11 sailors missing after drone sinks ship off Bulgaria

Russian ambassador summoned

REUTERS, *Sofia*

Eleven sailors were missing at sea yesterday from a ship sunk by a drone attack off the coast of Bulgaria, possibly the second deadly sinking of a cargo vessel in the area in a week, prompting Bulgaria to summon Russia's ambassador.

Two cargo ships were hit by drones overnight and one was sunk, Bulgarian officials said. Bulgaria stopped short of explicitly accusing Russia of carrying out the attacks but Prime Minister Rumen Radev said their outcome "benefits the Russian Federation".

There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the incidents. "This is absolutely unacceptable – another attack in the immediate vicinity of Bulgarian territorial waters," Radev said in a televised address.

The attacks were also condemned by Ukraine and the EU. "The Black Sea has become another front of escalation of the Russian war in Ukraine," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on X. "Those responsible should be held accountable."

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on X yesterday that the strike "once again demonstrates Moscow's deliberate disregard for civilian lives".

"The Black Sea is a lifeline for global food security. Russia is attacking it to weaponise hunger and hold the world hostage," he said.

Speaking with von der Leyen and Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte by telephone yesterday, Radev urged their support to bolster his country's maritime and airspace surveillance, the Bulgarian government said in a statement.

Nato will continue to adjust its military presence on its eastern flank "as needed", Rutte said.



Rescuers work at the site of an apartment building damaged in a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, early yesterday. Russia refrained from striking Ukrainian energy targets for the first time since US President Donald Trump announced an "energy ceasefire" over the weekend, while launching ballistic missiles and drones at cities' transport and logistics infrastructure overnight.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran Guards strike tanker in Hormuz

Trump doubts China, Russia are helping Tehran

AGENCIES

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they struck a vessel on Monday that was attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway that is crucial to global energy flows.

Iran has imposed a blockade on the strait since the United States and Israel launched strikes against the Islamic republic in February, triggering the Middle East war.

The blockade has been met with a US counter-blockade of Iranian ports, and US forces routinely escort vessels crossing the strait. Iran has since the start of the war frequently targeted vessels crossing Hormuz without its permission, reports AFP.

The Guards' navy said in a statement published on the force's news platform, Sepah News, that "a supertanker, was hit in the Strait of Hormuz and caught fire".

The ship targeted on Monday had tried to sail through the area "by disabling its transponders" and "by ignoring warnings from the Guards' Navy", the statement said.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump said late on Monday he did not believe that China and Russia were helping Iran "at all," adding that Moscow and Beijing had "too much to lose" if they enabled Tehran.

Trump said on Truth Social that he had seen comments from his critics and opponents that China and Russia were helping Iran, reports Reuters.

"If they are, it's at a very low level, but I don't believe they are at all. They have too much to lose, and we would know about it, and know about it very fast," Trump wrote.

Trump said in July he trusted China and Russia not to help Tehran in the Iran war, but warned that if they did get involved "it would be very bad for them."

The United States and Iran have been at war since February 28 when the US and Israel attacked Iran and Tehran responded with its own strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host US bases. US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Israeli attacks on Lebanon have since killed thousands and displaced millions.



Trump has previously described Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin as "neutral" during the Iran war.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty have discussed regional developments, including the situation in Yemen, in a phone call yesterday, state-run IRNA reports.

The two top diplomats exchanged views on the latest regional developments and also discussed diplomatic initiatives aimed at de-escalating tensions across the region.

IN BRIEF



BBC FM RADIO

Afghanistan halts broadcasts nationwide

REUTER, *London*

Afghan authorities have suspended the BBC's FM radio broadcasts across Afghanistan, the British broadcaster said yesterday.

"Millions of people across Afghanistan rely on the BBC for accurate news and information and we are working with the authorities to address the situation," a BBC spokesperson said in a statement.

Khubib Ghufran, the spokesperson for the Afghan Taliban government's Information and Culture ministry, said that the BBC's activities had been suspended for the "time being due to repeated violations committed" by it.

At least 52 women were arrested or detained in the Afghan cities of Herat and Kabul for not wearing cloak-like garment between July and September of 2026, according to a statement released by UN.

PTI braces to fight federal takeover of KP

AGENCIES

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan is planning to legally challenge the federal government's Sunday takeover of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), a province that the party governed.

Sheikh Waqas Akram, the PTI's central information secretary, told Al Jazeera that the party would challenge the imposition of emergency laws – suspending civil liberties – and governor's rule in the province in court. A petition had been drafted by a legal committee headed by PTI Secretary-General Salman Akram Raja, but Akram did not say whether it would be filed in the Supreme Court or the Federal Constitutional Court.

The brother of KP CM Sohail Afridi approached the Peshawar High Court (PHC) to trace his whereabouts

Meanwhile, the brother of KP CM Sohail Afridi yesterday approached the Peshawar High Court (PHC) to trace his whereabouts.

Thunberg joins France student protests

AFP, *Paris*

Thousands of protesters yesterday marched through central Paris as part of nationwide demonstrations supporting high school pupils who have been protesting for better classroom conditions, with Swedish activist Greta Thunberg taking part.

With just six months to go before



elections to replace President Emmanuel Macron, French authorities had been hoping that the protests were easing ahead of half-term holidays starting at the end of this week. But teenagers at high schools called lycees -- backed by university students, teachers, unions and the far-left opposition party France Unbowed (LFI) -- have said their demands have not been met.

French presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon was seen among the crowd of demonstrators in Paris.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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1st Corrigendum e-Tender Notice

Reference No. 54.01.1500.109.07.020.26-1194 Dated: 12.10.2026

The following e-Tenders have been invited in the National e-GP Portal System (http://eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of below works (Original Notice reference no. 54.01.1500.109.07.051.26-1161; dated: 10.09.2026):

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement Nature and Name	Tender Method	Field Name	Old Value (Date & time)	New Value (Date & time)
1.	e-Tender/ trep/ 2026-2027/ WD-7	1321149	**Works:** Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Akhaura (AKA) - Satiajuri (SJX) Sections under Assistant Executive Engineer/ Akhaura (AEN/AKA) jurisdiction of Bangladesh Railway Eastern Zone.	OTM NCT (One Stage Two Envelope)	Document last selling date & time	14-October-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.	04-November-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.
					Opening Date & Time	15-October-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.
					Closing Date & Time	15-October-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.
					Last date & time for Tender/ Proposal Security Submission	15-October-2026 at 12:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 12:00 Hrs.
2.	e-Tender/ trep/ 2026-2027/ WD-8_Lot-A	1321155	**Works:** Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Satiajuri (SJX) - Langla (LNG) Sections under Assistant Executive Engineer/ Sylhet (AEN/SYT) jurisdiction of Bangladesh Railway Eastern Zone. (From Km 264/4 to Km 320/4=56.00 Km)	OTM NCT (One Stage Two Envelope)	Document last selling date & time	14-October-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.	04-November-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.
					Opening Date & Time	15-October-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.
					Closing Date & Time	15-October-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.
					Last date & time for Tender/ Proposal Security Submission	15-October-2026 at 12:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 12:00 Hrs.
3.	e-Tender/ trep/ 2026-2027/WD-8_ Lot-B	1321157	**Works:** Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Langla (LNG) - Sylhet (SYT) Sections under Assistant Executive Engineer/ Sylhet (AEN/SYT) jurisdiction of Bangladesh Railway Eastern Zone. (From Km 320/4 to Km 377/4=57.00 Km)	OTM NCT (One Stage Two Envelope)	Document last selling date & time	14-October-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.	04-November-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.
					Opening Date & Time	15-October-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.
					Closing Date & Time	15-October-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 13:00 Hrs.
					Last date & time for Tender/ Proposal Security Submission	15-October-2026 at 12:00 Hrs.	05-November-2026 at 12:00 Hrs.

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

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12/10/2026
(Md. Tanvirul Islam)
Project Director

GD-2500

Rupali Bank PLC
Procurement Division-2
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Website: www.rupalibank.com.bd

Ref. No: Proka/Prokibi-2/2026/28 Dated: 13.10.2026

e-Tender Notice
Open Tendering Method (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following Goods—

Invitation Ref. No	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender publishing Date and Time	Tender Closing and opening Date & Time
HO/ICT/ 2026/41	1343044	AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) of Active Directory Domain Service (ADDS), System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), Dynamic host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), 03 set Server and Domain Name System (DNS) for 02 years for ICT Systems Division of Rupali Bank PLC.	14.10.2026 4:00 PM	25.10.2026 4.00 PM
HO/ICT/ 2026/47	1349139	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 21 sets PC (With Monitor), 21 sets UPS, 02 sets Scanner (Flatbed A4 Size), 02 sets Roller Scanner, 02 sets Laser Printer and 04 sets Laser Printer (Network) for Divisional Office, Bogura and Zonal Office, Natore of Rupali Bank PLC.	14.10.2026 4:00 PM	25.10.2026 4.00 PM
HO/ICT/ 2026/48	1350330	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 36 sets PC (With Monitor) , 36 sets UPS (650VA), 05 sets Scanner (Flatbed A4 Size), 02 sets Roller Scanner, 05 sets Laser Printer, 18 sets Laser Printer (Network) and 07 sets Monitor for different Branches and Zonal Office under Divisional Office, Faridpur of Rupali Bank PLC.	14.10.2026 4:00 PM	25.10.2026 4.00 PM

- 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 System Portal (https://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's branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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