

50 killed in two days of Sudan battles

AFP, Kassala

Local activists in central Sudan have reported over 50 people killed since clashes erupted in Al-Jazira state on Sunday after a paramilitary commander defected to the army.

In the state capital of Wad Madani, a military air strike on a mosque killed 31 people, the local resistance committee, one of hundreds of volunteer groups coordinating aid across the war-torn country, said in a statement to AFP on Tuesday.

They accused the army of using "barrel bombs", adding that over half of the dead remained unidentified as rescuers combed through the remains of "dozens of charred and mutilated bodies".

In the state's war-ravaged east, activists said at least 20 people have been killed in paramilitary attacks since Sunday.

War has raged between the Sudanese armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since April 2023, killing tens of thousands of people and creating the world's largest displacement and humanitarian crises.

The two forces are currently locked in brutal combat over central Sudan's agricultural Al-Jazira state, which has been under paramilitary control since late last year.

On Sunday, the army announced that the RSP's Al-Jazira commander Abu Aqla Kaykal had abandoned the paramilitary force, bringing "a large number of his forces" to "fight alongside our army", in what they said was the first high-profile defection to the military's side.



Drone image shows displaced people in Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, in this picture obtained from social media on Monday. PHOTO: REUTERS

War has knocked Gaza back to the 1950s: UNDP

REUTERS, Berlin

The war between Israel and Hamas has devastated the Palestinian economy and left nearly all of Gaza's population in poverty, with quality of life indicators such as health and education knocked back 70 years, the United Nations' development agency said yesterday.

Launching a study on the war's socioeconomic impacts, the UNDP's Chitose Noguchi said the economy of the Palestinian territories - the Gaza Strip and the Israeli-occupied West Bank - was now 35% smaller than it was at the start of Israel's invasion of Gaza a year ago.

By some measures the poverty level in Gaza was now approaching 100% as a result of the disruption, with unemployment now at 80%, Noguchi said.

"The state of Palestine is experiencing unprecedented levels of setbacks," she told a U.N. press conference in Geneva over a sometimes crackling line from Deir Al-Balah. "For Gaza, reversing development by an estimated 70 years to 1955."

Even under optimal conditions, with international aid remaining at current levels and flowing into Gaza and the West Bank unhindered, it would still take at least a decade for economic output to recover to pre-war levels, she said.

The war, launched by Israel after attacks by Hamas on Israeli territory on Oct. 7 last year that killed about 1,200 people, has brought immense destruction to the Gaza Strip.

Schools, hospitals and other essential infrastructure have been razed to the ground. Nearly 43,000 Palestinians have been killed

in Gaza, according to health ministry figures. Some 3.3 million Palestinians, 2.3 million of them in Gaza and 1.5 million of them children, need urgent humanitarian assistance, the report said.

The cost of repairing damaged infrastructure was expected to run to \$18.5 billion, almost the entire annual economic output of the Palestinian territories in 2022.

The war had taken a similarly severe toll on human capital, the report added, with 625,000 students in Gaza having no access to education at the end of September and 93% of school buildings severely damaged.

The situation was similar with regard to healthcare. A total of 986 health workers had been killed by the end of September, and less than half of primary healthcare centres were even partially functional.

Ukraine population 8 million less since Russia invasion: UN

AFP, Geneva

Ukraine's population has declined by around eight million since Russia invaded in February 2022, sparking an exodus and sending birth rates plunging, the United Nations said Tuesday.

The UN Population Fund said there had not been a census, but that there clearly had been a dramatic population decline in war-torn Ukraine. "Overall, Ukraine's population has declined by an estimated 10 million since 2014 and by an estimated eight million since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in 2022," UNFPA's regional director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Florence Bauer said in comments sent to journalists.

Ukraine's population stood at around 45 million in 2014, when Russia first invaded, occupying and annexing Crimea, the agency said, citing data from the national statistics office.

By February 2022, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the population had dwindled to 43 million, and it has plummeted further to just 35 million today, it said, citing a combination of government and UNFPA data.

Speaking to journalists in Geneva, Bauer said the dramatic decline was due to "a combination of factors".

"Overall, Ukraine's population has declined by an estimated 10 million since 2014 and by an estimated eight million since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in 2022."

Already before the war, Ukraine had one of the lowest birth rates in Europe, and like many countries in Eastern Europe, it had seen many young people leave in search of more opportunities abroad, she said.

But in the two and a half years since the full-scale invasion, some 6.7 million people have fled the country as refugees while the birth rate has fallen to just around one child per woman, she said.

"That's one of the lowest in the world," she said, stressing that this was well below the theoretical replacement rate of 2.1 children that each woman on average must have to maintain the population size.

At the same time, Bauer said, there are the "several tens of thousands of casualties (from the war), which of course add to the equation".



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel rescue residents from a flooded locality following heavy rainfall, in Bengaluru yesterday. Intense rain lashed southern India on October 16, with weather officials issuing a red alert warning of flash floods and landslides. PHOTO: AFP

Peace talks 'depend' on US election: Zelensky

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the prospect of peace talks with Russia "depends" on the outcome of next month's US presidential election.

Asked whether he thought Moscow was ready for negotiations with Kyiv, Zelensky told journalists in comments released Tuesday: "First of all, it depends on the elections in the United States. I think they will be watching the policy of the United States."

Zelensky said based on conversations

with the two candidates, he expects the United States to "demonstrate the policy very quickly, after the elections... they will not wait until January."

Donald Trump has repeatedly expressed scepticism of Washington's military and financial support for Kyiv, and there are fears a victory for the Republican candidate could create problems for Kyiv as it battles Russian forces in the east and south.

But Zelensky said he had held "good" meetings with both Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate.

Development of appropriate adaptation strategies to mitigate climate change for sustainable and quality tea production
Project Development Unit, Bangladesh Tea Board, Srimangal, Moulvibazar
www.pduteaboard.gov.bd

Invitation for Sprinkler Irrigation Sets & Rain Water Harvesting Sets

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Tea Board		
3	Procuring entity name	Chairman, Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) represented by Project Director, CCP, PDU, Bangladesh Tea Board.		
4	Invitation for	Sprinkler Irrigation Sets & Rain Water Harvesting Sets.		
5	Invitation Ref No. & date	PDU/OTM/CCP-970/2024(Vol-1)-80(2)(2), Date: 22/10/2024		
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method-OTM		
7	Budget and source of funds	Climate Change Project related fund.		
8	Tender selling date	From 27/10/2024 to 11/11/2024 on office working time.		
9	Tender opening date and time	12/11/2024	V	12:10pm
10	Selling tender document	1. Climate Change Project (CCP), Project Development Unit (PDU), Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB), Srimangal, Moulvibazar; 2. Liaison Office, Bangladesh Tea Board, 111-113, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.		
	- Receiving tender document	CCP, PDU, Bangladesh Tea Board, Srimangal, Moulvibazar		
	- Opening tender document	CCP, PDU, Bangladesh Tea Board, Srimangal, Moulvibazar		
11	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall submit the following documents: 1. Valid trade licence, 2. Valid TIN, 3. VAT registration certificate, 4. Bank solvency certificate, 5. Experience certificate & 6. Liquid assets etc. as per STD.		
12	Brief description of goods	Supplying & installation of LOT-01: Sprinkler Irrigation Sets & LOT-02: Rain Water Harvesting Sets.		
13	Price of tender document (Tk)	1,000/- per set (non-refundable)		
14	Identification of lots	Location	Tender security amount (Tk.)	Completion time in months
	LOT-01: Sprinkler Irrigation Sets	Bangladesh Tea Board's registered-10 Tea Estate Gardens, Srimangal, Kamalgonj, Baralekha, Moulvibazar.	50,000/- (fifty thousand) (refundable)	03 (three) months
	LOT-02: Rain Water Harvesting Sets	Bangladesh Tea Board's registered- 5 Tea Estate Gardens, Srimangal, Kamalgonj, Baralekha, Moulvibazar.	35,000/- (thirty-five thousand) (refundable)	03 (three) months
15	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. AKM Rafikul Hoque		
16	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director		
17	Address of official inviting tender	Climate Change Project, PDU, BTB, Srimangal, Moulvibazar.		
18	Contact details of official inviting tender	01711-867484	E-mail: directorbtb@pduteaboard.gov.bd	
19	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			

GD-754
Dr. A KM Rafikul Hoque
Project Director

Eastern India braces for cyclone

Schools shut, tourists asked to leave Puri

REUTERS, Bhubaneswar

Schools in some parts of India's eastern state of Odisha were ordered to shut and tourists were asked to vacate the popular beach city of Puri, as authorities braced for a severe cyclonic storm that is expected to hit later this week.

Cyclone Dana, currently over the Bay of Bengal, is expected to strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm with wind speeds gusting up to 120 kph (74 mph), and is likely to make landfall late on Thursday, the weather office said.

Schools in 14 districts will be closed from Wednesday to Friday, and fishermen have been asked not to venture into the sea, a senior official from the Special Relief Commissioner's office, which oversees disaster management, told Reuters.

Tourists and pilgrims who frequent the coastal city of Puri, home to the famous Jagannath temple, have been asked to leave, officials said, while rescue teams were on standby.

Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in Odisha was likely in the next three days, the weather office said, and the ensuing storm could damage houses, roads, crops, and power lines, causing flooding and landslides.

Odisha is prone to cyclones, but has improved disaster preparedness over time, reducing damage and casualties.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Gopalganj
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.3500.000.07.001.24.3237 Date: 21.10.2024

e-Tender Notice
(Notice Number: 19/2024-25)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

SL No.	ID, Reference No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Tender/proposal document last selling date and time
01	1026997	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Singipara Bazar RHD to Bashuria Khayghat Road from Ch. 00m-1067m & Ch. 1867m-2175m (Road ID No: 335914008) [Tungipara], Package No. LGED/GOBM/Gopa/24-25/RW-01.	04.00pm on 06/11/2024
02	1026998	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Nilfa RHD-Kushlihat GC Road Via Kushi UP Road from Ch. 2500m-4090m (Road ID No: 335912001) [Tungipara], Package No. LGED/GOBM/Gopa/24-25/RW-02.	04.00pm on 06/11/2024
03	1026999	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Radhagonj UPC-Doglas High School-Bhangherhat GC Road from Ch. 00m-580m & Ch. 2000m-2607m (Road ID No: 335912019) [Kotalipara], Package No. LGED/GOBM/Gopa/24-25/RW-03.	04.00pm on 06/11/2024
04	1027000	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Mollikermath RHD to Tungipara HQ via Panchkhanha Hat Road from Ch. 2500m-3730m (Road ID No: 335912011) [Tungipara], Package No. LGED/GOBM/Gopa/24-25/RW-04.	04.00pm on 06/11/2024
05	1027001	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Singipara Bazar R&H-Munshichar R&H Road via Munshichar P/S Road from Ch. 00m-1023m (Road ID No: 335914011) [Tungipara], Package No. LGED/GOBM/Gopa/24-25/RW-05.	04.00pm on 06/11/2024
06	1027002	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Gimadanga Bazar Aliamadrasha-Begum Fozilatunnesa GPS Road from Ch. 1030m-1490m (Road ID No: 335914081) [Tungipara], Package No. LGED/GOBM/Gopa/24-25/RW-06.	04.00pm on 06/11/2024
07	1027003	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Borhan Shop R & H-Kushi Madrasa Road from Ch. 00m-2756m (Road ID No: 335914024) [Tungipara], Package No. LGED/GOBM/Gopa/24-25/RW-07.	04.00pm on 06/11/2024

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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