# INTERNATIONAL

## Russia pulling back but not out of Syria: sources

REUTERS. Tartous

Russia is pulling back its military from the front lines in northern Syria and from posts in the Alawite Mountains but is not leaving its two main bases in the country after the fall of President Bashar al-Assad, four Syrian officials told Reuters

The ousting of Assad, who along with his late father, former President Hafez al-Assad, had forged a close alliance with Moscow, has thrown the future of Russia's bases - the Hmeimim airbase in Latakia and the Tartous naval facility - into question.

Satellite footage from Friday shows what appeared to be at least two Antonov AN-124s, among the world's largest cargo planes, at the Hmeimim base with their nose cones open, apparently preparing to load up.

Syrian military and security sources in contact with the Russians told Reuters that Moscow was pulling back its forces from the front lines and withdrawing some heavy equipment and senior Syrian officers.

But the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation, said Russia was not pulling out of its two main bases and currently had no intention of doing so.

Some equipment is being shipped back to Moscow as are very senior officers from Assad's military but the aim at this stage is to regroup and redeploy as dictated by developments on the ground, a senior Syrian army officer in touch with the Russian military told Reuters

A senior rebel official close to the new interim administration told Reuters the issue of the Russian military presence in Syria and past agreements between the Assad government and Moscow were not under discussion.

The Kremlin has said Russia is in discussions with the new rulers of Syria over the bases.

Russia's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment on Reuters reporting.



Protesters calling for the ouster of South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol react after the result of the second martial law impeachment vote outside the National Assembly in Seoul yesterday. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: AFP

# 18 killed as Israel strikes shelters, aid point in Gaza

At least 18 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes in Gaza on Saturday, medics said, while the Israeli military said it targeted gunmen operating from shelters and aid storages.

At least 10 people were killed in an airstrike near the municipality building in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip where people gathered to receive aid, medics said.

Casualties were being carried by foot, on rickshaws and private cars from the site of the attack to the hospital, medics said. The strike killed the head of the Hamasrun administrative committee in central Gaza, a Hamas source said.

The Israeli military was looking into the report, a spokesperson said. Earlier, Israeli aircraft struck militants and weapon caches near an aid warehouse, the military said, after gunmen had fired rockets into Israel from there.

A separate strike in Gaza City on a a local



former shelter housing displaced people targeted Hamas fighters, the military said. At least seven people were killed in that attack, Palestinian medics said, including a woman and her baby.

It was unclear whether any of the other people killed were fighters. The military said it had taken precautions to reduce risk of harm to civilians.

A separate strike in Gaza City killed journalist, medics said. The

military was looking into the report, a spokesperson said.

The war in Gaza began on Oct 7, 2023 when Israel then launched an air, sea and land offensive that has killed at least 44,000 people, mostly civilians, according to authorities in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, displaced nearly the entire population and left much of the enclave in ruins.

Several attempts to a ceasefire have failed to stop the bombardment on the tiny Palestinian territory.

A fresh bid by Egypt, Qatar and the United States to reach a truce has gained momentum in recent weeks.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi yesterday discussed with visiting US officials efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and a hostages-for prisoners deal in the Palestinian enclave, Sisi's office said.

The killings ame a on the same day as top US officials and regional Arab power met to discuss the conflicts in the region - in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon.

[/] Jamuna Bank

## Iran won't impede **IAEA** access

REUTERS

Iran will not impede the UN nuclear watchdog's access and inspection of its sites, the head of the country's Atomic Energy Organization said

According to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) earlier this week, Iran has agreed to tougher monitoring by the agency at its Fordow site after it greatly accelerated uranium enrichment to close to weapons-grade there.

Last week, the IAEA reported that Iran had multiplied the pace of its enrichment to up to 60 percent purity, close to the 90 percent of weaponsgrade, at Fordow.

"We have not created and will not create any obstacles for the agency's inspections and access, Atomic Energy Organization head Mohammad Eslami was quoted as saying by Iranian media.

## Israeli strike kills 1 in south Lebanon

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's health ministry said an Israeli drone strike in the south killed one person yesterday, the latest deadly raid despite a more than two-week ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

"An Israeli enemy drone strike... killed one person" in Marjayoun district, the health ministry said in a statement. The official National News Agency said a vehicle was hit.

A ceasefire came into effect between Israel and Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah on November 27 but both sides have accused the other of repeated violations, with Lebanon reporting multiple deadly Israeli strikes, including five people killed on Wednesday.

## MIGRANT BOAT SINKING Five killed in Greece

Five migrants died early yesterday when a migrant boat sank off Crete, Greece's coastguard said, leaving 40 people reportedly missing while 39 survivors were rescued. The boat sank 12 nautical miles southwest of the island, according to ERTNEWS, which reported the 40 missing.

A huge rescue operation involving vessels and aircraft was under way in the sea south of the island of Gavdos, south of Crete, after the boat capsized shortly after midnight, the coastguard said.

# AI with reasoning power will be less predictable: expert

REUTERS, Vancouver

nake on Friday: reasoning capabilities

will make technology far less predictable. Accepting a "Test Of Time" award for his 2014 paper with Google's GOOGL.O Oriol Vinvals and Ouoc Le. Sutskever said a major change was on Al's horizon.

An idea that his team had explored a decade ago, that scaling up data have but one internet."

them to new heights, was starting to Former OpenAI chief scientist Ilya reach its limits, he said. More data Sutskever, one of the biggest names in and computing power had resulted artificial intelligence, had a prediction to in ChatGPT that OpenAI launched in 2022, to the world's acclaim.

> "But pre-training as we know it will unquestionably end," Sutskever declared before thousands of attendees at the NeurIPS conference in Vancouver. "While compute is growing," he said, "the data is not growing, because we

## Won't spare anyone, even if it's Prof Yunus

Mentioning that they are not the generation that sells their conscience, Sarjis said the relation of Bangladesh with other countries must be of respect

our relationship with you will be determined through your work. If you want relationship with Bangladesh, you must send back Sheikh Hasina. Hasina's trial will be done by the people of Bangladesh," he added.

### FROM PAGE 12 the July uprising. to "pre-train" AI systems would send

and equal dignity.

"We want to say one thing to India:

# Intellectuals failed to organise consent

barricades to new sensibilities and thoughts, and then he invoked another group, i.e. the "organic" ones who wanted change especially in the face of a desire to establish justice in society. "Desire," Khan said, "is metonymy whereas deception is a symptom, that is to say metaphor."

Talking about the recent mass upsurge, he said it has created hope among many, as many of the organisers of the uprising are young and organic intellectuals with foresight.

"Our society is not infertile. No one knew from where these leaders would emerge. Whether they will survive or not, I can't really say anything as a fortune-teller."

He said that old leaderships are failing to understand that they not be in place of Bangla, and that are on the verge of the end of their political career. The old is dying Bangladesh is just "killing Bangla" as

but the new cannot be born. In the a culture and as an identity marker. interregnum, a whole set of morbid symptoms appear.

He said that a section of teachers worship some people for personal and professional benefits.

"University have teachers land or for a steady job for a relative or even to secure a transfer from one place to another. They have destroyed institutions for getting own benefits.'

Talking about the education system, Khan said medium of classroom instructions at general schools, madrasas and others should be the mother tongue, and a foreign language must not supplant it.

He said that someone can learn different languages but that should the present system of "Englishing"

"If you want to make the education generally available, there is no alternative to having education in the natural language of the student populace."

Journalist and writer Kajal destroyed universities for a plot of Rashid Shahin said that during the independence struggle and Liberation War, intellectuals played a glorious role. He said it is important to know the roles of the architects of the nation and reforms should be carried out in line with their thoughts.

> Government Titumir College Vice-Principal and writer Prof Mizanur Rahman said there should be a process to groom intellectuals and there should be discussions about their role in nation-building.

> The Daily Star editor and publisher Mahfuz Anam moderated the programme.

# Jamuna Bank PLC., a pillar of innovation and excellence in the financial sector, is committed to developing the next generation of banking professionals. With a robust presence across the nation, Jamuna Bank provides a platform for career growth in a forward-thinking environment. We are currently seeking talented and ambitious individuals

for the roles of Management Trainee and Probationary Officer-candidates who are ready to make an impact and drive our mission forward.

## Preferred Candidates are those who have:

Strong work ethic, integrity, adaptability, and accountability.

\* Minimum CGPA of 3.00 out of 4.00 in graduation.

\* Excellent communication and problem-solving skills, a customer-focused approach, and the ability to work well in a team.

## **Educational Qualifications:**

1. Management Trainee

- Minimum 4-year Graduation Degree in any discipline from a UGC-approved/foreign university. Minimum CGPA of 3.30 out of 4.00 in graduation.
- \* Minimum GPA of 5.00 out of 5.00 in SSC/HSC or equivalent exams.

#### 2. Probationary Officer Minimum 4-year Graduation Degree in any discipline from a UGC-approved/foreign university.

- \* Minimum GPA of 4.00 out of 5.00 in SSC/HSC or equivalent exams.
- \* Management Trainee: Monthly consolidated salary of Tk. 60,000 during the 1-year probation. Successful candidates will be confirmed as First Executive Officer with a monthly gross salary of Tk. 71,000

#### \* Probationary Officer: Monthly consolidated salary of Tk, 45,000 during the 1-year probation. Successful candidates will be confirmed as Officer (General) with a monthly gross salary of Tk. 58,000 and competitive benefits

Age not exceeding 30 years as of December 29, 2024.

## Additional Information:

\* Service Commitment: Selected candidates will sign a service bond to commit to a minimum of 5 years of service with the Bank.

## **Application Instructions:**

- \* Interested candidates are encouraged to apply at www.jamunabankbd.com/career with a recent passport-sized photo (max 30 KB) by December 29, 2024.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- \* Candidates can apply for only one position. Any deviation from this will result in cancellation of their
- Misrepresentation of any information will disqualify the applicant. \* Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further steps.
- Note: Jamuna Bank PLC, reserves the right to accept or reject any application. Any form of persuasion will result in disqualification
- For Any Query: Hotline: 16742 | Email: career@jamunabank.com.bd

# US, regional diplomats meet

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, Fidan and foreign ministers from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar met around a circular table at a Jordanian government guesthouse. There was no Syrian representative at the table.

The Arab diplomats earlier met separately and issued a statement calling for a peaceful and inclusive political transition that leads towards elections and a new constitution for Syria. The foreign ministers said they were committed to combating terrorism, which they called a threat to security in Syria, the region and the world.

Blinken, meeting Pederson at his

a time of "both opportunity but also real challenge" for Syria.

Arab diplomats attending the talks told Reuters they were seeking assurances from Turkey that it supports an inclusive political process that prevents the partition of Syria on sectarian lines.

Turkey and the United States, both Nato members, have conflicting interests when it comes to some of the rebels. Turkish-backed rebels in northern Syria have clashed with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The SDF, which controls some of Syria's largest oil fields, is the main YPG was Turkey's "strategic target" ally in a U.S. coalition against Islamic and urged the group's commanders State militants. It is spearheaded by

hotel earlier on Saturday, said it was YPG militia, a group that Ankara sees as an extension of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants who have fought the Turkish state for 40 years and who it outlaws.

Blinken told Turkish officials during a visit to Ankara on Thursday and Friday that Islamic State must not be able to regroup, and the SDF must not be distracted from its role of securing camps holding IS fighters, according to a U.S. official. Turkish leaders agreed, the official with the U.S. delegation said.

Fidan told Turkish TV later on Friday that the elimination of the to leave Syria.