



Posters of missing people hang on a monument in the centre of Marjeh Square in Damascus, Syria yesterday. Some 157,000 people disappeared into Syria's prisons and other government facilities according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

PHOTO: AFP

EU MIGRANT CRISIS 10,457 lost at sea bound for Spain in 2024

Report says victims were from 28 nations

AFP, Madrid

At least 10,457 migrants died or disappeared while trying to reach Spain by sea in 2024, an NGO said yesterday, 50 percent more than last year and the most since it began keeping a tally in 2007.

The 58-percent increase includes 1,538 children and 421 women, migrants rights group Caminando Fronteras or Walking Borders said in a report which covers the period from January 1 to December 5, 2024.

It amounts to an average of 30 deaths per day, up from around 18 in 2023.

The group compiles its data from hotlines set up for migrants on vessels in trouble to call for help, families of migrants who went missing and from official rescue statistics.

It blamed the use of flimsy boats and

increasingly dangerous routes as well as a lack of resources for rescues for the surge in deaths.

"These figures are evidence of a profound failure of rescue and protection systems. More than 10,400 people dead or missing in a single year is an unacceptable tragedy," the group's founder, Helena Maleno, said in a statement.

The victims were from 28 nations, mostly in Africa, but also from Iraq and Pakistan.

The vast majority of the fatalities – 9,757 – took place on the Atlantic migration route from Africa to Spain's Canary Islands, which has received a record number of migrants for the second year in a row.

Seven migrant boats landed in the archipelago on Christmas Day, Spain's maritime rescue service said on social media site X.



Israeli air raids target airport, air base in Yemen

AFP, Sanaa

Multiple air raids targeted an airport, military air base and a power station in Yemen yesterday, witnesses and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels said.

Sanaa airport and the adjacent Al-Dailami base were targeted along with a power station in Hodeida, in attacks that the Houthis' Al-Masirah TV channel called "Israeli aggression".

On Wednesday, Houthi rebels said that they had fired a ballistic missile and two drones at Israel.

Israel's military said it intercepted the missile and that one drone "fell in an open area" after sirens sounded in the country's south, near the Gaza Strip.

The attack was carried out "using a hypersonic ballistic missile, type Palestine 2", Houthis said in a statement.

Kremlin cautions on 'hypotheses' over plane crash

AFP, Astana

The Kremlin yesterday cautioned against "hypotheses" over the crash of an Azerbaijani plane which had been due to land in Russia as experts pointed to possible evidence of a missile explosion.

The Azerbaijan Airlines jet crashed near the Kazakh city of Aktau, an oil and gas hub, on Wednesday. Thirty-eight of the 67 people on board died.

"It would be wrong to make any hypotheses before the investigation's conclusions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The Embraer 190 aircraft was supposed to fly northwest from the Azerbaijani capital Baku to the city of Grozny in Chechnya in southern Russia, but instead diverted far off course across the Caspian Sea.

An investigation is underway, but some aviation and military experts said the plane may have been accidentally shot by Russian air defence systems as it was flying in an area where Ukrainian drone activity had been reported.

Russian military expert Yury Podolyaka said holes seen in the wreckage of the plane were similar to the damage caused by an "anti-aircraft missile system".

"Everything points to that," he wrote.

A former expert at France's BEA air accident investigation agency, also said there appeared to be "a lot of shrapnel" damage on the wreckage.

Trump wishes 'Merry Christmas' to 'left lunatics'

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden and his incoming successor Donald Trump issued starkly contrasting Christmas messages Wednesday, with the latter doubling down on recent comments about seizing the Panama Canal, buying Greenland and annexing Canada.

While Biden posted a short, traditional seasonal message about "kindness and compassion," Trump fired off a rapid volley of three dozen posts through the day, with his Christmas messages directly addressing "radical left lunatics" and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, "whose Citizens' Taxes are far too high."

"Merry Christmas to the Radical Left Lunatics, who are constantly trying to obstruct our Court System and our Elections," the president-elect said in one message, using his characteristically erratic style of capitalisation.

He spent Christmas day firing off on his Truth Social website about his own perceived political persecution -- a contrast to Biden's holiday wishes "to all Americans."

The Republican's comeback electoral win in November came on the back of heightened political polarization and division across the country, which Trump leaned into in his posts.



This handout image, received yesterday from the State Control Centre of the Victoria Emergency Services, shows officials on a road near a bushfire in the Grampians National Park in Victoria, Australia.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia blames Ukraine for wave of attacks

Arrests 44 suspects

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday accused the Ukrainian security services of instigating a spate of 55 arson and bomb attacks on banks, post offices and police cars across the country.

The interior ministry said in a statement that 44 suspects had been arrested, many of them elderly people and minors "looking for easy money".

It said perpetrators faced up to 20 years in prison. "Suspects acted on the instructions of anonymous supervisors received by telephone or messengers," it said.

Assad loyalists kill 14 members of Syrian police

REUTERS, DAMASCUS

Fourteen members of the Syrian police were killed in an "ambush" by forces loyal to the ousted government in the Tartous countryside, the transitional administration said early yesterday, as demonstrations and an overnight curfew elsewhere marked the most widespread unrest since Bashar al-Assad's removal more than two weeks ago.

Syria's new interior minister said on Telegram that 10 police members were also wounded by what he called "remnants" of the Assad government in Tartous, vowing to crack down on "anyone who dares to undermine Syria's security or endanger the lives of its citizens."

Earlier, Syrian police imposed an overnight curfew in the city of Homs, state media reported, after unrest there linked to demonstrations that


residents said were led by members of the minority Alawite and Shia Muslim religious communities.

Some residents said the demonstrations were linked to pressure and violence in recent days aimed at members of the Alawite minority, a sect long seen as loyal to Assad, who was toppled by Sunni rebels on December 8.

Spokespeople for Syria's new ruling administration led by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group, a former al-Qaeda affiliate, did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the curfew.

State media said the curfew was being imposed for one night, from 6:00 pm local time (1500 GMT) until 8:00 am yesterday morning.

The country's new leaders have repeatedly vowed to protect minority religious groups, who fear the former rebels now in control could seek to impose a conservative form of rebel government.



Bangladesh Bank
Common Services Department-2
Head Office
Dhaka
Website: www.bangladeshbank.org.bd

Invitation for Tender Through Web

Tender No. CSD-2(CEW):01(03)/2024-165

Date: 23/12/2024

Tenders through Electronic Media (e-Tender) are invited from the bonafide Contractors/Construction firms for Making Director, Additional Directors Chamber, JD/DD Low Height Chamber, AD/Officer Work Station, Supply & Fixing False Ceiling, Floor Tiles for Payment Systems Department at 3rd floor of 30-storied Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. Necessary information and terms & conditions are given below:

1	Procuring entity	: Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
2	Source of funds	: Bangladesh Bank's own-fund.
3	Invitation for Tender No.	: CSD-2(CEW):01(03)/2024-165
4	Method of procurement.	: Open Tendering Method (OTM) (National)
5	Qualification of tenderers	: This Invitation for Tender is open to all eligible Contractors/Construction Firms of Bangladesh who have: i) Business experience at least 10 (Ten) years and satisfactorily completed at least 01 (one) work of similar nature worth not less than Taka 30.00 (thirty) lac in a single contract, in any government/semi-government/autonomous organization of Bangladesh during the last 05 (five) years. The Tenderers shall have to furnish certificates in this respect from officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent. ii) Minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover in the last 05 (five) years preceding the date of submission of the Tender shall not be less than Taka 30.00 (thirty) lac only. iii) Minimum liquid assets/credit facilities shall be Taka 26.00 lac (twenty-six lac only). In case of credit facilities Bank shall ensure that the abovementioned credit limits will be given if the said work is awarded to the contractor. iv) The tenderer shall have to submit VAT, up-to-date trade license and up-to-date income tax clearance certificate. v) Tenderers shall have to fulfill the qualification criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet & other Terms and Conditions of the Tender Documents.
6	Address of the web receiving tender document	: www.bb.org.bd (e-Tender).
7	Name & address of the offices -Receiving tender security & other documentary evidence	: Director (Engg.-Civil), Common Services Department-2 (6th Floor of 30-storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
8	Last date and time for submission of tender document through web	: 08/01/2025 up to 2:30pm.
9	Last date and time for receiving original Tender security, Tender submission letter as per format PW2a-1 and Price of Tender Documents Tk. 1000 (Taka one thousand only) (non-refundable) shall submit in the form of Pay Order	: 08/01/2025 within 2:30pm.
10	Date, time and place for tender opening	: 08/01/2025 at 3:00pm., Common Services Department-2 (6th Floor of 30-storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. (Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening with authorization letter).
11	Brief description of works	: The Works consist of Brick works, plaster, glass partition, work station, clear glass, glass paper, Aluminium Metal board false ceiling, plain particle board ceiling, emulsion paint etc.
12	Time for completion of the works	: 03(three) months from the date of issue of Award of Contract.
13	Tender security	: Tk. 75,000.00 (Taka seventy-five thousand only) in the form of PO/BD/BG.
14	Special instructions	: i) Price of Tender Documents Tk. 1000 (Taka one thousand only) (non-refundable) shall submit in the form of Pay Order (PO) from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh on or before 2:30pm dated 08/01/2025 as hard copy; Otherwise the tender will be considered as non-responsive. ii) Original PO/BD/Bank Guarantee as Tender Security along with Original Tender submission letter as per format PW2a-1 and price of tender document in the form of Pay Order shall reach at Director (Engineering-Civil), Common Services Department-2, within stipulated date and time mentioned in TDS. iii) Tenderer shall provide all documentary evidence (original or attested whichever necessary) when requested, failing which the Tender shall be considered as non-responsive. iv) PW2a-1 & PW2a-2 form shall be completed and signed by the Authorized Signatory on the Letter-Head Pad attached by Scanning during submitting tender and original will be sent to the Director (Engineering-Civil), Common Services Department-2, within scheduled time as per TDS. v) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents shall result in rejection of tender and shall lead to action under Rules 127 of PPR 2008. vi) All sorts of security & safety measures shall be carried out by the Contractor during execution of the work. vii) The work shall be done without interrupting the normal activities of the office. viii) Bangladesh Bank reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claim will be entertained in this regard.

ডিসিপি: ৪৮/২০২৪-৩৩২৬
তারিখ: ২৬/১২/২০২৪

ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা শেডে যোগাযোগের শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

MD. Tafazzal Hossain
Director (Engineering-Civil)
Phone: 88-02-9530099
Fax: 88-02-9530321

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