

Philippines, US launches drills as China seizes reef

AFP, Manila

Missiles fired off the coast of the northern Philippines yesterday as US and Filipino forces conducted their first integrated defence drills, hours after China said it had seized control of a reef claimed by Manila.

The Philippines and China have been engaged in months of confrontations over the South China Sea, which Beijing claims nearly in its entirety despite an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

As many as 17,000 personnel are participating in the annual "Balikatan" exercises, which this year will simulate a "full-scale battle scenario" as the treaty allies seek to deter



China's ambitions in the disputed waterway.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Saturday reported that the country's coast guard had "implemented maritime control" over Tiexian Reef, also known as Sandy Cay, this month.

## DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS All eyes turn to conclave

AFP, Vatican City

With Pope Francis laid to rest, all eyes turn now to the conclave, the secretive meeting of cardinals set to convene within days to elect a new head of the Catholic Church.

Mourners were permitted to visit his tomb for the first time yesterday, a day after an estimated 400,000 people including world leaders turned out for the Argentine's funeral at the Vatican and burial in Rome.

The crowds were a testament to the popularity of Francis, an energetic reformer who championed the poorest and most vulnerable.

Many of those mourning the late pope, who died on Monday aged 88, expressed anxiety about who would succeed him.

"He ended up transforming the Church into something more normal, more human," said Romina Cacciato, 48, an Argentinian translator living in Italy.

"I'm worried about what's coming."

On Monday morning, cardinals will hold their fifth general meeting since the pope's death, at which they are expected to pick a date for the conclave.

Cardinal-electors at the secret vote will cast four votes per day until one candidate secures a two-thirds majority, a result broadcast to the waiting world by burning papers that emit white smoke.

Luxembourg Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich said last week he expected the conclave to take place on May 5 or 6 -- shortly after the nine days of papal mourning, which ends on May 4.

German Cardinal Reinhard

Marx told reporters on Saturday the conclave would last just "a few days".

Francis's funeral was held in St Peter's Square in bright spring sunshine, a mix of solemn ceremony and an outpouring of emotion for the Church's first Latin American pope.

More crowds gathered on

understand. I don't think the next pope can be the same but I hope he will have an open mind and be realistic about the challenges in the world right now."

A couple of hours after opening, the large basilica was heaving, the crowds periodically shushed over speakers.

Many of the mourners expressed



People attend mass for the Vatican workers, following the funeral for Pope Francis, in St Peter's Square at the Vatican yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Sunday to view his simple marble tomb at the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, his favourite church in Rome.

Francis was buried in an alcove of the church, becoming the first pope in more than a century to be interred outside the Vatican.

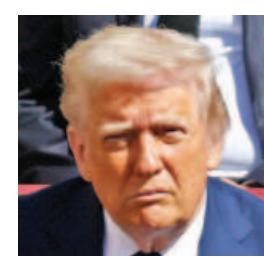
It was very emotional" to see his tomb, said 49-year-old Peruvian Tatiana Alva, who wiped away tears after joining hundreds of others filing past the burial place.

"He was very kind, humble. He used language young people could

hope that the next pope would follow Francis's example, at a time of widespread global conflict and growing hard-right populism.

More than 220 of the Church's 252 cardinals were at Saturday's funeral. They will gather again on Sunday afternoon at Santa Maria Maggiore to pay their respects at Francis's tomb.

Only cardinals under the age of 80 are eligible to vote in the conclave. There are 135 currently eligible -- most of whom Francis appointed himself.



PANAMA, SUEZ

Trump seeks 'free' transit for US ships

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged free transit for American commercial and military ships through the Panama and Suez canals.

Trump has for months been calling for the United States to take control of the Panama Canal but his social media post also shifted focus onto the vital Suez route.

"American Ships, both Military and Commercial, should be allowed to travel, free of charge, through the Panama and Suez Canals!" he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

He claimed both routes would "not exist" without the United States and said he had asked Secretary of State Marco Rubio to "immediately take care of" the situation.

The United States and China are two of the top users of the Panama Canal.

Egypt's Suez Canal, a key waterway linking Europe and Asia, accounted for about 10 percent of global maritime trade before attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on shipping routes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 28, 2025

BAISHAKH 15, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

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VANCOUVER CAR RAMMING

Cops rule out terrorism link after 9 killed

AFP, Vancouver

A driver killed at least nine people when he ploughed a vehicle through a crowd at a Filipino cultural celebration in Vancouver, police in the Canadian city said yesterday.

The Filipino community had gathered in Vancouver's Sunset on Fraser neighbourhood on Saturday evening when festivalgoers were hit.

"We can confirm nine people have died after a man drove through a crowd at last night's Lupu Lupu Festival," Vancouver police said on X.

The festival, which commemorates a Filipino anti-colonial leader from the 16th century, falls this year on the weekend before Canada's election.

Police said they have arrested a "lone suspect" -- a 30-year-old man from Vancouver who was known to them -- and were not treating the incident as an "act of terrorism."

Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was "devastated" by the "horrific events."

Footage posted online and verified by AFP shows a black SUV with a damaged hood parked on a street littered with debris, meters from first aiders tending to people lying on the ground.

Eyewitness Dale Selipe told the Vancouver Sun that she saw injured children on the street after the vehicle rammed into the crowd.

"There was a lady with her eyes staring up, one of her legs was already broken. One person was holding her hand trying to comfort her," Selipe told the newspaper.

"We are still finding the words to express the deep heartbreak brought on by this senseless tragedy," community group Filipino BC, the organizer of the Saturday event, said in an Instagram statement.

Canadians go to the polls today after a frenetic election race where candidates have wooed voters on issues including rising living costs and tackling US President Donald Trump's tariffs.

Carney is favoured to win after assuring voters he can stand up to Washington's barrage of sweeping tariffs.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Jail Super

Bhola District Jail, Bhola.

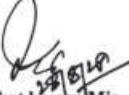
Date : 24.04.2025

### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal:

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Tender/Proposal Package Name	Publishing and Closing Date & Time
03.	1102432	Goods Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-3 for the Period of 01 January'2025 to 30 June'2025	Publishing : 24-April 2025 Time 17:00 Closing : 08 May 2025 Time 12:10 Opening : 08 May 2025 Time 12:10
10.	1102432	Goods Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-11 for the Period of 01 January'2025 to 30 June'2025	Publishing : 24-April 2025 Time 17:00 Closing : 08 May 2025 Time 12:10 Opening : 08 May 2025 Time 12:10

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

  
Shawkat Hossen Mia  
Jail Super  
Bhola District Jail.

GD-1001

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড  
Bangladesh Power Dev. Board

Directorate of Purchase  
WAPDA Building (9th Floor)  
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Phone No. 223383081  
E-mail: [dir\\_purchase@bpdb.gov.bd](mailto:dir_purchase@bpdb.gov.bd)

### e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of Goods/ Works	Last Selling Date and time	Closing Date and time	Opening Date and time
01	1103617	EE-GRL-13 Lot-1 FY-24-25	27.11.0000.304.25. 123.25 Date: 27/04/2025	11/0.4kV,250kVA Dist. Transformer-50 Nos (Tongi Store)	22-May-2025 13:00	22-May-2025 14:00	22-May-2025 14:00
02	1103634	EE-GRL-13 Lot-2 FY-24-25	27.11.0000.304.25. 124.25 Date: 27/04/2025	11/0.4kV,200kVA Dist. Transformer-50 Nos (Fauzderhat Store)	22-May-2025 13:00	22-May-2025 14:00	22-May-2025 14:00

These are online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.

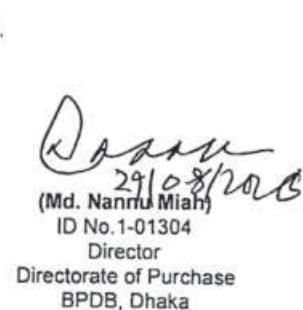
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিদ্যুৎ / জন-১১১৮(৩)/২৭/০৪/২০২৫

  
Md. Nurul Miah  
ID No. 1-01304  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

### KHULNA SHIPYARD LIMITED

BANGLADESH NAVY, KHULNA

PHONE NO: PABX 02-47772003  
E-mail: [ocimf.ksl@gmail.com](mailto:ocimf.ksl@gmail.com), Web: [www.khulnashipyard.gov.bd](http://www.khulnashipyard.gov.bd)

BABE (F) - 337/PPGHMB/2024-2025/07  
DATE: 27 April 2025

### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

01	Procuring Entity Name	Khulna Shipyard Limited, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna
02	Invitation For	Pipe & Fittings, Bottom Plug, Zinc Anode, A-Bolard, Rope, Galley Items, Hatch, Manhole, Lighting Arrangement & Fire Alarm
03	Invitation Reference No.	BABE (F) - 337/PPGHMB/2024-2025 DATE: 27/04/2025
04	Procuring Method	Open Tender (Two Envelope System)
05	Budget & Source of Funds	Khulna Shipyard Limited Fund
06	Tender Last Selling Date	27 May 2025
07	Tender Closing Date & Time	28 May 2025 Time:1115am
08	Tender Opening Date & Time	Date: 28 May 2025 Time:1130am
09	Name & Address of the Office for Selling of Tender Documents:-	(i) Cash Section, Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna. (ii) Naval Store Sub Depot, Khilkhet Nama Para, Khilkhet, Dhaka.
10	Receiving & Opening Tender	Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna (Tenderer's are their Authorized Representatives are allowed to attend)
11	Price of Tender Document	Per set 3,000.00 (Tk. Three Thousand) Non-refundable.
12	Contact Details of Official	Mob: +8801674950715 Email: <a href="mailto:ocimf.ksl@gmail.com">ocimf.ksl@gmail.com</a>
13	Special Instructions	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all or any Tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

GD-1006 Manager Admin