

POST-COUP MYANMAR

Another rebel group calls for talks with junta

AFP, Bangkok

A second major Myanmar ethnic rebel group has said it is ready for Beijing-mediated talks with the junta to end more than a year of renewed fighting that has ravaged areas along the Chinese border.

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), with about 8,000 available fighters, has fought the Myanmar military for more than a decade for autonomy for the Kokang ethnic minority in northern Shan state.

Last year, it and two other allied rebel groups launched an offensive against the military and seized swathes of Shan state, including ruby mines and a lucrative trade highway to China.

Last week, MNDAA ally the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) said it was ready for talks with the military.

The Arakan Army (AA), the third group in the rebel alliance, is still fighting the military in coastal Rakhine state in Myanmar's west.



A woman carries the body of her child who was killed during an Israeli strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, during a funeral procession, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

THAILAND FLOODS

Death toll now 29



AFP, Bangkok

More than 30,000 people have been forced to flee their homes due to severe flooding in southern Thailand, where the death toll climbed to 29, officials said yesterday.

More heavy rain is forecast in the area, where over 155,000 households have already been affected by flooding, according to the Thai government's public relations department.

Five southern provinces have been hit – Pattani, Narathiwat, Songkhla, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phatthalung – forcing more than 33,000 people to leave their homes, the spokesperson for Thailand's ministry of public health said in a statement.

Disaster response teams were working to drain floodwater and evacuate flood victims to dry areas, the country's disaster agency said on its Facebook page Wednesday morning.

The death toll now stands at 29, up from 25 reported on Tuesday.

The Thai Meteorological Department warned that a weather system moving from the South China Sea across Malaysia and the Andaman Sea was expected to bring heavy rain and further flooding to southern Thailand.

The Department of Mineral Resources also warned of potential landslides and flash floods until December 5.

'World on fire'

UN seeks \$47b for aid in 2025

AFP, Geneva

The UN yesterday appealed for more than \$47 billion to deliver vital aid next year in a world ravaged by surging conflicts and the climate crisis, but warned many in need would not be reached.

"The world is on fire," the United Nations' new humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher told reporters in Geneva, acknowledging he was looking ahead to 2025 with "dread".

With brutal conflicts spiralling in places like Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, and as climate change and extreme weather take an ever-heavier toll, the UN estimated that 305 million people globally will need some form of emergency assistance next year.

"We are dealing with a poly-crisis right now globally, and it is the most vulnerable people in the world who are paying the price," Fletcher said, warning that swelling inequality combined with the convergence of conflict and climate change had created a "perfect storm" of needs.

Launching the Global Humanitarian Overview, Fletcher acknowledged that the UN and its partners would not be able to reach all of those in need.

The annual appeal by UN agencies and partner humanitarian organisations is seeking \$47.4 billion for 2025 – slightly less than the appeal for this year – which it said was enough to provide assistance to the 189.5 million most vulnerable people.

"There's 115 million that we won't be able to reach" with this plan, Fletcher acknowledged.

Pointing to significant "donor fatigue" hitting humanitarian operations, he stressed the need for a "realistic" plan, which required prioritisation and making "really tough, tough choices".

"We've got to be absolutely focused on

reaching those in the most dire need, and really ruthless."

As of last month, only 43 percent of the \$50 billion appeal for this year had been met.

Underfunding this year has seen an 80-percent reduction in food assistance in Syria, cuts to protection services in Myanmar, and diminished water and sanitation aid in cholera-prone Yemen, the UN said.

Camilla Waszink of the Norwegian Refugee Council described the appeal's acknowledgement that millions would not be reached as "devastating".

"When the richest people on Earth can go to space as a tourist and trillions of US dollars are used annually on global military expenditure, it is incomprehensible that we as an international community are unable to find the necessary funding to provide displaced families with shelter and prevent children from dying of hunger," she said.

Even more than funding woes, Fletcher said the biggest barrier to assisting and protecting people in armed conflict was the widespread violation of international law.

This year has already been the deadliest for humanitarian workers, surpassing the 2023 toll of 280 killed.

Iran 'releases' Nobel Peace laureate Narges Mohammadi

AFP, Tehran

Iran has released Nobel Peace laureate Narges Mohammadi, jailed since November 2021, for three weeks on medical grounds, her lawyer posted on social media.

Over the past quarter century, Mohammadi, 52, has been repeatedly tried and jailed for her vocal campaigning against Iran's widespread use of capital punishment and its mandatory dress code for women.

"Based on the advice of the examining doctor, the public prosecutor suspended the jail sentence against Narges Mohammadi for three weeks and she was released from prison," Mostafa Nili said on X.

Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023, primarily for her campaigning against the death penalty in Iran. Her children collected the award on her behalf as she was in prison at the time.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian Nobel Committee urged Iran to permanently free Nargis Mohammadi, after Tehran released her for three weeks on medical grounds.

Nato to counter Russian 'hybrid war': Mark Rutte

AFP, Brussels

Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte yesterday said the alliance had agreed on "proactive measures" to counter Russia's campaign of hybrid attacks against its members.

The West has accused Moscow of being behind a string of sabotage attacks on European soil aimed at deterring Ukraine's backers from sending support to Kyiv.

"Allies are working very hard to make sure when it comes to sabotage, cyber-attacks, energy blackmail, that we take all the measures necessary to counter that," Rutte said after talks with Nato foreign ministers.

"These include enhanced intelligence exchange, more exercises, better protection of critical infrastructure, improved cyber defence, and tougher action against Russia's shadow fleet of oil exporting ships."

Nato officials said the alliance was working on a new strategy to combat Russian and Chinese hostile actions for a summit next June in The Hague.

The alleged hybrid campaign poses a problem for NATO as it exists in a grey zone often seen as beneath the level of threat that could trigger the alliance's mutual defence clause.

French govt risks falling in no-trust vote: reports

AFP, Paris

France's government yesterday faced a no-confidence vote that could spell the end of Prime Minister Michel Barnier's administration, plunging the country into uncharted waters.

The toppling of the Barnier government after just three months in office would present President Emmanuel Macron with the unenviable choice of picking a viable successor with over two years of his presidential term left.

The National Assembly lower house is due to debate two motions brought by the hard left and the far right in a standoff over next year's austerity budget, after the prime minister on Monday forced through a social security financing bill without a vote.

The motion brought by the far-right National Rally (RN) of three-time presidential candidate Marine Le Pen is expected to be rejected.

But Le Pen has said her forces would back the left's motion, giving it enough numbers to pass in an evening vote that could topple a French government for the first time in more than 60 years.

Macron was expected to wrap up his three-day state visit to Saudi Arabia and return to Paris later in the day.

Still a world away from the crisis, on Wednesday he strolled through the desert sands of the Al-Ula oasis, an iconic tourist project of the kingdom, marvelling at ancient landmarks.

On Tuesday, Macron accused Le Pen's far-right of "unbearable cynicism" in backing the motion.



**“We have enduring interests, enduring security interests in Syria, particularly the interest in making sure that ISIS doesn’t resurrect and doesn’t come back.”**

US Secretary of State **Antony Blinken**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Office

Upazila Health Complex

Rangunia, Chattogram

Ref No. UHC/Rangunia/Chattogram/MSR/24-25/1454

Date: 04.12.2024

Invitation for e-Tender Notice (OTM)

FY-2024-2025 e-Tender is in the National e-GP System Portal invited (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works given below:

SL No.	Tender ID	Description and name of the package	Publishing (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
1	1045538	Procurement of Non EDCL Medicine for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
2	1045539	Procurement of Surgical Instruments for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
3	1045540	Procurement of Gauge, Bandage and Cotton for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
4	1045542	Procurement of Linen for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
5	1045545	Procurement of Reagent, Chemical for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
6	1045547	Procurement of Furniture for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00

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 document from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of any registered banks within the date mentioned in the tender notice.

Dr. Muhammad Touhidul Alam

Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer

Upazila Health Complex

Rangunia, Chattogram

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

Chattogram

Tender No. 18.16.0000.366.50.001.24

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE FOR

DISPOSAL OF M.T. BANGLAR JYOTI AND M.T. BANGLAR SHOURABH

1. Sealed quotations on 'as is where is' basis are invited for sale of two vessels M.T.Banglar Jyoti and M.T.Banglar Shourabh (both were built at 1987 Denmark and DWT 14,541 MT). These Vessels were trading in Bangladesh territorial Water.

2. The Tender Documents bearing No:18.16.0000.366.50.001.24 dated: 05-12-2024 shall be sold out latest by 05-01-2025 during office hours and the tender shall be dropped in the following boxes kept following offices latest by 12.00 PM. (BST) on the 06-01-2025 as per terms & conditions laid down in the tender document.

A. Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

BSC Bhaban (3rd floor)

Saltgola Road, Chattogram.

B. Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

BSC Tower (22nd Floor),

Plot No. 2 & 3 Rajuk Avenue,

Dainik Banglar Moor. Dhaka-1000

3. The tender also may be submitted through e-mail: [gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd](mailto:gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd) latest by 12:00 PM.(BST) on the 06-01-2025. Those who submitted the tender document through e-mail must ensure the deposit of earnest money / tender security which deposited in the following bank account mentioned in Para:4.

(a) BSC's Account No: 0200-001988265, Routing No: 010-150-911, Account Name: Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Agrani Bank PLC, Port Branch, Chattogram, Bangladesh.

(b) BSCs Account No: 260-361076-178, Account Name: Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, The HSBC, Singapore Branch, Swift Code: HSBMSGSG, 10 Marina # 48-01. Marina Bay Financial Centre, Singapore-018983.

5. Informatively, tender will be opened at 12:00 PM (BST) on the 07-01-2025 in the Conference Room in Bangladesh Shipping Corporation head office, Chattogram.

6. The Tender Documents containing main particulars and certificate/survey status of these vessels, terms and conditions for the tender etc, can be obtained from the following offices on application and payment of Tk 12,000.00 (Taka Twelve Thousand) or US100/- (USD One hundred) only (non refundable) per set during office hours. The Tender documents also may be collected through e-mail: [gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd](mailto:gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd) after paying price of the tender schedule in the above designated bank mentioned in Para:4.

A. General Manager (Accounts)

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation,

BSC Bhaban (3rd Floor), Saltgola

Road, Bander, Chattogram-4100

Tel: 031-710149

B.GeneralManager

(Marketing). BSC Tower (22nd

Floor), Plot No. 2 & 3 Rajuk

Avenue, Dainik Banglar Moor,

Dhaka-1000. Tel: 02-9553568

C.E-mail:

[gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd](mailto:gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd)

7. BSC, however, reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager (Finance)

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation,

BSC Bhaban (3rd Floor),

Saltgola Road, Chattogram

Tel: 02333310149, 01815-528226

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