

## 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 Cacciatore, 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.



AFP, Washington

## 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 Huthi rebels on shipping routes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

## 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 Lapu Lapu 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.



**পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি**  
**POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 [www.powergrid.gov.bd](http://www.powergrid.gov.bd)  
স্মারক নং- ২৭.৬৪.২৭.৬৪.৪৫২.০৭.১০২.২৫.১৬৩ তারিখঃ ২১/০৪/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

**e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, দিনাজপুর দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1098159	27.21.2764.451. 07.102.25; Date: 21/04/2025	Supply & Installation of Air Conditioner for Thakurgaon and Panchagarh Grid Sub-station Under GMD, Power Grid, Dinajpur.

অগ্রহী তিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ জাবেদ  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, দিনাজপুর



## IRAN PORT BLAST

# Fire still blazing as toll hits 28

AFP, Tehran

Fire blazed yesterday, more than 24 hours after a massive explosion tore through Iran's largest commercial port, killing at least 28 people and leaving more than 1,000 others injured, according to the Red Crescent.

The blast occurred Saturday at Shahid Rajaei Port in southern Iran, near the Strait of Hormuz through which a fifth of the world oil output passes.

With choking smoke and air pollution spreading throughout the area, all schools and offices in Bandar Abbas, the capital of Hormozgan province around 23 kilometres east, were ordered closed yesterday to allow authorities to focus on the emergency effort, state TV said.

The New York Times quoted a person with ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security matters, as saying that what exploded was sodium perchlorate - a major ingredient in solid fuel for missiles.

Defence ministry spokesman Reza Talei-Nik told state TV that "there has been no imported or exported cargo for military fuel or military use in the area."

The port's customs office said in a statement carried by state television that the explosion probably resulted from a fire that broke out at the hazardous and chemical materials storage depot.

**বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন**

বিজ্ঞপ্তি  
তারিখ ২৪ এপ্রিল ২০২৫

সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কর্তৃক, ১৯৬৯ এর ধারা ৩৩ এর উপ-ধারা (১) এর প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবলে বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন এতদ্বারা "Securities and Exchange Rules, 2020" এর ধারা ৬ এর উপ-ধারা (১) এর খসড়া সংশোধনীর উপর সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের মতামত, পরামর্শ বা আপত্তি আহ্বান করিতেছে।

খসড়া সংশোধনীর উপর মতামত, পরামর্শ বা আপত্তি উক্ত বিধিমালা কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইট/সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশিত হইবার ২(দুই) সপ্তাহের মধ্যে নিম্ন তিকানায় প্রেরণ করিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইলো। উল্লেখ্য যে, উক্ত খসড়া সংশোধনী নিম্নোক্ত ওয়েব লিংকে এবং QR code স্ক্যান করিবার মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যাইবেঃ

\* খসড়া সংশোধনী ডাউনলোড করিবার ওয়েব লিংক:  
[https://sec.gov.bd/crequest/Regarding\\_proposed\\_amendment\\_of\\_the\\_sub-rule\\_\(1\)\\_of\\_Rule\\_6\\_of\\_the\\_Securities\\_and\\_Exchange\\_Rules\\_2020\\_24.04.2025.pdf](https://sec.gov.bd/crequest/Regarding_proposed_amendment_of_the_sub-rule_(1)_of_Rule_6_of_the_Securities_and_Exchange_Rules_2020_24.04.2025.pdf)

\* খসড়া সংশোধনী প্রাপ্তির QR code:

মতামত, পরামর্শ বা আপত্তি প্রেরণের তিকানা:  
চেয়ারম্যান  
বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন  
সিকিউরিটিজ কমিশন ভবন  
ই-৬/সি, আগারগাঁও  
শের-ই-বাংলা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা  
ঢাকা-১২০৭  
ই-মেইল: [chairman@sec.gov.bd](mailto:chairman@sec.gov.bd) এবং প্রতিলিপি: [farzana.yeasmin@sec.gov.bd](mailto:farzana.yeasmin@sec.gov.bd)

GD-998

**KHULNA SHIPYARD LIMITED**  
**BANGLADESH NAVY, KHULNA**  
PHONE NO: PABX 02-47772003  
E-mail: [ocicmf.kjy@gmail.com](mailto:ocicmf.kjy@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 Shipyards Limited, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna		
02	Invitation For	Pipe & Fittings, Bottom Plug, Zinc Anode, A-Bollard, 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 Envelop System)		
05	Budget & Source of Funds	Khulna Shipyards Limited Fund		
06	Tender Last Selling Date	27 May 2025		
07	Tender Closing Date & Time	Date: 28 May 2025 Time:11:15am		
08	Tender Opening Date & Time	Date: 28 May 2025 Time:11:30am		
09	Name & Address of the Office for Selling of Tender Documents:-	(i) Cash Section, Khulna Shipyards Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna. (ii) Naval Store Sub Depot, Khilkhet Nama Para, Khilkhet, Dhaka. Receiving & Opening Tender Khulna Shipyards Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna (Tender's and their Authorized Representatives are allowed to attend)		
10	Price of Tender Document	Per set 3,000.00 (Tk. Three Thousand) Non-refundable.		
11	Contact Details of Official	Mob: +8801674950715 Email: <a href="mailto:ocicmf.kjy@gmail.com">ocicmf.kjy@gmail.com</a>		
12	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**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Jail Super**  
**Bhola District Jail, Bhola.**

Memo No. 58.04.0900.151.04.016.25-1252 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@bpd.gov.bd](mailto:dir_purchase@bpd.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-১১২৮(৩)/২৭/০৪/২০২৫

**(Md. Narifu Mia)**  
 ID No. 1-01304  
 Director  
 Directorate of Purchase  
 BPDB, Dhaka

GD-1003