# INTERNATIONAL

## Sudan war threatens to 'consume entire country': UN

AFP, Geneva

War and hunger threaten to "consume" Sudan where hundreds of thousands of malnourished children are at risk of dying, as fighting between rival generals rages on, the United Nations warned yesterday.

The conflict between the army under General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Support Forces (RSF) commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo broke out on April 15.

"The war in Sudan is fuelling a humanitarian emergency of epic proportions," said Martin Griffiths, under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator.

"This viral conflict -- and the hunger, disease and displacement left in its wake -- now threatens to consume the entire country." Conservative estimates from the Armed Conflict

Location & Event Data project say nearly 5,000 people

But the battles have prevented the recovery of the bodies of many others thought to have died.

In the four months since fighting broke out, more than 4.6 million people have been forced to flee their homes, according to UN figures.

"The longer the fighting continues, the more devastating its impact. Some places have already run out of food," Griffiths' statement said.

"Hundreds of thousands of children are severely malnourished and at imminent risk of death if left untreated."

He said that in Kadugli, in South Kordofan state, "food stocks have been fully depleted, as clashes and road blockages prevent aid workers from reaching the hungry.'



Civil society activists and members of the Christian community hold placards as they take part in a protest rally in Hyderabad, India yesterday, against ongoing ethnic violence in the north-eastern Manipur state.

#### HAWAII WILDFIRE Officials release list of hundreds missing

REUTERS

Hawaii officials released the names US wildfire in more than a century swept through the resort town of Lahaina.

The list, compiled by the FBI,

whom authorities have verified contact information.

The death toll from the August 8 of 338 people still missing more fire on the island of Maui stands at relatives to submit the names of than two weeks after the deadliest 115, but officials have warned that anyone else still missing and to figure is likely to rise substantially, provide DNA samples to assist in with search teams still sifting identifying remains. through the ashes.

includes only people whose full on Thursday, authorities urged authorities had hoped thus far, names are known and who were anyone who knows that someone making a difficult job even more reported missing by someone for on the list is safe, or has additional challenging.

information that might help locate them, to contact the FBI.

Officials also encouraged

The number of families that In releasing the names late have provided DNA is lower than

#### Inflation hurting Modi

lower house of parliament if elections are held now, it

National elections are due by May 2024, though several state polls are expected to be held before then. Promising change, Modi swept to power in 2014, and he has consolidated his hold since with welfare economics, a focus on boosting infrastructure and aggressive Hindu

Rivals say the government has ensured that the BJP's line dominates mainstream newspapers, television news channels and social media with its combativeness, often drowning out critical voices.

India's sticky retail inflation hit a 15-month high of 7.44 percent in July, pushed by soaring food price inflation which rose to 11.5 percent, its highest in more than three-and-a-half years.

India is the world's fastest growing large economy but an unemployment rate that has stayed around 8 percent in recent months is considered a major challenge.

Economists say India needs to create 70 million new jobs over the next 10 years but only 24 million will likely

The India Today survey, conducted twice a year, said 59 percent of the more than 160,000 people polled between July 15 and August 14 said they were satisfied with the performance of Modi's government, down from 67 percent in the previous survey in January.

## Nurses struggle

their work involves dealing with critical patients. Like Shapla, Kumar and Shahed, the situation is more

or less the same for nurses of different government

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital said nurses play a vital role in the treatment of dengue patients as all the follow-up based on the instruction of a doctor has to be maintained properly by them.

They have to constantly check pressure, pulse, temperature and some other things, he added.

However, they are struggling to keep up amid a scarcity of nurses in government facilities. This is unfair," he added.

"In most government hospitals, there are usually three nurses per 100 patients," he confirmed.

## Govt resorting to torture to suppress BNP

love the country. They love money. They have looted money, amassed wealth, and laundered thousands of crores of taka abroad."

He said people have been "economically impaired" due to the abnormal price hike of essentials. "They are also becoming politically impaired because of the killings and disappearances."

Referring to recent media reports on India's stance on Bangladesh's general elections, Abbas said India should make friendship with the people rather than particular political parties like Awami League and BNP.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, another BNP standing committee member, said, "We are not afraid of death anymore. Don't try to point guns at us. Nobody will retreat in the face of your [the government] firing."

Another procession north city unit began from the Shyamali intersection and ended at Mohammadpur Bus Stand.

BNP standing committee member who led the procession, said Awami

upazila; Raju Mia, 37, of Jamalpur's

Sarishabari upazila; and Md Nasir, 28,

Hamid,

manager of SB Knitting, told The Daily

employees of the company to Sylhet.

Star that the microbus was carrying 11

the driver of the microbus.

of the people". He said nobody can win by going against the people.

Terming AL a "militant party", Khasru said the government has been staging drama over militancy to come to power again.
"Nobody believes in their drama

over militancy anymore. Those days are gone. This game will no longer work. Awami League itself is militant,"

Khasru said the BNP's movement will continue and it won't stop in the face of suppression. "This fascist government will be removed through the movement.'

About Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's tour of South Africa, he said, "She went to South Africa spending public money. She wanted to make the country a member of BRICS, but she couldn't. Instead, she sought votes for Awami League and rebuked BNP."

Braving rain, thousands of BNP leaders and activists joined both the processions, which began around 4:00pm and ended around 5:30pm.

Carrying banners, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, placards, and portraits of the party's top leaders, they waved black flags and League has now become an "opponent chanted anti-government slogans.

injured received primary treatment

at Narsingdi District Hospital. Later,

they were sent to Dhaka Medical

College Hospital for better treatment.

deceased Al Amin, said, "As I work at

a resort in Sylhet, I planned to show

Adif Khan, younger brother of

Roads stretching from Nayapaltan to Dayaganj and Shyamali to Mohammadpur were crowded with BNP activists, causing disruptions to traffic in and around those areas.

A large number of law enforcers were deployed to avoid any untoward incidents.

Meanwhile, the BNP's 36 likeminded parties also brought out mass processions in the capital yesterday as part of their simultaneous movement to press for the one-point demand. ROHINGYA CRISIS

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP, at a press conference yesterday evening said the government has failed to address the Rohingya crisis. He called on the government to

ensure better life for the Rohingyas and their quick repatriation by taking into account the concerns and recommendations made by different stakeholders, including human rights organisations and international

The press conference was held at the BNP's central office on the occasion of the Rohingya Genocide Remembrance

not believe my ears when I heard over

the phone about the death of my

suspected that over-speeding might

have caused the accident.

driver for interrogation.

OC Firoz said they primarily

He said police detained the truck

## Desolation in Daulatdia

situation has changed completely....

"Even this Eid, though some people came, most of them were tourists. Just because they came does not mean we were able to earn anything. Only some of the younger sex workers were able to earn a little at that time."

Obohelito Mahila-Shishu Unnayan Sangstha (Neglected Women and Children Development Organisation), said, "There are 1,420 listed sex workers in this brothel and all of them are suffering for a lack of work. About what could be done for

the sex workers, Aleya Akhter Lily, president of Sex Workers Network, Bangladesh, said, "The first thing they need is counselling. They are breaking down mentally due to the economic distress. Through counselling, they should be made mentally strong enough to pursue other professions.

Zakir Hossain, upazila nirbahi officer of Goalanda in Rajbari, said, "We are continuing all kinds of activities through NGOs at the brothel. If any of them wants to venture out and return to a normal life, we are ready to give them training and other forms of assistance.

However, the question remains: Will society take them back and let

them live "a normal life"? **GETTING BACK INTO SOCIETY** 

Jahanara Khatun, member, volunteer coordinator and programme manager at Naripokkho, an organisation that works for the rights of sex workers, said, "How are we to expect that a society, which has always shunned and stigmatised sex workers, will

help them get integrated back into it the country, will never be able to get again? We can't. It's sad to say so, but if these women come out of Daulatdia in search of alternative work, they will have to starve.

"We must hold the government accountable and responsible first. Sex work is not declared illegal in the country, and even in 1999 when sex workers were removed from a brothel, the High Court ruled that it was unconstitutional and human rights must be guaranteed for all sex workers."

In an earlier discussion with The Daily Star, experts had said that though article 18 (2) of the constitution stipulates that the "state shall take effective preventive measures against prostitution and gambling", an adult person has the option to declare his or her entry into the profession before a magistrate.

Nowhere in the constitution is the profession declared illegal directly a former director of the Bangladesh Woman National Association told the discussion.

Jahanara, who has recently concluded a Naripokkho programme on the media's role in ensuring the rights of sex workers, added, "Most of these women are always stamped with the seal of being a sex worker and that is how they are always viewed and treated, no matter how much they try and venture outside.

"Removing this seal and ensuring that these women can live respectable lives and are given their basic rights irrespective of their current or previous professions is a responsibility the government must take.

She concluded that unless the society changes its views towards sex workers and the government raises adequate awareness, the women of Daulatdia, or any of the brothels in the children of the workers.'

out of this desperate situation. Joya Sikder, founder of trans rights

organisation Shomporker Noya Shetu, researcher at icddr, b, and former president of the Sex Workers' Network, further elaborated, "Most of the people who are leaving Daulatdia are middle-aged women, and their age is what will make it tough for them to find new work. "On the other hand, finding a

the people in a neighbourhood find out she was a sex worker, they will mentally torture her and want her out of the area. "We have heard people claim sex

home will be a huge challenge. Once

workers to be 'dirty objects'. That's our society – we hate sex workers during the day, but we secretly love them at night."

Joya also believes the biggest actors in this regard have to be the state and the society.

"Teaching the society to treat sex workers with dignity is something the government and all other authorities concerned must do. We have had instances where sex workers were given dignified funerals. Steps like this will make a difference.

"Meanwhile, the state should remember that these women also pay rent tax, and that way the state is also benefitting from them. It must treat every tax-paying citizen equally.'

Abul Hashem, assistant director of the social services department in Rajbari, said, "Since there is no legal recognition of the profession of sex workers yet, there is not much we can do to help them. However, we are sympathetic to the situation they are facing. We are working with some local and international NGOs to help

## Trump gets a mugshot

commercial

Weekend trip ends in tragedy

Firoz Talukdar, officer-in-charge of my brother and his colleagues some

which was Trump's favourite bullhorn until he was banned from it after the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the US Capitol by a mob of his supporters.

New owner Elon Musk reinstated

but Trump stayed away and posted 215 pounds (97 kilograms) and his hair instead on Truth Social. This was Trump's first post since 2021 on what had been Twitter.

Trump was given the inmate number "PO1135809" by the Fulton County Jail, which listed his height as six foot Trump on X in November of last year, three inches (1.9 meters), his weight as

colour as "Blond or Strawberry."

The billionaire has been criminally indicted four times since April, setting the stage for a year of unprecedented drama as he tries to juggle multiple court appearances and another White House campaign.

# It'll give fresh momentum to bilateral ties

Shibpur Police Station, said the four tourist spots in the district. I could

brother.

cooperation, the two leaders vowed to further strengthen the integration of development strategies, deepen practical cooperation in various fields, and enhance all-round exchanges, so as to bring more benefits to the two peoples.

During this meeting held on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, Bangladesh showed interest strengthening cooperation

with China in the bloc and other multilateral mechanisms.

The Chinese leader congratulated Bangladesh on joining the New Development Bank and vowed to enhance coordination and cooperation with Bangladesh in multilateral affairs to safeguard international fairness and justice and serve the common interests of developing countries.

"From the minutes of the meeting,

all we read is mutual support and joint cooperation, with no hint of any difference," said Yao, stressing that interactions between top leaders provide political and strategic bilateral relations, the importance of which would never be exaggerated.

guidance for the development of

"It is high on my agenda to facilitate more in-person visits and meetings of this kind in the days to come," he added.

## BNP's black-flag march a mark

Stating that the BNP is spreading fear among people over sanctions and the new US visa policy, he said, 'Sanctions and the visa policy should be applied on the BNP for carrying out movements blocking roads.

The US said the visa policy will be applied on those who would obstruct the process of fair elections. So why is

it not being applied to the BNP?"

Urging the party activists to unite, the AL general secretary said, "If we remain united, there is no political force in the country that can defeat us."

Speaking at the event, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said, "They [BNP leaders] have become frustrated as their movement failed to yield any success. You have

done much; now I request you to return home. But if you try to hatch any conspiracy, we will resist it with iron hands.

Among others, AL presidium member Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Organising Secretary SM Kamal Hossain and executive member Sanzida Khanam spoke at programme.

#### FROM PAGE 3 vehicles would pass through the ferry

terminals and the drivers waiting for two-three days would account for most of our daily earnings. That

Farida Parvin, president of Daulatdia

## A stronger BRICS can promote peace, dev

So, the BRICS members founded the New Development Bank for the developing countries. They looked forward to reducing their dependence on the US dollar, Faiz said.

Foreign ministry officials say Bangladesh will be included in the alliance through a certain procedure. Bangladesh needs funds for development, Foreign Minister AK

Abdul Momen told reporters before the BRICS summit. 'We don't get a lot of funds from developed countries. The BRICS countries have money in reserves.

Let's not look at it from a geopolitical perspective," he said. International relation analysts say the inclusion of Saudi Arabia and the UAE, will allow BRICS to act as a lender to the developing countries.

Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa account for 40 percent of the global population and over 25 percent of the global GDP. Faiz said unlike the World Bank

and IMF, the New Development Bank

will not attach strict conditions for

granting loans to the developing

Even though the New Development Bank follows the general principles of good governance in financial operations, borrowing would be much easier for the developing the member states.

countries, he added. Another analyst, requesting anonymity, said the BRICS member countries have the key elements to capability, technology, and a large

market. China and Russia are major players in the alliance, said the analyst, adding that one should not have any doubts that the alliance will eventually start talking about military cooperation.

However, there are certain challenges facing BRICS. China and Russia, with their authoritarian political systems, are anti-West. Democratic countries like India have close relations with the West. But there is serious enmity between

China and India. "China and India's disputes can spell trouble for the BRICS," said the analyst.

If BRICS and the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership become complementary to each other, the influence of the West may fall.

Prof Niloy Ranjan Biswas, who teaches international relations at Dhaka University, said introducing a common currency would not be easy for BRICS because of differences in the economies and foreign policies of

The European Union could introduce Euro because there are geographical contiguity and economic and political similarities become self-reliant: manufacturing among the countries. Yet, it took many years for them to launch the common currency, Prof Niloy said.

### Mangoes

FROM PAGE 12

We have been trying for the last three years. This time, we saw success by ensuring good farming practices through many laboratory tests, and overcoming bureaucratic tangles," he

worked together to set the milestone, Ali said, thanking Kamrul Ahsan, Bangladesh ambassador to Russia, and Alexander Vikentyevich

The embassies of the two countries

Mantytskiy, Russian ambassador to Bangladesh.

Wadud, Shamsul regional additional director of DAE, said over 380 tonnes of mangoes were exported from Rajshahi, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj districts so far this year.

Russian authorities last year approved Bangladeshi mango samples for import for the next five years, he added.