

‘Putin is a slave to war’: Zelensky
Claims Russian attacks cripple every power plant in Ukraine

AFP, Munich

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced Russia's Vladimir Putin as a "slave to war" in a speech to the Munich Security Conference Saturday evening, adding that Russia's attacks had damaged every power plant in the country.

Zelensky also drew parallels between the current Russia-Ukraine talks over territorial concessions and the 1938 Munich Agreement, when Hitler forced territorial concessions from the European powers — a year before World War II.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian drones damaged an oil depot in Russia's southern Krasnodar region and caused several fires, Russian officials said yesterday.

Zelensky was speaking days before the fourth anniversary of Moscow's invasion, which has killed hundreds of thousands, decimated eastern Ukraine and forced millions to flee.



Kyiv and its Western allies have accused Moscow of deliberately freezing Ukraine's population with its attacks on the energy grid.

"There is not a single power plant left in Ukraine that has not been damaged by Russian attacks," Zelensky said. "Not one."

"But we still generate electricity," he added, praising the thousands of workers repairing the plants.

Once again, he appealed to the West to deliver air-defence systems to Ukraine more quickly.

Of Putin, who launched the war in February 2022, Zelensky said: "He may see himself as a tsar, but in reality he is a slave to war."

Russia and Ukraine will hold US-brokered talks next week, and Zelensky said Kyiv was doing "everything" to end the war. Zelensky also met with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the Munich conference.

Russia has demanded that Ukraine withdraw from its Donetsk region and wants Kyiv to recognise its claim to the swathes of Ukraine that it occupies. Ukraine has ruled out surrendering its eastern regions.



Palestinians displaced by Israeli strikes comfort each other during the funeral of several victims in southern Gaza, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli airstrikes kill 12
Palestinians in Gaza
Tent sheltering displaced hit despite ceasefire

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's civil defence agency reported that Israeli strikes killed at least 12 people since dawn yesterday, while a military official said the attacks were carried out in response to "violations of the ceasefire".

Despite a US-brokered truce that entered its second phase last month, violence has continued in the Palestinian territory, with Israel and Hamas trading accusations of violating the agreement.

The civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue force under Hamas authorities, said one strike hit a tent of displaced people in northern Gaza and another targeted an area in southern Gaza.

Five people were killed and several others injured when an Israeli air strike targeted a tent sheltering displaced people in Jabalia in the north, the agency said.

Five more were killed and several injured in a separate strike during the early hours in the southern city of Khan Yunis, the agency reported, adding that one more was killed in Israeli shelling in Gaza City.

The Al-Shifa and Nasser hospitals confirmed they had received the bodies of at least seven people.

A military official said Israeli forces were striking in response to Hamas violations of the ceasefire deal.

"The violation included an identification of several armed terrorists who took cover under debris east of the yellow line and adjacent to IDF troops, likely after exiting underground infrastructure in the area," the official said.

"Crossing the yellow line in the vicinity of IDF troops, while armed, is an explicit ceasefire violation, and demonstrates how Hamas systematically violates the ceasefire agreement with intent to harm the troops," the official added.

Under the terms of the ceasefire, which took effect on October 10, Israeli troops withdrew to positions behind a so-called "Yellow Line", though they remain in control of more than half of the territory.

Gaza's health ministry says at least 601 people have been killed since the truce began.

Nine more hurt

FROM PAGE 2

Contacted, Harunur Rashid Pappu, a close aide of Putul, alleged that his fellow activists were attacked by their rivals.

The Daily Star could not contact Taiful Islam Tipu, as he did not receive our phone calls.

However, Tipu held a press conference yesterday and denied the allegations, saying, "My supporters are facing harassment from the supporters of BNP candidate."

In Sherpur's Sadar upazila, a BNP activist was injured in an attack allegedly by Jamaat men at night.

The victim, Giasuddin Rasel, 35, was an election agent of BNP's defeated candidate for Sherpur-1 Sansila Jebrin Priyanka.

Giasuddin's wife Kamrun Nahar Kalpana alleged that a group of Jamaat supporters beat up her husband with sticks while he was returning home from Juglikura area around 8:00pm.

Giasuddin was admitted to Sherpur General Hospital, said Kalpana.

However, Jamaat's MP-elect for the constituency rejected the allegations and said it was propaganda against him.

OC Sohel Rana of Sherpur Sadar Police Station said police visited the hospital, but no case was filed.

In Feni's Daganbhuyan, a Jamaat activist was beaten up allegedly by BNP men in Dakkhin Bhabanipur village around noon on Saturday.

The victim, Nurul Absar Belal, was attacked at home. He was first taken to the local health complex and later shifted to Feni General Hospital, said his family.

District BNP Convener Sheikh Farid said he heard of some incidents of violence and was planning to take organisational action against those involved in the incidents.

Shafiqul Islam, superintendent of Feni police, said legal action would be taken upon investigation.

In Jamalpur, a journalist was hurt in an attack allegedly by a Jubo Dal leader on Saturday for covering post-poll violence in Dewanganj upazila.

Shamsul Huda Ratan is the president of Dewanganj Press Club and the daily Inqilab correspondent.

Talking to this newspaper, Ratan said he went to Mondol Bazar in the morning to collect information about an incident of post-polls violence.

Faruk Ahmed, senior joint convener of Dewanganj municipal unit Jubo Dal, and his associates attacked him, he said, adding, "I am still ill. I will file a complaint with police."

Contacted, Faruk said the allegation was baseless.

OC Monsur Ahmed of Dewanganj Model Police Station said, "We have heard about the incident. No one has filed any complaint yet."

In Khulna, a gang set fire to the home of Shokor Akunji, a Jamaat supporter, in Mashiali village under Phultala upazila on Saturday night.

"We could not identify the attackers," said Shokor's son Abdur Razzak.

A general diary (GD) was lodged in this connection, said Howladar Shanowar Hossain Masum, OC of Khan Jahan Ali Police Station.

[Our correspondents from Pabna, Mymensingh, Feni, Jamalpur, and Khulna contributed to this report]

Tarique meets Shafiqur, Nahid at their homes

FROM PAGE 1

Soon after the meeting, Shafiqur posted photographs on his official Facebook page at 7:40pm, congratulating Tarique in advance on his election as the incoming prime minister of Bangladesh.

He wrote that the visit marked a "significant milestone in the national political journey".

"We welcome this engagement in a spirit of dialogue and responsibility, and we hope it signals a new chapter of institutional maturity and mutual respect," he said.

Shafiqur further said, "We will cooperate fully on matters of national interest, yet we will discharge our constitutional duty as a firm and principled opposition. Where the government acts in the public interest, we will support. Where accountability is required, we will speak."

"Our objective is not confrontation but correction; not obstruction, but oversight," he said, adding that the people of Bangladesh expect a parliament that safeguards justice and citizens' rights while ensuring stability and progress.

Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher also welcomed Tarique's call on Jamaat Ameer, calling it "a good beginning" and a sign of "a new political culture".

Taher also said Jamaat would not join any national government and would instead play what he described as a "constructive" and "strong" role as an opposition party.

"This kind of new culture among ourselves is a qualitative change. It is a good beginning," he said, adding that the discussion took place in a helpful atmosphere.

According to Taher, Shafiqur raised several priority issues during the meeting, including the law and order and public

security.

They also discussed the economy and urged priority attention to people's basic needs, including food, housing, and education, he said.

After visiting Shafiqur's home, Tarique went to Nahid's residence in the capital's Bailey Road area around 8:30pm. Nahid welcomed the BNP chief with a floral wreath. They held a meeting there.

NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen and Northern Region Chief Organiser Sarjis Alam were also present.

As he left Nahid's home, people from the area, including women and children, greeted Tarique. Children gave him flowers, books and chocolates.

Afterwards, NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossain told a press conference, "Despite differences among ourselves, we spoke about how we can work together for the country and discussed how the question of reforms can be addressed, and we talked about justice."

Responding to a question on whether the NCP had received invitation to join a BNP-led cabinet, Akhter said the meeting was a post-election courtesy call and such issues were not discussed.

The meetings came a day after Tarique called for cooperation and unity from all political parties in the interest of Bangladesh.

BNP is set to form the government after securing a stunning landslide with 209 seats in Thursday's national election. Jamaat won 68 seats, while the NCP secured six.

The newly elected MPs will be sworn in at 10:00am on February 17 at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The swearing-in ceremony of the new cabinet will also be held at the same venue at 4:00pm, according to Law Adviser Asif Nazrul.

Transitional justice key to post-polls confidence: ANFREL

FROM PAGE 2

These efforts helped stabilise polling operations and contributed to public confidence in the conduct of voting on Election Day.

It said the suspension of the former ruling party Awami League continued to shape perceptions of inclusiveness and political competition. At the same time, the referendum result strengthened expectations for credible follow-through on reform commitments under the July Charter.

The presence of both domestic and international observers was widely regarded by stakeholders as an important confidence-building measure and a safeguard for electoral transparency.

However, observer organisations were required to secure both accreditations from the Bangladesh Election Commission and prior operational clearance for funded activities.

Observer identification cards were issued only shortly before polling, preventing systematic observation of voter registration, campaigning, and dispute resolution processes.

As a result, observation focused mainly on Election Day processes, with limited opportunity for transparency measures across earlier phases of the electoral cycle.

Establishing timely accreditation, recognising long- and short-term observation, and enabling monitoring across the pre-election, Election Day, and post-election phases would strengthen public oversight, deter violations, and reinforce confidence in future elections, said the organisation.

China grants visa-free entry to Canada, UK

AFP, Beijing

China confirmed that Canadian and British citizens will be able to visit the country visa-free from tomorrow, after the two countries' leaders had announced such agreements following official trips to Beijing.

British and Canadian prime ministers Keir Starmer and Mark Carney both visited Beijing in January, seeking to bolster relations with China and pivot from the increasingly mercurial United States.



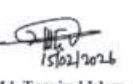
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Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement nature and name	Tender method	Field name	Old value	New value
1.	E-Tender/GD-1/2025-2026	1191055	Goods Procurement of Rails	OTM (ICT)	Document last selling date & time	17-February-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.	03-March-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
					Opening date & time	18-February-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	04-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Closing date & time	18-February-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	04-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	18-February-2026 at 11:00 Hrs.	04-March-2026 at 11:00 Hrs.
2.	E-Tender/GD-2/2025-2026	1200707	Goods Procurement of Sleepers & Fittings	OTM (ICT)	Document last selling date & time	17-February-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.	03-March-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
					Opening date & time	18-February-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	04-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Closing date & time	18-February-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	04-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	18-February-2026 at 11:30 Hrs.	04-March-2026 at 11:30 Hrs.

N.B.: All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

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GD-311


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e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) system by the SPM office, HEAT/12326/MBSTU, department of Pharmacy, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Tangail-1902 for the procurement of following item:

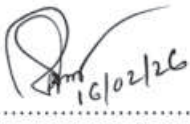
Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Goods/Works	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date & Time
1229608	MBSTU/12326 /G-4	Supply and Installation of Lab Equipment	02 March 2026 04.00 PM	3 March 2026 10.00 Am	3 March 2026 10.00 AM

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.

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