

## Russian accounts of Moscow attack a 'smokescreen': UK

AFP, London

British Finance Minister Jeremy Hunt yesterday said that the UK had "very little confidence" in Russia's statements on the Moscow concert hall attack, accusing it of trying to "defend" its assault on Ukraine.

At least 133 people were killed by armed gunmen at the Crocus City Hall in a suburb on the northern edge of Moscow on Friday, with the Islamic State group claiming responsibility for the attack.

Russian authorities have not yet blamed the group, but president Vladimir Putin has said the attackers were apprehended while "travelling towards Ukraine where, according to preliminary information, they had a window to cross the border".

Russia's FSB security service said earlier that the assailants had been "in contact" with people in Ukraine as they tried to flee the country.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Hunt told Sky News yesterday that "I take what the Russian government says with an enormous pinch of salt... after what we've seen from them over the last few years."

"We know that they are creating a smokescreen of propaganda to defend an utterly evil invasion of Ukraine. But that doesn't mean that it's not a tragedy when innocent people lose their lives, when you have horrible bombings," he added. The minister warned that the UK and other European countries should "absolutely" be concerned about the re-emergence of IS on the world stage.

"We are very lucky in this country that we have incredibly impressive intelligence agencies... in foiling a lot of terrorist threats over recent years," he said.



People gather at a makeshift memorial to the victims of a shooting attack set up outside the Crocus City Hall concert venue in the Moscow Region, Russia yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## 130 kidnapped Nigerian schoolchildren released

AFP, Abuja

More than 130 schoolchildren seized by gunmen in a mass kidnapping in northwestern Nigeria earlier this month were released unharmed yesterday, officials and the army said.

The kidnapping in Kuriga, Kaduna state on March 7 was one of the biggest such attacks in years and prompted a national outcry over insecurity. Teachers and residents previously said around 280 pupils were kidnapped, but the army said 137 pupils were freed.

"The rescued hostages totalling 137 comprise of 76 females and 61 males. They were rescued in Zamfara State and would be conveyed and handed over to the Kaduna State Government for further action," said army spokesman Major General Edward Buba.

## RED SEA CRISIS China-owned tanker hit by Houthi missile

AFP, Dubai

A Chinese-owned oil tanker was attacked off Yemen Saturday by ballistic missiles fired by Houthi rebels, who have intensified strikes on Red Sea shipping, the US military said.

The Panamanian-flagged, Chinese-owned and operated Huang Pu issued a distress call but did not request assistance, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement on social media platform X early yesterday.

"No casualties were reported, and the vessel resumed its course," the statement said.

The Iran-backed rebels, who control much of Yemen's Red Sea coast, have launched dozens of missile and drone strikes on shipping over the past four months, actions they say are in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

CENTCOM and the British navy's UKMTD said a fire had broken out on board ship but was extinguished within 30 minutes.

The Marinetraffic tracking website later had the vessel sailing out of the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden heading for its next port of call which, according to maritime security agency Ambrey, was New Mangalore in India.

## Two Russian ships hit in Crimea strikes: Kyiv

Moscow launches missile, drone attacks on Ukrainian capital; missile violates Polish airspace

REUTERS, Kyiv

The Ukrainian military said it hit two large Russian landing ships in attacks on the annexed Crimean peninsula early yesterday, as well as a communications centre and other infrastructure used by the Russian navy in the Black Sea.

The statement did not say how it hit the targets, but a Moscow-installed official in the region reported a major Ukrainian air attack and said air defences had shot down more than 10 missiles over the Crimean port of Sevastopol.



**Air defences destroyed 18 of 29 inbound missiles and 25 of 28 attack drones, Ukrainian air force said.**

"The defence forces of Ukraine successfully hit the Azov and Yamal large landing ships, a communications centre and also several infrastructure facilities of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in temporarily occupied Crimea," Ukraine's military said.

Mikhail Razvozhayev, the Russian-installed governor of Sevastopol, said on the Telegram messaging app that a 65-year-old man was killed when three homes were hit by shrapnel.

He also said earlier yesterday that transport infrastructure including

passenger boats and buses were partially damaged, with windows broken on five boats. Three passenger buses, 13 school buses and one trolley bus were among vehicles damaged, he added.

Meanwhile, Russia struck critical infrastructure in Ukraine's western region of Lviv with missiles early yesterday, Kyiv said, in a major airstrike that saw one Russian cruise missile briefly fly into Polish airspace according to Warsaw.

Moscow launched 57 missiles and drones in the attack that also targeted the capital Kyiv, two days after the largest aerial bombardment of Ukraine's energy system in more than two years of full-scale war, Kyiv said.

"There were two preliminary hits on the same critical infrastructure facility that the occupiers targeted at night," Lviv's regional governor Maksym Kozitskyi wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

The strike used Kinzhal hypersonic missiles, which are harder to shoot down, he added, without identifying the facility.

The energy ministry said equipment caught fire when a critical energy facility in the Lviv region was attacked, causing it to lose power. It was unclear if they were talking about the same facility.

Air defences destroyed 18 of 29 inbound missiles and 25 of 28 attack drones, the air force said.

There were almost no details about what had been damaged, but the targeting of critical infrastructure could indicate Russia is trying to keep up pressure on the energy system.

The energy ministry said Ukraine, which has been exporting power in recent weeks, had sharply increased imports of electricity and stopped exports yesterday after attacks on the energy system.

## Brazil storms kill at least 20 Rescuers race to find trapped people

AFP, Petrópolis

Rescuers in boats and aircraft raced against the clock yesterday to help isolated people in Brazil's mountainous southeast after storms and heavy rains killed at least 20 people.

With more rain predicted yesterday, the deluge pounded the states of Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo, where authorities described a chaotic situation due to flooding.

The most affected municipality is Mimoso do Sul, a town of almost 25,000 inhabitants located in the south of Espírito Santo, where at least 10 people died in floods, though officials fear the toll may yet rise.

State Governor Renato Casagrande described the situation as "chaotic," saying that so far it has not been possible to assess the damage in some of the more isolated areas, with fears the toll could yet rise.

At least eight people have been killed in the neighbouring state of Rio de Janeiro, officials said, most of them caused by landslides.

Four of the deaths in Rio state occurred when the storm caused a house to collapse in the city of Petrópolis, 70 kilometres (45 miles) inland from the capital.

## Solve water, sewer issues Delhi CM issues first directive from ED custody

Delhi CM issues first directive from ED custody

TOI, New Delhi

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal issued his first directive regarding water and sewer issues in certain parts of the India capital while being in ED custody. Delhi water minister Atishi, who received Kejriwal's instructions late Saturday, said it brought tears to her eyes to see Kejriwal's commitment amidst his own challenges during a press conference yesterday. Kejriwal directed the deployment of additional water tankers in areas facing shortages as summer approaches. Atishi further mentioned Kejriwal's directives to involve the chief secretary and seek assistance from Lt Governor VK Saxena if required, expecting full cooperation from them. "Arvind Kejriwal does not consider himself just the chief minister of the people of Delhi, he considers every resident of Delhi as a member of his family. So being a son, an elder brother, even in custody he is worried 24 hours a day about his family of 2 crore people of Delhi. He is thinking only about the people of Delhi," said Atishi in a post on X. The Aam Aadmi chief was apprehended by the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday regarding a money-laundering case linked to Delhi excise policy. He will remain in ED custody until March 28 as per the court's decision on Friday. Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj also hit back at BJP in another press conference. He said, "BJP took around Rs 60 crore donations from kingpin of excise policy case - Sharat Chandra Reddy. This isn't an allegation. We have shown the proof. BJP took Rs 55 crore of donations from Sharat Chandra Reddy after arresting him (in excise policy case) and, surprisingly, they haven't said a word on this."



## SUDAN CONFLICT

## 150 families risk their lives to feed each other

AFP, Cairo

Sameh Makki's soup kitchen is barely 100 metres from the market, but it can take two hours to make the journey through Sudan's war-torn streets, often through hails of bullets.

The 43-year-old, his family and local volunteers have risked everything to get supplies to feed around 150 families caught in the crossfire between the army and paramilitaries.

"The only thing that matters is that people eat. If I had died while making that happen, so be it," said Makki.

Since the war began last April between the army of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, tens of thousands have died and millions more have been forced to flee their homes.

Initiatives like Makki's are some of the only ways that people survive as the impoverished country hangs on the verge of famine.

Makki fled to Egypt to get medical care for his daughter and left the soup kitchen in the care of his mother and young volunteers from the neighbourhood.

Like many of his compatriots, he



now coordinates donations from the Sudanese diaspora to send back to those trying to survive the fighting.

Shortly after the conflict's first shots rang out, young people began volunteering to cook in their homes, volunteer coordinator Abdel Ghaffar Omar told AFP in Cairo.

The idea quickly spread and hundreds of self-funded "community kitchens" popped up across the country.

They were able to use grassroots neighbourhood youth groups called "resistance committees" that had previously organised pro-democracy protests and helped coordinate the Covid-19 response.

### এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।

#### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের ( সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত ) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছে :-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আনুমানিক মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য ( অফেরতযোগ্য )	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইডিসিএল(কেইএলপি)/ক্রম /স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/১৪০ তারিখঃ ২৪/০৩/২০২৪ইং	ইনার বক্স ( প্রাইমারি ) { Inner box (Primary) } ইনার বক্স (সেকেন্ডারী ) { Inner box (Secondary) } প্রিন্টেড ডুপ্লেক্স বক্স ( টারশিয়ারী ) { Printed Duplex Box (Tertiary) } ( সিডিউল মোতাবেক )	১,৩০,০০,০০০ পিস ৩০,৯৯,১১৫ পিস ১,৩০,০০০ পিস	২.৫ %	টাকা ১,৮৫০.০০ প্রতিসেট	১৭/০৪/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৭/০৪/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইডিসিএল(কেইএলপি)/ক্রম /স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/১৪১ তারিখঃ ২৪/০৩/২০২৪ইং	শিপিং কার্টন (Shipping Carton) ( সিডিউল মোতাবেক )	৮,০৭৭ পিস	২.৫ %	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতিসেট	১৭/০৪/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৭/০৪/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০৩।	ইডিসিএল(কেইএলপি)/ক্রম /স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/১৪২ তারিখঃ ২৪/০৩/২০২৪ইং	প্রিন্টেড ইনসার্ট ( Printed Insert ) ( সিডিউল মোতাবেক )	৯৭,৩০,৪৯৬ পিস	২.৫ %	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতিসেট	১৭/০৪/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৭/০৪/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রমা করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।  
দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।  
( ৫.৫ ইপি ৫ কলাম )

মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকিউরমেন্ট  
পক্ষে ঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।