Sudanese

refugees, South Sudanese returning home prematurely, and others who were themselves refugees in Sudan," UNHCR spokeswoman Olga Sarrado told reporters in Geneva.

The IOM said in a situation report that "the total estimate of displaced individuals across Sudan has reached 334,053."

"About 72 percent, roughly 240,000 of these new internal displacements were reported in West and South Darfur alone," spokesman Paul Dillon told reporters.

Meanwhile, Fierce fighting between rival generals raged on in Sudan yesterday despite the latest truce.

Bloodshed has gripped Sudan since April 15 when tensions erupted into armed exchanges between regular army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy turned rival, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands RSF.

**Int'l police
arrest 288 in
dark web bust**

AFP, The Hague

A global crackdown has halted a major "dark web" marketplace, with international police arresting 288 suspects and recovering more than 50 million euros (\$54.8 million) in cash and virtual currency, Europol said yesterday.

The joint operation called SpecFor by US, British, Brazilian and European law enforcement also netted almost a tonne of drugs and 117 firearms. "A number of these suspects were considered high-value targets," Europol said.

**'Godfather of AI'
quits Google**

Warns of danger ahead

AFP, Washington



A computer scientist often dubbed "the godfather of artificial intelligence" has quit his job at Google to speak out about the dangers of the technology, US media reported Monday. Geoffrey Hinton, who created a foundation technology for AI systems, told The New York Times that advancements made in the field posed "profound risks to society and humanity". "Look at how it was five years ago and how it is now," he was quoted as saying in the piece, which was published on Monday. "Take the difference and propagate it forwards. That's scary." Hinton said that competition between tech giants was pushing companies to release new AI technologies at dangerous speeds, risking jobs and spreading misinformation. "It is hard to see how you can prevent the bad actors from using it for bad things," he told the Times. In 2022, Google and OpenAI -- the start-up behind the popular AI chatbot ChatGPT -- started building systems using much larger amounts of data than before. Hinton told Times he believed that these systems were eclipsing human intelligence in some ways because of amount of data they were analysing.

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
US panel again
takes aim at India**

AFP, Washington

A US government panel renewed calls Monday to blacklist India over religious freedom, saying that treatment of minorities has continued to worsen under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom offers recommendations but does not set policy and there is little expectation that the State Department will accept its stance on India, a growing US partner. The State Department each year lists countries where it sees particular concern on religious freedom, with the prospect of sanctions without improvement. The independent commission, whose members are appointed by the president and congressional party leaders, supported all of the State Department's latest designations which included China, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

"Russia's position is well known - the deal was extended for two months. The terms of the deal that concern Russia's agricultural sector are not being fulfilled."

Kremlin spokesman
Dmitry Peskov on Black Sea grain deal

CAREER OPPORTUNITY**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seeks applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following positions:

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience that NSU are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for written examination and interview:

Research Associate for South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG): 1 (one) position**Job Description:**

- Conduct research, data collection, analysis and report writing
- Project management and proposal writing
- Creation of online content
- Prepare presentations and reports as directed time to time
- Literature Review, conducting interviews, transcriptions and data coding
- Has to be good in design/graphics, website and social media account maintenance

Academic Qualification:

- Master's degree preferably from abroad in a relevant discipline such as Public Administration/ Political Science/Development Studies/ Economics/Sociology/ Statistics/Applied Statistics/Computer Science.

Experience: 2 to 3 years in a relevant field.

Age: Not exceeding 32 years.

Pay Scale: Tk. 25,383 - 2,538- 63,456 (as per NSU policy).

Other Terms and Conditions:

- Experience in research will be given preference.
- Excellent communication skills in both English and Bangla.
- Candidates having knowledge in different statistical software (e.g. R, Stata, SPSS and NVivo) will be given preference.
- Publications in reputed journals will be considered as an additional qualification.
- Experienced candidates will be given preference, but other candidates are also encouraged to apply.
- Have good interpersonal skills, team spirit and be able to work under pressure.
- Must be self-motivated and able to work independently.
- Willingness to work in holidays and after office-hours if necessary.
- Third division/ class/ equivalent CGPA of the candidates in any educational level will not be accepted.

NSU reserves the right not to appoint anyone if suitable candidates are not found.

Any prior communication or persuasion to the position will be considered as a disqualification. Interested candidates are requested to apply through jobs.northsouth.edu by June 02, 2023.

Department of Administration
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
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NSU Job Portal: jobs.northsouth.edu

IBA Institute of
Business
Administration

**ADMISSION TEST
Executive MBA; Fall 2023 (Batch-38)****Criteria for Eligibility****Academic Qualifications:**

- Minimum 4 years of university education after HSC or equivalence (including bachelor's degree) in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 out of 4.00 or 2nd class.
- Minimum GPA of 3.00 out of 5.00 (or 2nd division) in both SSC and HSC exams separately or minimum GPA of 2.00 in both O level and A level exams separately. For details, please visit our website.

Job Experience:

- Minimum five years of full-time work experience in executive/Grade-9 or above (in case of public sector employments) level after bachelor's degree.
- Applicants working in organizations that require permission to pursue higher studies must produce the same if selected for viva.

■ The written test will be held on **Friday, 26 May 2023 at 10:00 am at IBA, University of Dhaka**. The total duration of the written test is one hour. The test has two parts: i) Analytical Ability and ii) English Language & Communication. An applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the above two parts to pass the written test and appear before an interview board.

■ An applicant with a foreign nationality and degree(s) having a valid GMAT score of minimum 75 percentiles may be exempted from the written test. However, s/he is required to appear before the interview board.

■ For all foreign certificates/degrees (excluding O and A Levels), equivalence will be determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, an applicant is not eligible to sit for the admission test.

■ An applicant with degree from UGC unapproved program of any university is not eligible to apply for the admission test.

■ The application fee is Tk. 4000. The application must be submitted online by **Tuesday, 23 May 2023**. For detailed application procedure, please visit:

www.iba-du.edu or <http://iba-emba.registrationbd.com>

Classes of Executive MBA Program will take place during weekends i.e. on Fridays and Saturdays.

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