

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 Rapid 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 have been killed.

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.”



PHOTO: AFP

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 of 338 people still missing more than two weeks after the deadliest US wildfire in more than a century swept through the resort town of Lahaina.

The list, compiled by the FBI, includes only people whose full names are known and who were reported missing by someone for

whom authorities have verified contact information.

The death toll from the August 8 fire on the island of Maui stands at 115, but officials have warned that figure is likely to rise substantially, with search teams still sifting through the ashes.

In releasing the names late on Thursday, authorities urged anyone who knows that someone on the list is safe, or has additional

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

Officials also encouraged relatives to submit the names of anyone else still missing and to provide DNA samples to assist in identifying remains.

The number of families that have provided DNA is lower than authorities had hoped thus far, making a difficult job even more challenging.

Govt resorting to torture to suppress BNP

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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 by BNP’s north city unit began from the Shyamali intersection and ended at Mohammadpur Bus Stand.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, who led the procession, said Awami League has now become an “opponent

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,” he added.

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, fests, placards, and portraits of the party’s top leaders, they waved black flags and chanted anti government slogans.

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 like-minded 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, 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 NGOs.

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

tourist spots in the district. I could not believe my ears when I heard over the phone about the death of my brother.”

OC Firoz said they primarily suspected that over speeding might have caused the accident.

He said police detained the truck driver for interrogation.

Weekend trip ends in tragedy

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upazila; Raju Mia, 37, of Jamalpur’s Sarishabari upazila; and Md Nasir, 28, the driver of the microbus.

Abdul Hamid, commercial manager of SB Knitting, told The Daily Star that the microbus was carrying 11 employees of the company to Sylhet.

Firoz Talukdar, officer-in-charge of

Shibpur Police Station, said the four injured received primary treatment at Narsingdi District Hospital. Later, they were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

Adif Khan, younger brother of deceased Al Amin, said, “As I work at a resort in Sylhet, I planned to show my brother and his colleagues some

Trump gets a mugshot

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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 Trump on X in November of last year,

but Trump stayed away and posted instead on Truth Social. This was Trump’s first post since 2021 on what had been Twitter.

Trump was given the inmate number “POI135809” by the Fulton County Jail, which listed his height as six foot three inches (1.9 meters), his weight as

It’ll give fresh momentum to bilateral ties

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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 in 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 guidance for the development of bilateral relations, the importance of which would never be exaggerated.

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

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 the programme.

Desolation in Daulatdia

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vehicles would pass through the ferry terminals and the drivers waiting for two-three days would account for most of our daily earnings. That 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.”

Farida Parvin, president of Daulatdia 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 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 National Woman Lawyers’ 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 country, will never be able to get 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 home will be a huge challenge. Once 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 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 the children of the workers.”

Inflation hurting Modi

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lower house of parliament if elections are held now, it said.

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 nationalism.

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 be created.

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

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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 hospitals.

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.