

INTERNATIONAL

Russian strikes hit Ukraine power plant

46,000 people in Mykolaiv left in freezing cold; US moving ahead with Russia on peace talks

AGENCIES

Russian drone strikes have damaged a thermal power plant in Mykolaiv in southern Ukraine overnight, leaving 46,000 consumers without heating as temperatures plunge below freezing, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said yesterday.

"This was done deliberately to leave people without heat in sub-zero temperatures and create a humanitarian catastrophe," Shmyhal said on the Telegram messenger app. Russia attacked Ukraine with 143 drones overnight but Ukrainian military said it had shot down 95 of them while 46 did not reach their targets, likely thanks to the use of electromagnetic countermeasures that disrupt drone attacks.

At least one person was injured in the drone attacks that also damaged houses in the Kyiv region. Five apartment buildings and several shop and office spaces were damaged as a result of falling drone debris, reports Reuters.

France to host a summit of European leaders today to discuss the Ukraine war and European security.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed the situation in Ukraine on Saturday, as well as the removal of "unilateral barriers" set by the previous US administration, Moscow said.

US and Russian officials will meet in Saudi Arabia in the coming days to start talks aimed at ending the war in Ukraine, a US lawmaker and a source familiar with the planning said. However, Ukrainian officials will not attend Russia-US talks expected to be held in Saudi Arabia in the coming days, the BBC has learned.

European leaders on Saturday also scrambled to force their way to the table for any talks on the Ukraine war. France said yesterday it would host a summit of European leaders today to discuss the Ukraine war and European security.

In Munich, Nato chief Mark Rutte said Europe had to come up with "good proposals" for securing peace in Ukraine if it wanted to be involved in US-led talks. Rutte also said he would head to Paris today to take part in the meeting of the European leaders.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Saturday that Europe "must take on a greater role in Nato" and work with the United States to "secure Ukraine's future".



Palestinians mourn at a hospital after an Israeli strike killed three policemen, according to the Hamas-run interior ministry, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Lebanon blocks Iran planes after US warnings Hezbollah calls for reversal of decision

AFP, Beirut

Lebanese militant group Hezbollah yesterday urged the Lebanese government to reverse a decision blocking Iranian flights from landing in Beirut, following US warnings.

The Iran-backed group said in a statement that it "demands that the government reverse its decision to ban Iranian planes from landing at Beirut airport and take serious measures to prevent the Israeli enemy from imposing its dictates".

A Lebanese source told AFP on Saturday that Lebanon had denied permission for Iranian flights to land twice this week, after the United States warned Israel might strike the airport.

The first incident occurred on Thursday, when Lebanese authorities



sent word to Iran that a Beirut-bound flight should not take off.

"Through the Americans, Israel informed the Lebanese state that it would target the airport if the Iranian plane landed in Lebanon," the source said. "The American side told the Lebanese side that Israel was serious about its threat," the source added.

STABBING ATTACK Austria says suspect likely inspired by IS

REUTERS, Villach

The Syrian asylum seeker suspected of carrying out a deadly stabbing rampage in the Austrian town of Villach is believed to be a follower of Islamic State (IS) who was radicalised online, authorities said yesterday.

A 14-year-old boy was killed in Saturday's attack and five other people were wounded, police said at a press conference.

Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said the 23-year-old Syrian man arrested soon after the attack had been rapidly radicalised on the internet and that the IS flag had been found in his apartment.

Taiwan detects 24 Chinese military aircraft

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan said it detected 24 Chinese military aircraft near the island yesterday as a Canadian warship passed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait.

It was the first Canadian naval vessel to transit the waterway this year, Taiwan's foreign ministry said, and came days after two US ships made the passage.

The United States and its allies regularly pass through the 180-kilometre (112-mile) Taiwan Strait to reinforce its status as an international waterway, angering China.

Beijing has never ruled Taiwan, but it claims the democratic island as part of its territory and has threatened to bring it under its control by force.

Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 1

Force in New Delhi, said the ministry release.

The two leaders also exchanged views on other bilateral issues of mutual interest and concern, the ministry stated.

Reflecting on their last meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2024, he noted that since then, the two nations have engaged in multiple bilateral dialogues, including the Foreign Office Consultations at the Foreign Secretary level in Dhaka on December 9.

Besides, they recalled Bangladesh energy adviser's participation in the India Energy Week events in New Delhi from February 10 to 11.

Adviser Touhid also held meetings with the second minister of foreign affairs of Brunei, the vice minister of foreign affairs of Vietnam, and the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Tanzania on the sidelines of the IOC.

Earlier in the day,

Touhid yesterday laid emphasis on facilitating maritime connectivity and reducing trade barrier to ensure a brighter, more prosperous future for all nations of the Indian Ocean and beyond.

"We need to facilitate maritime connectivity, reduce the trade barriers," he said when speaking at a plenary session titled "Strengthening Maritime Supply Chains: Overcoming Disruptions and Enhancing Resilience" at the IOC.

The adviser said that Bangladesh places strong importance on maritime cooperation for facilitating the efficient movement of goods, services and people, for advancing food security, energy security, water cooperation, disaster risk reduction and providing fair access to global public goods.

The adviser pointed out that global economy, food security, and energy supplies are at increasing risk due to vulnerabilities at key maritime routes.

Border killing

FROM PAGE 1

The conference will also focus on enhancing bilateral relations and fostering mutual trust and goodwill, the release said.

The DG level talks is taking place amid tensions between the BGB and BSF, over the constructions of barbed wire fences within 150 yards of the border.

On January 12, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said that due to BSF's recent fencing activities, tensions arose in five border areas, including Chapainawaiganj, Naogaon, Lalmonirhat, and the Tin Bigha Corridor.

The adviser said India has already fenced

3,271 kilometres of the 4,156-kilometre-long border with Bangladesh, leaving approximately 885 kilometres unfenced.

On January 29, the home adviser said that Bangladesh will speak in a "different tone" during the border conference between the BGB-BSF DG-level talks.

A 14-member Bangladeshi delegation, led by the BGB Director Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddique, will participate in the conference.

The Bangladeshi delegation will include senior BGB officials as well as representatives from the Chief Adviser's Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs,

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Shipping, the Land Record and Survey Department, and the Joint Rivers Commission.

On the other hand, a 13-member Indian delegation, led by the BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, will take part in the conference.

The Indian delegation will include senior BSF officials along with representatives from India's Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs.

BSF is likely to raise the issue of attacks on its personnel by "armed miscreants" from Bangladesh, reports our Delhi correspondent.

The talks, which were originally scheduled to be held in November last year, would focus on resolving the impasse over proposed construction of single-row fence by India to close gaps along Indo-Bangladesh border.

BSF recently had to suspend erection of the single-row fence within 150 yards of the border at two points - in Malda and Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal - after BGB raised objections.

The border conference will formally conclude on February 20. The Bangladeshi delegation will return home on the same day following the conclusion of the conference.

Students protest actions

FROM PAGE 12

uprising had fallen into a "honey trap".

Leaders and activists from various student organisations expressed solidarity by joining the demonstration.

Addressing the programme, Joglul Ahmed, spokesperson for the Students' Alliance for Democracy, said, "The entire university is ashamed of the proctor's Facebook posts. The university's reputation has been tarnished because of you. Apologise or resign now."

SUSPENDED STUDENTS MAKE DEMANDS

At a press conference held at Sholoshahar Railway Station in the afternoon, five of the 10 students facing punishment demanded holding the proctorial body responsible for failing to prevent vandalism at the dorm.

Their demands also include the immediate resignation of the proctor, withdrawal of the punishments, and a fresh investigation to identify

who was at fault.

They also called for action against students who entered the dorm premises on February 5 and journalists who allegedly filmed female students without their consent and made offensive remarks during the argument, reports our staff correspondent from Chattogram.

Sumaiya Shikdar, a student of marketing, said when male students attempted to break into the Sheikh Hasina hall, the university administration failed to intervene.

When female students sought the vice chancellor's help, the proctorial team members arrived, scolded them, and called them "agents of fascists", leading to an altercation, she said.

Campus journalists did not identify themselves and started filming, ignoring requests not to do that.

Jannatul Mawa, Umme Habiba Bristy, Maisara Jahan Esha, and Rowjatul Jannat Nisha were present at the press conference.

ALUMNI OUTRAGED

Some 108 former CU students issued a statement, expressing outrage over the matter.

The proctor's "derogatory" comments towards female students had "crossed the line", reads the statement.

"We firmly believe that such remarks from a person holding a responsible position in a higher education institution are unacceptable. Female students at the Chittagong University can never feel safe under such a misogynistic proctor."

The administration's clear bias was evident when it expelled a female student and suspended nine others for two years without asking them to explain their conduct or giving them an opportunity to defend themselves, it adds.

"We strongly condemn the entry of a frenzied male mob into the female dormitory premises near midnight.... Such an environment raises serious concerns about women's safety on campus and

exposes administrative failure."

The former students demanded a fresh and impartial investigation.

PROCTOR CLAIMS MIX-UP

Proctor Prof Tanvir MH Arif told The Daily Star that the decision to punish the students followed a thorough investigation.

"They were found guilty. The [probe] committee, headed by Prof Ismat Ara Haque, submitted its report, and all of them were given time to defend themselves."

About his Facebook post, he said his use of the term "honey trap" did not refer to any female students or any women.

"I have 20 years of experience as a teacher and have witnessed many governments and people who have changed their stances for personal benefits. I used the term about them. Yet, being in a responsible position, I should be more conscious of my choice of words, and I have apologised and given an explanation," he said.

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES DIRECTOR OF WORKS AND CHIEF ENGINEER (AIR) INVITATION FOR TENDER					
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence				
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services				
3. Procuring Entity Name	DW & CE (Air), Dhaka Cantt				
4. Tender Name	Project Works under Works Programme of Bangladesh Air Force for the financial year 2024-2025 (As per SI No. 14)				
5. Invitation for Tender No.	09 of 2024-2025/E-4 Dated: 13 February 2025				
6. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)				
7. Source of Funds	Govt. of Bangladesh (GOB)				
8. Tender publication date	17 February 2025				
9. Tender last Selling date	03 March 2025 (During Office hours)				
10. Last date of Tender submission	04 March 2025 upto 1200 hours				
11. Tender opening date and time	04 March 2025 at 1230 hours				
12. Name & Address of the Tenders selling, receiving and opening Tender documents	DW & CE (Air), Dhaka Cantt, Dhaka-1206.				
13. Eligibility of Tenderer	a. MES Enlisted Contractors 'Class' as below. b. Contractors enlisted in other Govt departments may also participate in tenders of the work on receipt of security clearance from DGFI.				
14. Description of works	Location	Class	Price of Tender Document (Non refundable)	Amount of Tender Security (Taka) in the shape of Pay Order in favour of DW&CE (Air)	Completion time in months
a. Provision of External Electric supply line for Remaining works of under Construction BOQ (10 Storey) at Officers Mess area BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore (Last Phase).	BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore.	'C' & 'D'	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 2,51,000/-	09 (Nine) months
b. Provision of External Water supply line for Remaining works of under Construction BOQ (10 Storey) at Officers Mess area BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore (Last Phase).	BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore.	'D' & 'E'	Tk. 750/-	Tk. 52,000/-	09 (Nine) months
c. Provision of Fire Fighting system for Remaining works of under Construction BOQ (10 Storey) at Officers Mess area BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore (Last Phase).	BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore.	'C' & 'D'	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 1,90,000/-	12 (Twelve) months
d. Provision of Fire Fighting system for Construction of 1x72 Airman Type Qtr (10 Storey with 14 storied foundation, Each floor 8 Unit) including ancillary works at BAF Base Kurmitola.	BAF Base Kurmitola.	'C' & 'D'	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 1,98,000/-	12 (Twelve) months
e. Provision of Fire Fighting system for Construction of 10th to 13th floor over under Construction 9th floor with remaining works of 1x72 Airman Type Qtr (10 Storey with 14 storied foundation) including ancillary works at BAF Base Kurmitola (Last Phase).	BAF Base Kurmitola.	'C' & 'D'	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 1,41,000/-	12 (Twelve) months
f. Provision of Street Light for Construction of 1x72 Airman Type Qtr (14 Storey with 14 storied foundation) including ancillary works at BAF Base Kurmitola.	BAF Base Kurmitola.	'D' & 'E'	Tk. 300/-	Tk. 13,000/-	06 (Six) months
g. Provision of External Water supply line for Construction of 1x72 Airman Type Qtr (10 Storey with 14 storied foundation, Each floor 8 Unit) including ancillary works at BAF Base Kurmitola.	BAF Base Kurmitola.	'C' & 'D'	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 1,30,000/-	09 (Nine) months
h. Construction of Water Reservoir for under construction BOQ (10th storied) at Officers Mess area at BAF Base Matur Rahman, Jashore.	BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore.	'D' & 'E'	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 91,000/-	05 (Five) Months
i. Construction of RCC Road/Hardstanding for under construction (14 storied foundation) 1 x 104 Warrant Officers Type Qtr at BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore (Group-I).	BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore.	'D' & 'E'	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 1,36,000/-	04 (Four) Months
j. Construction of RCC Road/Hardstanding for under construction (14 storied foundation) 1 x 104 Warrant Officers Type Qtr at BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore (Group-II).	BAF Base Birsresho Matur Rahman, Jashore.	'D' & 'E'	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 1,36,000/-	04 (Four) Months
15. Contact Details	Tel : 9836520, e-mail : dwceair@gmail.com				
16. Special Instructions	a. Tenderers shall submit copy of valid Enlistment letter & security clearance with application on company letter-head when purchasing Tender. b. Detailed requirements are mentioned in Tender Data sheet of Tender documents. c. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tenders.				

আই এস পিআর/বিমান/১১
১৬/০২/২৫Mohammad Shah Alam
Superintending Engineer
For DW & CE (Air)

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