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49 migrants die as boat sinks off Yemen: IOM

AFP, Dubai

A boat carrying more than 200 migrants sank off Yemen, leaving at least 49 dead, mostly women and children, in the latest disaster on the perilous migration route from Africa, a UN agency said yesterday.

"At least 49 migrants have died and 140 others remain missing after a boat" carrying 260 people capsized off the southern province of Shabwah on Monday, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said.

It said 31 women and six children were among those confirmed dead, adding that 115 Somali nationals and 145 Ethiopians were initially on board the vessel before it sank.

"Search and rescue operations are ongoing despite significant challenges due to a shortage of operational patrol boats," the IOM said.

The boat departed from Bossaso in Somalia at around 3:00 am (0000 GMT) on Sunday amid a "recent rise in migrants from the Horn of Africa travelling to Yemen," the UN agency said.

Each year many tens of thousands of migrants from the Horn of Africa set off across the Red Sea in a bid to reach the oil rich Gulf, escaping conflict, natural disasters or poor economic prospects.

In 2023 alone, the IOM observed more than 97,200 migrant arrivals in Yemen, it said.

In April, two boats sank off the coast of Djibouti just two weeks apart, leaving at least 62 dead, according to the UN agency.

The IOM said yesterday it had recorded 1,860 migrant

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A bull being brought down from a truck at Sagarika Cattle Market, one of the biggest markets in Chattogram city. As Eid-ul-Azha draws nearer, sales of cattle in the city are slowly gathering momentum.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

No competitive politics left in Bangladesh Yunus tells Reuters



REUTERS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has turned into a "one-party" state as the ruling party stamps out political competition, Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, a pioneer of the global microcredit movement, said in an interview.

An election in January won Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a fourth straight term, but it was boycotted by the main opposition party, whose top leaders were either jailed or in exile ahead of the polls.

Prof Yunus, who helped to lift millions from poverty

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It's service charge, not extortion

Home minister says about transport leaders collecting money on highways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said they prevent extortion on highways and that what transport leaders collect from vehicles was "service charge".

"Leaders of the transport sector give us a list of how much service charge will be collected at which places. If not followed, they asked [police] to take action. We prioritise that list," the minister said yesterday.

He, however, said, "We think the service charge should be taken from a specific place. Police face an awkward situation as the service charge was not collected from a specific point and many think it is extortion."

The home boss made the comments in response to a reporter's query after he joined a discussion marking the 19th founding anniversary of Highway Police in Bangladesh Police Auditorium at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

According to transport leaders, the "service charge" is taken as operational costs of different transport associations. In Dhaka, the charge is Tk 80 and Tk 70 outside Dhaka.

Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, who spoke at the discussion as a special guest, criticised the extortion on roads and operation of three-wheelers, including auto-rickshaws, on highways.

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Hamas accepts UN-backed Gaza truce plan

US cites 'hopeful sign'; 40 more Palestinians killed as Israel steps up strikes across enclave

REUTERS, Cairo

Hamas accepts a UN resolution backing a plan to end the Israeli offensive in Gaza and is ready to negotiate details, a senior official of the Palestinian group said yesterday in what the US Secretary of State called "a hopeful sign".

But Qatari and Egyptian mediators have not received formal replies from Hamas or Israel to the UN-backed truce proposal, an official close to the talks told Reuters, and both sides suggested yesterday the plan fit their clashing goals, raising doubt whether any genuine headway towards a deal had been made.

Discussions also touching on post-offensive plans for Gaza will continue over the next couple of days, Blinken said in Tel Aviv after talks with Israeli leaders.

Blinken met Israeli officials yesterday in a push to end the eight-month-old offensive that has devastated Gaza, a day after President Joe Biden's proposal for a truce was approved by the UN Security Council.

Ahead of Blinken's trip, Israel and Hamas both repeated headline positions that have scuttled previous rounds of truce mediation, while Israel has pressed on with assaults in central and southern Gaza.

Biden's proposal envisages a ceasefire and phased release of hostages in exchange for

Palestinians jailed in Israel, ultimately leading to a permanent end to the offensive.

Yesterday, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri, who is based outside Gaza, said it accepted the ceasefire resolution and was ready to negotiate over the specifics.

This required a formula stipulating the total withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and a swap of hostages held in Gaza for Palestinians jailed in Israel, he told Reuters.

Blinken said the Hamas statement was "a hopeful sign" but definitive word was still needed from the Hamas leadership inside Israeli-besieged Gaza. "That's what counts, and that's what we don't have yet."

After Blinken left for Jordan, a senior Israeli government official said the published proposal would enable Israel to achieve its war goals. Blinken, speaking later in the day at a conference in Jordan on the humanitarian response for Gaza, announced \$404 million in aid for Palestinians and called on other donors to also step up.

Meanwhile, the offensive raged on in Gaza yesterday as Israeli forces staged up strikes on its southern city of Rafah a day after four soldiers were killed in an ambush claimed by Hamas.

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CONSTABLE KILLING Police knew about shooter cop's mental illness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police were aware of the mental illness of the constable who shot dead a colleague and injured another man, Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun told reporters yesterday.

Since the incident happened near several foreign diplomatic missions in the capital's Baridhara on Saturday, police officials maintained that they were not aware of constable Kawsar Ali's mental health issues.

While IGP Mamun was talking to reporters at Rajarbagh Police Lines, a journalist mentioned that Kawsar was earlier treated at a hospital for mental health issues.

The IGP replied, "We deployed him again after a doctor said he was fully fit for the job. We will be more cautious [in the future] about any deployment."

According to Kawsar's family members, he had mental illness and received treatment for it

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Police detain Jhenaidah AL general secy

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Multiple leaders of Jhenaidah Awami League were aware of MP Anwarul Azim Anar's murder before the government's announcement.

The leaders even exchanged images of the murder with the planner and the hitman.

Investigators claimed to have the information by interrogating and analysing the mobile phone record of Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, relief and social welfare affairs secretary of Jhenaidah AL, now on a seven-day remand with the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Meanwhile, a DB team picked up Saidul Karim Mintu, general secretary of the district AL, from the capital's Dhanmondi for interrogation in connection with the killing of the Jhenaidah-4 lawmaker.

A DB source confirmed it, but no official confirmation was available.

Mintu, who was a former mayor of Jhenaidah Sadar municipality, had a conflict with Azim over influence in the party politics, said local sources.

Azim wanted to be the secretary of the district AL while Mintu tried to secure the AL ticket for Jhenaidah-4 (Kaliganj) in the last national election, they added.

Mintu's elder sister Dipti Rahman told The Daily Star last night that they heard about the detention of her brother.

"We are trying to find out what happened. My brother is not involved in any murder, but it is now being framed for political reasons."

Investigators said Babu was very close to Mintu.

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Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan gestures to the dressing room during his unbeaten 53 in their Twenty20 World Cup Group A match against Canada at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York yesterday. Pakistan restricted Canada to 106 before chasing down the target with seven wickets and 15 balls to spare to register their first win of the campaign.

PHOTO: AFP

Not all is lost for Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh team reached Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday for their final two group matches of the ongoing T20 World Cup as they will face the Netherlands on June 13 before taking on Nepal on June 16 at Kingstown.

Bangladesh suffered an agonising four run defeat against South Africa in their second Group D game of the ongoing T20 World Cup at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on Monday but the Tigers still possess a very good chance of making it beyond the group stages of mega T20 event.

Having played in all of the previous eight editions of the T20 World Cup, Bangladesh had very little to show for as their biggest achievement in the mega

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PENDEKAR ENERGY (L) LTD ("PEL")

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ("RFEOI")

NEPC Consortium Power Ltd ("NEPC") is a private company incorporated in Bangladesh, which owns a Barge Mounted 110 MW Diesel Engines Power Plant at Haripur, Narayanganj, Bangladesh. NEPC is a wholly owned subsidiary of PEL, joint venture between Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd ("EPH"), Malaysia and Aljomaiah Energy and Water ("AEW"), Saudi Arabia, leading international independent power producers which own and operate a diversified portfolio of power generation assets in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

PEL wishes to invite prospective applicants to express their interest in participating the tender exercise as stated below:

TENDER NO.	TENDER DESCRIPTION
HO-NEPC-2024-004	Tender Name: Tender for the Sale of a Barge Mounted 110 MW Diesel Engines Power Plant in Bangladesh.

Prospective applicants who are interested to participate in this RFEOI are required to state their interest through a company letter head stating their interest and providing the complete information as stated below via email to nepc.sales@edra-bd.energy by 30th June 2024.

Information to accompany the RFEOI:

1. Name of applicant (company name)
2. Country of incorporation
3. Authorized contact person with contact details
4. Company Profile (if any)

The expression of interest along with the information provided therein, will be reviewed & evaluated to determine the Responsive Applicants. PEL will only issue invitation via email to the Responsive Applicants to participate in the Tender. The complete information on the Tender and related documents shall be attached with the invitation email.

Any inquires related to the above RFEOI shall be directed to: nepc.sales@edra-bd.energy