

## Ukraine receives 1,000 bodies from Russia

EU warns drone, missile strikes push Ukraine towards 'humanitarian catastrophe'

AFP, Kyiv

Kyiv said yesterday that it had received from Russia 1,000 remains of people that Moscow said were Ukrainian soldiers killed fighting the Kremlin's army.

The exchange of prisoners of war and the remains of killed soldiers is one of the few remaining areas of cooperation between Kyiv and Moscow, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

"Today, repatriation measures took place, under which 1,000 bodies of the deceased, which the Russian side claims belong to Ukrainian defenders, were returned to Ukraine," Kyiv's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, said in a statement on social media.

Kremlin aide Vladimir Medinsky confirmed an exchange had taken place, writing on Telegram that the Russian side had received the remains of 38 killed Russian soldiers.

Meanwhile, EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas warned yesterday that Ukraine was facing a "humanitarian catastrophe" as Russian strikes cut power in frigid winter conditions.

Kallas said that despite US-led talks to end the war in Abu Dhabi Russia was "bombing Ukrainians, trying to bomb and freeze them to surrender".

"It's a very hard winter and Ukrainians are really suffering. There is a humanitarian catastrophe coming there," she said at the start of an EU meeting in Brussels.

Russia has stepped up its strikes against Ukraine's power and heating infrastructure, plunging residents into darkness and cold as temperatures have dropped as low as -20C.

The EU is looking to step up support for Ukraine's power grid and is preparing a new round of sanctions on Moscow for the fourth anniversary of its invasion next month.



Mourners carry the body of a Palestinian, who medics said was killed by Israeli gunfire, during a funeral at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Health officials said Israeli fire killed at least two Palestinians.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Iran ready for all military scenarios

Says IRGC as EU, Trump intensify pressure

AGENCIES

Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said yesterday the country's armed forces are fully prepared to respond to any military scenario, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA.

Quoting IRGC spokesperson Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini, IRNA reported that detailed action plans are in place to counter what Tehran describes as hostile moves by its adversaries, including

potential military action.

Naeini accused the United States of waging psychological warfare against Iran in recent days, saying Washington has relied on coercion and intimidation to spread fear among the Iranian public.

Iran's army yesterday added 1,000 drones to its combat regiments as its chief vowed a "crushing response" to any attack, state television reported.

European Union foreign ministers, meanwhile, adopted new sanctions on

Iran yesterday targeting individuals and entities involved in a violent crackdown on protesters and in the country's support to Russia, EU diplomats said.

The ministers are also expected to reach a political agreement to include Iran's IRGC on the bloc's list of terrorist organisations.

Turkey will offer to mediate between Washington and Tehran during a visit by Iran's foreign minister today, officials said, as Ankara considers reinforcing security along its border should the dispute escalate.

## Venezuela police, military back interim president

Rubio upbeat on co-op

AFP, Caracas

Venezuela's military and police pledged loyalty Wednesday to interim president Delcy Rodriguez, whom the United States kept in power after ousting Nicolas Maduro.

The pledge signifies the support of a key bastion behind Maduro -- the military -- as he braved US pressure and sanctions against his leftwing regime since succeeding Hugo Chavez in 2013.

As Rodriguez tries to shore up support for her leadership, the 56-year-old is walking a tight wire, seeking to please both Maduro loyalists and US President Donald Trump.



"We swear absolute loyalty and subordination," said Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino, who presented Rodriguez with the ceremonial baton and sword of independence hero Simon Bolivar.

Venezuela's powerful interior minister, Diosdado Cabello, pledged loyalty on behalf of police forces. The pledge came as more than 3,000 troops and police in uniform filed past Venezuela's first female leader and commander in chief.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's main opposition leader on Wednesday cast doubt on the trustworthiness of Rodriguez, whom Washington is working with following a military intervention.

## BNP, Jamaat trade blame

FROM PAGE 1

On Wednesday afternoon, Rezaul Karim, 42, secretary of Jamaat's Sreebordi upazila unit, was killed in a clash between activists of BNP and Jamaat in Jhenaigati upazila over taking the front-row seats at a programme at the Jhenaigati upazila Mini Stadium.

Over 50 people were also injured on both sides. UNO Ashraful was scheduled to preside over the event.

The body of Rezaul was scheduled to be buried in his village home at Gopalkhilar villager in Sreebordi upazila yesterday night. Victim's father Abdul Aziz said, "My son was very humble. Why was my son killed in such a way? He committed no crime, yet he was killed. I want a proper investigation and justice."

Neighbours also demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the murder.

Abdur Rahim Dulal, convener of Sreebordi upazila BNP, said Rezaul was a good soul who lost his life to political violence, calling the incident shocking.

Expressing deep shock and sympathy for the bereaved family, Azharul Islam, ameer of Sreebordi upazila Jamaat, also demanded punishment for the killers.

Quoting doctors, Nazrul Islam, in-charge of police camp at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said it was primarily known that the Jamaat leader died due to repeated blows to the head from blunt objects.

The actual cause of the death would be known after getting the post mortem report, he added.

Meanwhile, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed, at a press briefing in its headquarters in Dhaka, said the electoral code of conduct clearly states that campaigns, including manifesto

unveiling, must be held in a cordial environment. "Unfortunately, a tragic incident occurred there [Jhenaigati]. As part of administrative measures, the UNO and OC have been withdrawn."

Meanwhile, the Jamaat-led II-party electoral alliance yesterday alleged that members of the administration and law enforcement agencies remained inactive during the clashes, adding that the situation would not have escalated if timely action had been taken.

It also accused local BNP leaders and activists of instigating the violence and demanded an investigation into what it described as the "failure" of the upazila administration, calling for immediate remedial measures.

The allegations were made at a press conference held on behalf of the alliance at Jamaat's central office in Dhaka's Moghbazar.

Addressing the briefing, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General and head of its central publicity department Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair said the incident has dimmed the festive atmosphere ahead of the election.

However, Mahdi Amin, spokesperson for BNP Election Steering Committee, described the clash as "unwarranted" and called for a quick and impartial probe.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP Election Office in Dhaka's Gulshan, Mahdi said several questions need to be examined to determine how the incident unfolded and whether it could have been avoided.

"Why did one party occupy all the chairs before the scheduled time? Why were sticks and batons brought there? And why did that party's candidate choose confrontation despite repeated requests?"

he said, adding that these issues must be properly investigated.

Mahdi said the local administration organised the programme in Sherpur with the participation of all candidates, and seating arrangements had been allocated for each party.

He alleged that Jamaat leaders and activists occupied all the chairs and prevented BNP leaders and activists from sitting in their designated seats, despite repeated requests from the administration.

Mahdi said questions had naturally arisen over how the clash began, who was responsible, and why the administration and law enforcement agencies failed to keep the situation under control.

Referring to video clips circulating on social media, he said they showed repeated requests by police, administration officials, law enforcers, army personnel and even BNP leaders, asking the Jamaat candidate not to take a particular route.

"Despite that, he decided to go that way and was repeatedly heard saying, 'Let life be lost if it must be.'"

Meanwhile, the government expressed deep concern over the violence, describing the loss of life as "completely unacceptable and deeply regrettable."

In a statement, the chief adviser's press wing said police have launched an investigation into the clashes and killing, and that all those involved would be brought to justice. Security in the district has also been beefed up.

With the national election just two weeks away, the government urged all political parties, including BNP and Jamaat, to demonstrate responsible leadership and ensure restraint among their supporters.

[Our Mymensingh correspondent contributed to this report]

## Apologise

FROM PAGE 2

Without naming any party directly, Fakhru said, those responsible should apologise for their actions during the Liberation War, admit their mistakes, and then seek votes from the people.

"But instead, they are now abusing us and questioning why we fought the Liberation War in 1971."

The BNP leader emphasised the importance of freedom and patriotism, recalling that former president Ziaur Rahman declared independence and Khaleda Zia upheld the same flag.

"Today, Tarique Rahman is carrying that flag, and we will continue to move forward with it."

He added that in the election, which is only days away, "failing to make the right choice would lead to

further suffering".

Saying the party had nationwide popularity, Fakhru expressed confidence that BNP would form the government.

He also sought votes for himself personally from the residents of Thakurgaon-1 and made promises of various development initiatives.

"If you elect me... I will create job opportunities and set up agro-based industries, an EPZ, a medical college, a university, and an airport."

"To achieve all this, there is no alternative to the sheaf of paddy."

He stressed the need to guide students in the right direction as a key step toward the country's development.

Local BNP leaders were present during the electioneering programme.

## Remain strictly

FROM PAGE 2

importance of discipline, patience, and citizen-friendly conduct.

He inspected the activities of army personnel deployed under the "in aid to the civil power" arrangement and provided necessary operational directives on the ground, the ISPR said.

Those present during the visit included the General Officer Commanding of the Army Training and Doctrine Command, the GOC of

the 10 Infantry Division and Cox's Bazar Area Commander, the Air Officer Commanding of Bangladesh Air Force Base Cox's Bazar, the military secretary to the army chief, and other senior officers from Army Headquarters and the Cox's Bazar Area.

The Chattogram divisional commissioner, senior officials of the civil administration and law enforcement agencies, and representatives of different media outlets were also present.

## Ensure policy

FROM PAGE 2

"Prosperity Dialogue: Strengthening Thoughts for Industry and Trade of Bangladesh", organised by the party at a city hotel last night.

A large number of trade body leaders, businessmen, exporters, and importers attended the dialogue, which the party said was aimed at outlining its political pledges to the business community.

Responding to the demands, Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman assured the business community that if his party comes to power, it will provide policy support, dismantle bureaucratic red tape, and improve the ease of doing business.

He also said Jamaat would reduce working hours for female workers from eight to five hours a day "to honour them as they also have to bear

children", adding that the government would compensate factory owners for the reduced working hours.

He further pledged to improve the law and order situation if Jamaat wins the polls.

In his speech, AK Azad, vice-president of the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B), said a renowned denim mill owner became a loan defaulter after low gas pressure had prevented his plant from producing goods.

"He now has to repay a large bank loan by selling his house in a posh area of Dhaka. But he cannot even sell the house because there are no buyers," Azad said, adding that the businessman is currently suffering.

He also stressed the need to improve law and order and give ministers more freedom to work.

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**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
"ইয়ুথ ভলান্টিয়ার অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০২৬"

যুবকলাপ তহবিল আইন, ২০১৬ মোতাবেক সামাজিক ক্ষেত্রে অসাধারণ অবদানের জন্য যুবদের চলতি ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে নিয়ে উল্লিখিত ০৮টি ক্যাটাগরিতে "ইয়ুথ ভলান্টিয়ার অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০২৬" প্রদানের নিমিত্ত নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

**পুরস্কার ক্যাটাগরির নাম**

ক্রমিক নং	ক্যাটাগরির নাম	পুরস্কার সংখ্যা	পুরস্কারের ধরণ (প্রতিটির ক্ষেত্রে)
(১)	আত্মকর্মসংস্থান ও উদ্যোক্তা উন্নয়নে অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	প্রতিটি অ্যাওয়ার্ডে থাকবে
(২)	ক্রীড়া উন্নয়নে অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকার
(৩)	সমাজসেবা ও জনকল্যাণে (স্বেচ্ছা ও অসহায়/পুঙ্খস্বদের প্রতি আদর্শসেবা) অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	ক্রসড চেক, একটি ফ্রেট এবং একটি
(৪)	বিজ্ঞান, প্রযুক্তি ও কারিগরি ক্ষেত্রে অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	সম্মাননাপত্র।
(৫)	নারী ও শিশু উন্নয়নে অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	
(৬)	শিক্ষার উন্নয়ন ও প্রসারে অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	
(৭)	পরিবেশ, জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন ও দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলার ক্ষেত্রে অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	
(৮)	কলা ও সংস্কৃতিতে অসাধারণ অবদান	০২ (দুই)টি	

**আবেদনের শর্তাবলী**

- আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই বিদ্যালয় জাতীয় যুব নীতি অনুযায়ী ১৮ হতে ৩৫ বছরের বয়সসীমার নারী-পুরুষ নির্বিশেষে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।
- অলাভজনক, অরাজনৈতিক এবং অবেতনিকভাবে স্বেচ্ছাসেবক হিসেবে সেবা ও উন্নয়নমূলক কর্মে নিয়োজিত যুবরা (যুবনারী ও যুবপুরুষ) শুধুমাত্র এ অ্যাওয়ার্ডের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- আগ্রহী যুবগণ স্ব স্ব উপজেলার সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিটির সভাপতি হিসেবে উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার রববার নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন দাখিল করবেন। মহানগরীর ক্ষেত্রে যেখানে উপজেলা কার্যালয় নেই। সরাসরি সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা কমিটির সভাপতি হিসেবে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার জেলা প্রশাসক রববার আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ক্যাটাগরিভিত্তিক প্রত্যয়নের ক্ষেত্রে উল্লিখিত ক্যাটাগরির বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারি, আধাসরকারি/ স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/ রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত সংস্থার ২০১৫ সালের জাতীয় বেতন স্কেলের ৯ম গ্রেড বা সমতুল্য বা তদুর্ধ্ব পদে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তা/ একজন কর্মকর্তার প্রত্যয়নপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- একজন আবেদনকারী যে কোনো একটি ক্যাটাগরিতে আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- ফৌজদারী মামলায় দণ্ডিত কোনো ব্যক্তি এ অ্যাওয়ার্ডের লক্ষ্যে আবেদনের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- স্বাস্থ্য বা সমাজ বা রাষ্ট্র বিরোধী বা আইন শৃঙ্খলা বিরোধী কাজে লিপ্ত কোনো যুব অ্যাওয়ার্ডের লক্ষ্যে আবেদনের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- ঋণশেখালাপি কোনো ব্যক্তি এই অ্যাওয়ার্ডের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- চূড়ান্তভাবে মনোনীত প্রার্থীকে জোপ টেস্টে যোগ্য বিবেচিত হতে হবে। কোন বিজয়ী জোপ টেস্টে অযোগ্য বিবেচিত হলে তার পরিবর্তে ক্যাটাগরির মেধাক্রম অনুযায়ী পরবর্তী প্রার্থী বিজয়ী হিসেবে নির্ধারিত হবেন।
- আবেদনকারী যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক অন্য কোনো অ্যাওয়ার্ড/পুরস্কারে ভূষিত হলে এ অ্যাওয়ার্ডের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- আওয়ার্ড প্রদানের বিষয়ে যুবকলাপ তহবিল ব্যবস্থাপনা বোর্ডের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

২। যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট ([www.moysports.gov.bd](http://www.moysports.gov.bd))-এ প্রবেশ করে সেবা বক্সে নাগরিক ই-সেবার আওতাভুক্ত ইয়ুথ ভলান্টিয়ার অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০২৬ ক্লিক করে ক্যাটাগরি সংশ্লিষ্ট আবেদনের নির্ধারিত ফরম সংগ্রহপূর্বক তা যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক এসসে/ অনুচ্ছেদভিত্তিক চাহিত তথ্যাদি সংযুক্ত করে আবেদন আগামী ০১ মার্চ ২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ (১৬ ফাল্গুন ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ) রবিবার অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে নির্ধারিত স্থানে (শর্তাবলীর 'গ' উপঅনুচ্ছেদ অনুযায়ী) সরাসরি দাখিল করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোনো আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

৩। আবেদন ফরমে উল্লিখিত চাহিত সকল প্রমাণক (সনদপত্র, প্রত্যয়নপত্র, ছবি, ভিডিও, পেনড্রাইভ ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি) সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

৪। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনে যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তরের জেলা কার্যালয়ের উপপরিচালক ও উপজেলা যুব উন্নয়ন কর্মকর্তাদের (মেট্রোপলিটন ইউনিট থানা যুব উন্নয়ন কর্মকর্তাদের) সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে এ মন্ত্রণালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার সাথে ০১৭৯৬২০৩০৬৬ মোবাইল নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

মো. মাসুম আহমেদ  
উপসচিব

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