

Russia, Ukraine swap 190 POWs

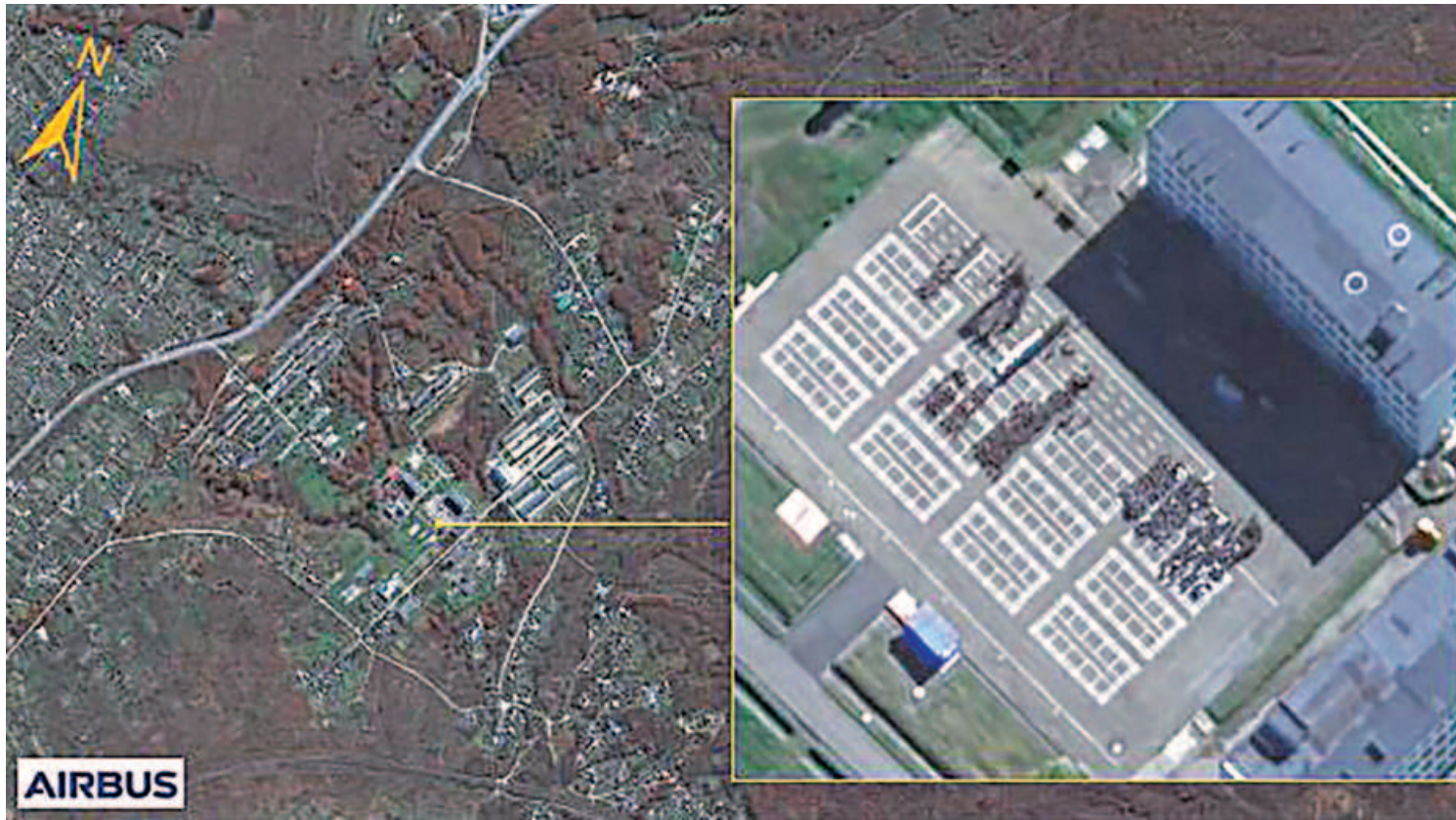
AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that it had swapped 95 Ukrainian soldiers held captive for an equal number of Russian troops in an exchange deal brokered by the United Arab Emirates.

"As a result of the negotiation process, 95 Russian servicemen were returned from territory controlled by the Kyiv regime," the Russian defence ministry said.

"In return, 95 Ukrainian army prisoners of war were handed over," it said. Kyiv has not confirmed the exchange.

Despite ongoing hostilities, Russia and Ukraine have swapped



This handout from South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) released yesterday shows a satellite image by Airbus Defence and Space of Russia's Ussuriysk military facility, where the NIS said North Korean personnel were gathered within the training ground on October 16, 2024. North Korea has decided to send a "large-scale" troop deployment to Russia to support their war in Ukraine, with 1,500 special forces already in country and training before, Seoul's spy agency said yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Earlier yesterday, Kyiv said it had received the bodies of 501 soldiers killed fighting Russian forces as a result of repatriation measures.

hundreds of prisoners since the launch of Moscow's offensive in 2022, often in deals brokered by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or Turkey.

The last reported swap was last month, when 206 POWs were exchanged, in a deal also mediated by the UAE.

Earlier yesterday, Kyiv said it had received the bodies of 501 soldiers killed fighting Russian forces, mainly in eastern Ukraine, as a result of repatriation measures.

Russian lawmaker Shamsail Saraliyev told the RBK media outlet that Russia received 89 bodies of its soldiers in return.

AFP, South Korea

North Korea has decided to send a "large-scale" troop deployment to support Moscow's war in Ukraine, with 1,500 special forces already in Russia's Far East and undergoing training, Seoul's spy agency said yesterday.

The National Intelligence Service released detailed satellite images it said showed the first deployment of elite North Korean special forces soldiers being moved by Russian military vessels to Vladivostok.

Seoul's spy agency said that between October 8 and 13, it had detected "North Korea transported its special forces to Russia via a Russian Navy transport ship, confirming the start of North Korea's military participation" in Moscow's war in Ukraine.

The first contingent of troops -- which

South Korean media said were from an elite unit under North Korea's Special Operations Forces, also known as the "Storm Corps" -- are currently stationed in military bases across Russia's Far East.

The special forces soldiers "are expected to be deployed to the front lines (of the Ukraine conflict) as soon as they complete acclimatisation training," NIS said.

The soldiers have been issued Russian military uniforms and Russian-made weapons, the NIS said.

"This seems to be an effort to disguise the fact that they are North Korean troops by making them appear as Russian soldiers," NIS added.

More troops are likely to be sent soon, NIS said, adding that it estimated the North could

send around 12,000 soldiers in total.

"A second transport operation is expected to take place soon," it said.

The NIS said yesterday that the North had "provided Russia with more than 13,000 containers' worth of artillery shells, missiles, anti-tank rockets and other lethal weapons" since last August.

NATO 'CANNOT CONFIRM'

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol convened an emergency security meeting yesterday, slamming Pyongyang's move as "a significant security threat not only to our country but also to the international community."

NATO chief Mark Rutte said yesterday the alliance could not yet confirm the South Korean intelligence.

N Korea sending troops to Russia: Seoul spy agency

Govt's second

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at the state guest house, Jamuna, at 3:00pm.

Abul Kalam Azad Majumder, deputy press secretary to the chief adviser, made the announcement last week.

The advisers will seek the political parties' opinion on the reforms.

At the first session of the second round of talks on October 5, the BNP, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, and the Left Democratic Alliance took part.

Take realistic steps

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interim government to take pragmatic steps immediately to lower commodity prices and provide relief to the public.

Prices are beyond the purchasing power of ordinary people.

"While it may be challenging to dismantle the business syndicate established during the previous regime, it is not impossible when there is genuine will and appropriate interventions."

The Ziaur Rahman Foundation organised the programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, to mark its silver jubilee.

Tarique warned that associates of the deposed despotic regime are still conspiring to create difficulties for the government.

It is evident that the government is in disarray and it has failed to set its priorities.

Conflicting statements from various government advisers regarding the next election have caused confusion among the public.

Ziaur Rahman Foundation adviser and Tarique's wife Zubaida Rahman also addressed the programme virtually, extending her greetings to the members on the occasion of its silver jubilee.

Palli Bidyut

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deputy general manager of Sreepur zonal office of Magura PBS; Monir Hossain, assistant general manager of Netrakona PBS; and Belal Hossain, deputy general manager of Sirajganj PBS 2. They were arrested on Thursday.

Arshad Hossain, director (admin) of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, filed the cases with the capital's Khilkhet Police Station on Thursday, accusing 15 PBS officials.

Ten officials were accused in one case, while the five others were named in the other lawsuit.

The complainant brought sedition charges against the accused under the Penal Code and eight other charges under the Cyber Security Act.

Chance encounter led

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during a briefing Thursday.

"The forces identified three terrorists who were going from home to home on the run," Hagari said.

As the soldiers chased them, Sinwar split from the other two, the military reported.

The military later fired with a tank at the building where two of the militants hid and the other where Sinwar took cover, it said.

"Sinwar ran away alone into one of the buildings and our forces scanned the area with a drone," Hagari said.

Footage released by the military showed Sinwar covered in dust sitting in an armchair staring down a drone as the device entered the house devastated by strikes.

The grainy footage showed Sinwar alone with one hand severely injured and his head covered in a traditional scarf, throwing a stick at the approaching drone during his final moments.

"We identified him as a terrorist inside a building and we shot into the building and we entered to scan the area. We found him with a gun and 40,000 shekels (\$10,750)," said Hagari.

FORENSIC LAB FINDINGS

Unverified images circulating online showed Israeli soldiers circled the mangled corpse of a man resembling Sinwar who appeared to have suffered a severe head wound.

The man was wearing a chunky watch and surrounded by rubble.

The military conducted immediate

DNA testing along with dental examinations and other forensic enquiries that helped confirm Sinwar's identity.

Later on Thursday, Sinwar's body was brought to a laboratory in Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv.

The initial findings described Sinwar's physical condition as "good even though he had spent a long time in tunnels", Kan, an Israeli public broadcaster, reported.

NO HOSTAGES
Sinwar had not been seen in public since the war erupted with the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

The Israeli military and media regularly claimed he was hiding deep in the warren of tunnels under Gaza, while images released by the army earlier this year showed CCTV footage of a man exiting from a tunnel it claimed was Sinwar.

There were also reports that Sinwar had surrounded himself with several hostages who were seized by militants during the October 7 onslaught.

But when Sinwar was finally cornered and killed, there were no captives by his side.

"In the building where the terrorists were eliminated, there were no signs of the presence of hostages in the area," a military statement said on Thursday.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu celebrated the killing of Sinwar and said his death could be the "beginning of the end" to the conflict.

Drop in prices of eggs

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market is 14-15 lakh eggs daily. The farms provided 10 lakh eggs at Tk 10.58 each, while we sourced the remaining 4-5 lakh eggs from other farms and dealers at Tk 11.40-11.60 each. This is why egg prices vary between sellers," he explained.

He said the price of eggs would remain stable if the corporate businesses and other farms maintain a consistent supply.

Rafiqul Islam, an egg trader at Karwan Bazar, said he bought eggs at Tk 1,400 for each 100 pieces three days ago, but the price dropped to Tk 1,100 yesterday. As a result, he was able to sell eggs for Tk 145 per dozen.

"As the price of eggs has dropped, many are buying in larger quantities," he said.

Shakiul Islam, who runs a mess in Kathalbagan, said he went to a shop to buy a dozen eggs yesterday, but he purchased two and a half dozens.

Rony, an egg seller in Shewrapara, however, said he was selling eggs at Tk 160 per dozen yesterday because he had bought them at Tk 142 per dozen.

Meanwhile, prices of some vegetables dropped slightly yesterday after the supply increased in the capital's kitchen markets.

Green chillies were priced between Tk 240 and Tk 320 per kg at different markets, down from Tk 400-500 last week.

Traders said that the import of chillies from India had been halted for several days due to the Durga Puja holidays. Once normal imports resume, prices are expected to drop further.

Saifur Rahman Chowdhury, general secretary of the Karwan Bazar Kachamal Arat Baboshayee Malik Bohumukhi Somobai Samity, said the supply of vegetables has increased compared to last week, leading to a drop in prices by Tk 10-20 per kg at the wholesale markets.

Shujeo Shyam

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His last rites were performed at the Bordeshwari Kali Temple in Sabujbagh according to his wishes.

Born on March 14, 1946, in Sylhet, Shujeo Shyam spent his early years in the tea gardens of Sylhet. He was the sixth of ten siblings.

He composed the final song for Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in 1971 and the first song following the surrender of the Pakistani occupation forces.

The notable compositions of the Ekushey Padak recipient include "Rokto Diye Naam Likhechi", "Rokto Chai Rokto Chai", "Aha Dhonno Amar Jonmohumi", and "Ayre Chashi Mojur Kuli".

He composed and directed the song "Bijoy Nishan Urchhe Oi", written by lyricist Shahidul Amin and voiced by Ajit Roy.

In recognition of his contributions to music, he was awarded the Shilpakala Padak in 2015 and the Ekushey Padak in 2018.

Hope for peace

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put their weapons down. It appears we were once again mistaken," the diplomat said.

Months of efforts by Israel's chief backer the United States to broker ceasefires with Hamas and Hezbollah have failed as Israel has pressed on with its wars, and its arch foe Iran has looked largely powerless to match Israel's military might, including U.S. weapons.

The conflict has caused the first direct Iranian-Israeli confrontations, including missile attacks on Israel in April and Oct. 1. Netanyahu has vowed to respond to the October attack, which caused little damage. Washington has pressed Israel to limit targets and not strike Iranian energy facilities or nuclear sites.

2 men sent to jail

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home, the family began searching for her. "We found her crying in the bamboo grove near the canal. She identified Selim as the rapist and Motiur as his collaborator."

Police collected the victim's clothes as evidence, said Mohammad Mashrurur, officer-in-charge of Naikhongchhari Police Station.

"At 12:25am [on Friday], the brother and the villagers brought Motiur to the police station, and we registered a case against Selim and Motiur," said the OC. During primary interrogation, Motiur confessed to the crime. Selim was arrested later, he added.

SIKH MURDER PLOT

US charges ex-Indian intelligence official

REUTERS, Washington

The United States has charged a former Indian intelligence officer for allegedly directing a foiled plot to murder a Sikh separatist and Indian critic in New York City, with the FBI warning against such a retaliation aimed at a US resident.

An indictment of Vikash Yadav was ordered to be unsealed on Thursday. The US Justice Department indictment mentioned Yadav as a former officer in India's Research and Analysis Wing spy service.

Washington has alleged that Indian agents were involved in an attempted assassination plot against Sikh separatist leader Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen.

"The FBI will not tolerate acts of violence or other efforts to retaliate against those residing in the U.S. for exercising their constitutionally protected rights," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement.

The indictment alleged that beginning in May 2023, Yadav, described as an employee of the Indian government at the time, worked together with others in India and abroad to direct a plot against Pannun. The indictment described Pannun as a political activist, a critic of the Indian government and an advocate for a separate homeland for Sikhs.

India has labeled Sikh separatists as "terrorists" and as threats to its security. Sikh separatists demand an independent homeland known as Khalistan to be carved out of India. An insurgency in India during the 1980s and 1990s killed tens of thousands.

Yadav, 39, was still in India and the United States was expected to seek

his extradition, the Washington Post reported, citing American officials.

MURDER FOR HIRE

The indictment said Yadav had hired an Indian national named Nikhil Gupta whom the U.S. Justice Department has previously charged with trying to arrange the murder of Pannun at the behest of the Indian intelligence official.

Yadav recruited Gupta "to orchestrate the assassination of the victim in the United States," the indictment, filed in federal court in Manhattan, said.

Gupta traveled to Prague from India last June and was arrested by Czech authorities before being extradited to the US where he pleaded not guilty in a court in June.

The indictment on Thursday charged Yadav with "murder-for-hire and money laundering."

In a statement on Thursday, Pannun welcomed the indictment of Yadav, but described him as a "mid-tier soldier" who the Sikh separatist alleged was assigned by Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and then RAW Chief Samant Goel as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal to dismantle Sikh separatism.

INDIA-US TALKS, CASE IN CANADA
An Indian government committee investigating Indian involvement in the foiled murder plot met with U.S. officials in Washington on Tuesday, a meeting that Washington described as productive.

Without giving further details, the U.S. State Department said on Wednesday that India informed the U.S. that "the individual who was named in the Justice Department indictment is no longer an employee of the Indian government."

Man stabbed to death

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The political affiliation and other details of the deceased, Shaon Mia, could not be confirmed immediately, said Mohammad Saiful Islam, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

The youth came under attack in the Manipuri Para area, he said.

Shaon died of excessive bleeding at the Intensive Care Unit, said Saumitra Chakravarty, deputy director of the hospital.

In the other incident, Hasan Mahmud, general secretary of BCL's

Sylhet Engineering College unit, and Muhammad Majhar were attacked in the city's Mendibag area, ADC Saiful said.

They received serious injuries in different parts of their bodies, including their arms and legs, according to doctor Saumitra.

They also needed immediate vascular surgery, he said.

"However, since our hospital has no surgeon to perform such a surgery, both were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital," the physician added.

India FM's Pakistan visit a 'good beginning'

Says ex-Pak PM Sharif

REUTERS, Mumbai

The visit of India's foreign minister to Pakistan earlier this week was a "good beginning" that could lead to a thaw in relations between the two rivals, former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was quoted as saying by Indian media yesterday.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was in Pakistan on Tuesday and Wednesday for a meeting of governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, with the capital city under tight lockdown.

"This is how talks move forward. Talks should not stop," Sharif, the president of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N), and the brother of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, told a group of visiting Indian journalists, the Indian Express newspaper reported.



Jaishankar was among nearly a dozen leaders participating in the gathering in Islamabad, nearly a decade since an Indian foreign minister has visited amid frosty relations between the two nuclear powers.

Jaishankar and his counterpart Ishaq Dar had an "informal interaction", an official in Pakistani foreign ministry said on Thursday, but New Delhi denied that any sort of meeting had taken place.

"We had made it very clear that this particular visit is for SCO head of government meeting. Other than that, there were some pleasantries exchanged on the sidelines of the meeting," Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday.

"We have lost the last 75 years and it is important we don't lose the next 75 years," Sharif was quoted as saying in the Times of India newspaper.