

## UKRAINE WAR North Korea suffers 1,100 casualties

### Says South Korea

AFP, Seoul

More than 1,000 North Korean soldiers have been killed or wounded in Russia's war with Ukraine, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said yesterday.

The new figure follows a report by Seoul's spy agency to MPs last week, which said at least 100 North Korean soldiers had been killed since entering combat in December.

Pyongyang has sent thousands of troops to reinforce the Russian military, including to the Kursk border region where Ukrainian forces seized territory earlier this year.

"Through various sources of information and intelligence, we assess that North Korean troops who have recently engaged in combat with Ukrainian forces have suffered around 1,100 casualties," the JCS said in a statement.



## Joe Biden commutes sentences of 37 death row inmates

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden yesterday commuted the sentences for 37 out of 40 federal inmates on death row, converting them to life in prison without parole before he hands over power to President-elect Donald Trump on Jan. 20.

Biden's move will frustrate Trump's plan to resume a rapid pace of executions. Unlike executive orders, clemency decisions cannot be reversed by a president's successor, although the death penalty can be sought more aggressively in future cases.

Trump restarted federal executions after a nearly 20-year pause during his first term in office from 2017 to 2021.

Biden, who ran for president opposing the death penalty, put federal executions on hold when he took office in January 2021.

In recent weeks, he has faced pressure from congressional Democrats, opponents of capital punishment and religious leaders such as Pope Francis to commute federal death sentences before he leaves.

"Make no mistake: I condemn these murderers, grieve for the victims of their despicable acts, and ache for all the families who have suffered unimaginable and irreparable loss," Biden said in a statement.



Palestinian people and rescuers inspect the charred remains of a bus hit by an Israeli strike in the Mawasi area west of Khan Yunis city in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Inset, a Palestinian woman mourns next to a body during the funeral of Palestinians, killed in Israeli air strikes, at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis.



PHOTO: AFP

## NORTH GAZA GOVERNORATE Only 12 trucks delivered food, water since Oct

### Says aid group as the Palestinian enclave faces worsening humanitarian situation

AFP, United Nations

Just 12 trucks distributed food and water in northern Gaza in two-and-a-half months, aid group Oxfam said on Sunday, raising the alarm over the worsening humanitarian situation in the besieged territory.

"Of the meager 34 trucks of food and water given permission to enter the North Gaza Governorate over the last 2.5 months, deliberate delays and systematic obstructions by the Israeli military meant that just twelve managed to distribute aid to starving Palestinian civilians," Oxfam said in a statement, in a count that included deliveries through Saturday.

"For three of these, once the food and water had been delivered to the school where people were sheltering, it was then cleared and shelved within hours," Oxfam added.

Israel, which has tightly controlled aid entering the Hamas-ruled territory since the outbreak of the offensive, often blames what it says is the inability of relief organisations to handle and distribute large quantities of aid.

In a report focused on water, New York-based Human Rights Watch on Thursday detailed what it called deliberate efforts by Israeli authorities "of a systematic nature



to deprive Gazans of water, which had "likely caused thousands of deaths... and will likely continue to cause deaths."

They were the latest in a series of accusations levelled against Israel - and denied by the country - during its 14-month offensive.

Oxfam said that it and other international aid groups have been "continually prevented from delivering life-saving aid" in northern Gaza since October 6 this year, when Israel intensified its bombardment of the territory.

"Thousands of people are estimated to still be cut off, but with humanitarian access blocked

it's impossible to know exact numbers," Oxfam said.

"At the beginning of December, humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza were receiving calls from vulnerable people trapped in homes and shelters that had completely run out of food and water."

Oxfam highlighted one instance of an aid delivery in November being disrupted by Israeli authorities.

"A convoy of 11 trucks last month was initially held up at the holding point by the Israeli military at Jabalia, where some food was taken by starving civilians," it said.

## India police kill 3 Sikh separatist militants

AFP, Lucknow

Indian police said yesterday they had killed three Sikh militants fighting for a separate homeland known as "Khalistan", the struggle for which sparked deadly violence in the 1980s and 1990s.

The campaign for Khalistan was at the heart of a diplomatic firestorm last year after Indian intelligence operatives were linked to the killing of a vocal Sikh leader in Canada and an attempted assassination in the United States - claims New Delhi rejected.

In the latest incident, Khalistani rebels were killed after a gun battle in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh. The men were wanted for their alleged involvement in a grenade attack on a police outpost in Punjab this month.

Pilibhit police superintendent Avinash Pandey said officers had surrounded the men after a tip-off, with the suspects launching "heavy fire".

"In the retaliatory action, all three were critically injured and later died in hospital," he said.

## Brokers prowling

FROM PAGE 12

When asked about Touhid's concerns, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury did not respond directly.

"If you go to the border, you will understand the situation. A war is happening there. You know the situation," he told journalists at the Pikhana headquarters of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday.

Sources claimed that small groups of Rohingyas enter Bangladesh almost daily, though larger groups cannot cross as they attract the attention of law enforcement.

Over 300 Rohingyas have been waiting in the Dhuri area of Ghumdhum in Bandarban's Naikhongchhari upazila to enter Bangladesh, according to local sources and Rohingya leaders.

A Rohingya leader in Teknaf, speaking anonymously, said, "Bangladeshi brokers are charging at least Tk 20,000 per person for entry. They are also collecting Tk 20,000 for every three or four children under 10."

Due to heightened security at the Naikhongchhari border, Rohingyas are attempting to enter Bangladesh through the Keruntoli border area in Teknaf by crossing the Naf River in small boats.

"Around eight to 10 people have been entering Bangladesh each night over the past three to four days," the leader added.

Regarding the influx of Rohingyas, Home Adviser Jahangir said, "We will not allow Rohingyas to enter Bangladesh under any circumstances."

He clarified that the 60,000 Rohingyas entered the country over the past one and a half to two years, rather than in the last two months as previously reported.

He further stated that the entire border area along Myanmar is under the control of the Arakan Army. "We can communicate unofficially with them. We are working to resolve the issue as soon as possible."

Enquired about the Rohingya repatriation, the adviser noted, "I cannot provide details. You [journalists] can enquire with the foreign ministry for more information. The chief adviser has appointed an expert, and we expect positive outcomes in the future."

A tense situation has developed among Rohingyas and locals at the Myanmar border after the Arakan Army claimed full control of Maungdaw district in Rakhine State on December 8.

Anowar Faisal, a resident of Noyapara village in Teknaf, shared, "We couldn't sleep on Friday and Saturday nights when airstrikes occurred. Our homes shook as bombs were dropped from aircraft."

Zubair of ARSPH warned that a new influx of Rohingyas could happen at any moment as those on the other side of the border are being tortured by the AA.

## Adieu, doyen

FROM PAGE 12

Benegal passed away at Wockhardt Hospital at 6.38pm, said her daughter Pia.

"My father had been suffering from chronic kidney disease for several years but it worsened recently. That is the reason for his death," Pia said.

Benegal, celebrated for poignant and hard-hitting films like Ankur, Nishant, Mandi, Manthan and Zubeidaa, examined the main fault lines of Indian society, tackling issues of feudalism, caste, and women's emancipation, while ceaselessly experimenting with the cinematic form.

His vast filmography boasts several masterpieces that altered the course of Indian cinema. Some other notable works of Benegal include Bhumika, Mammo, Sardari Begum, Junoon Aarohan, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero and Well Done Abba.

He also made a film on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, "Mujib: The Making of a Nation" which was released in 2023.

In recognition of his thought-provoking

films addressing social issues, Benegal was honoured with the Indian government's prestigious award Padma Shri in 1976, two years after he made his directorial debut with Ankur, and the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award of the government, in 1991.

Benegal's third film Nishant (1975) earned a nomination for the Palme d'Or at the 1976 Cannes Film Festival.

During his illustrious career, Benegal earned numerous accolades, including the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest honour in the field of cinema, in 2005 and an impressive 18 national film awards.

His Mammo (1994), Sardari Begum (1996), and Zubeidaa (2001), which collectively form a trilogy on Muslim women, also won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi.

Benegal has won the prestigious National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi a total of seven times.

Besides his daughter, the director is survived by his wife Nira.

"We will absolutely not allow there to be weapons in the country outside state control, whether from the revolutionary factions or the factions present in the SDF area."

Syria's new leader **Ahmed al-Sharaa**

## S Alam threatens

FROM PAGE 2

It states that banks owned by S Alam have been restricted from lending and had their management teams changed, while deals they had in place have been cancelled by the government "arbitrarily and without due process".

"The value of the investors' investments has been destroyed, in whole or in part, through the acts and omissions of Bangladesh, its agencies and instrumentalities," the Quinn Emanuel notice states.

"Those acts and omissions, which are ongoing, have violated and continue to violate the investors' rights under [investment treaties] and the laws of Bangladesh, and give rise to the present dispute."

The Bangladesh government did not respond to a request for comments on the letter.

Ahsan H Mansur, who was appointed Bangladesh's central bank governor following the toppling of Hasina's regime in August, told the FT in October that Saiful Alam, his associates, and

other groups had siphoned money out of the banking system after taking over leading banks with the help of members of a powerful military intelligence agency.

Mansur, a former IMF official, alleged that they used methods such as loans to the banks' new shareholders and inflated import invoices as part of what he called the "biggest, highest robbing of banks by any international standards".

S Alam Group, which has interests in sectors including food, construction, garments, and banking, has said there is "no truth" to Mansur's allegations.

A spokesperson for Bangladesh's central bank said, "The issues are under investigation and the central bank has refrained from any comment for the betterment of the investigation outcomes."

Alam's letter is an early indicator of the hurdles Bangladesh's interim government faces in its attempts to reclaim money it says was taken out of the banking system under the regime of Hasina.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বিভাগীয় সংকেত ও টেলিযোগাযোগ প্রকৌশলী এর দপ্তর  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

নং-৫৪.০১.১৫০০.২৫৬.০৩.০০১.২৪-৬৪৯ তারিখঃ ১৯/১২/২০২৪ইং

বিভাগীয় সংকেত ও টেলিযোগাযোগ প্রকৌশলী, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম, কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) এ নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছেঃ

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1	1043333, 54.01.1500, 256.03.005.24	Supply Installation, connection testing & commissioning of LC Gate No. T/1 Spl at CTG station yard approach warning system restoration work under SSAE/SIG/CTG section.	NCT, OTM	29-Dec-2024 12:00:00, 14-Jan-2025 12:30:00

বিদ্রষ্টাঃ

১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. নিবন্ধিত ও অগ্রাধী দরদাতাগণ বিনা খরচে দরপত্র দাখিল দেখতে পারবেন; তবে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল ও দরপত্র জামানত বারদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।

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মোহাম্মদ সেলিম

বিভাগীয় সংকেত ও টেলিযোগাযোগ প্রকৌশলী  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

GD-1259

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড  
Bangladesh Power Development Board  
[www.bpd.gov.bd](http://www.bpd.gov.bd)  
ব্যান্ধাপক (পরিচালন) এর দপ্তর  
বিবিয়ানা দক্ষিণ ৪০০ মেহেঃ কসাবিক, বিউবা, হবিগঞ্জ  
মোবাইল নংঃ ০১৩১৩০৯৬১৫৪

Reference No. 27.11.3677.462.62.034.24-674 Date: 21-12-2024

### e-Tender Notice

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

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods	Tender publication date & time	Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing/ opening date & time
1	1051990	GR-13 APP2024-25 south	Procurement of Sodium Hypochlorite for the pretreatment of clarifier and cooling Tower of Bibiyana south 400MW, CCPP, BPDB, Habiganj.	24-12-2024 11:30	12-01-2025 16:00	13-01-2025 11:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.bpd.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) Contact No. (01762625528-31, 0171783947).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৫৮৫(২)/২৩/১২/২৪ (৬\*৩)

১৯/১২/২০২৪

Niranjani Paul  
ID No. 7-0023  
Chief Chemist  
Bibiyana South 400MW, CCPP, BPDB  
Nabiganj, Habiganj

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