CONTRACT: 01955588835, 01401101404, 01908838867

HOUSE #01, ROAD#14, SECTOR#12 UTTARA, DHAKA-1230

TANZIMUL UMMAH

উত্তরা



Dhaka: Thursday, 25, May 2023, 11 Jaistha 1430, Reg. No: DA-168.Vol.-29, Issue No: 19, 8 Page, Price: TK.5.00

# We want Qatar to assist us with energy, PM Hasina tells Qatar PM Thani

Staff Correspondent

Qatar Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Tuesday said his country is keen to strengthen its friendly relations with Bangladesh.

He said this during a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held at Raffles Tower in Doha, Qatar.

During the meeting, the Qatar prime minister told the Bangladesh prime minister that they (Qatar) are true friends of Bangladesh and they want to take the relation with Bangladesh forward further, said foreign minister AK Abdul Momen while briefing newspersons. The Qatar prime minister praised Sheikh Hasina for bringing stability to Bangladesh. Mentioning that Bangladesh

procures a huge amount of energy from Qatar, the prime minister of Bangladesh said,

"We want you (Qatar) to assist us with energy."In reply, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman said that Qatar would do as much as possible for Bangladesh. About the fear of losing jobs among Bangladeshi workers in Qatar after the FIFA World Cup 2023, the Oatar prime minister said Bangladeshi workers are their assets and friends and Oatar will keep them as much as possible in their country.

Later, Qatar Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi called on the Bangladesh prime minister at the latter's place of residence. In the meeting, the issue of signing of a fresh contract over the supply of additional liquefied

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina interacts with Bloomberg Editor-at-Large Haslinda Amin at the 3rd Qatar Economic Forum at the Fairmont & Raffles Hotel in Doha, Qatar

#### Govt to procure 1.80cr liters of soybean oil, 80,000 metric tons of fertilizer Staff Correspondent The Cabinet Committee

on Government Purchase (CCGP) yesterday approved separate proposals for procuring some 1.80 crore liters of soybean oil, 80,000 metric tons of fertilizer and 12,500 metric tons of sugar to meet the growing demand of the country. The approvals came from the 18th meeting of the CCGP in this year held today virtually with Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in the chair.Briefing reporters after the meeting virtually, Cabinet Division additional secretary Sayeed Mahbub ▶see page-2

#### We will counter if anyone obstructs next election: Quader

Staff Correspondent

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said they would counter anyone who tries to obstruct the next general elections."We will continue our peaceful programme till the election but if anyone comes to obstruct, we will counter it," Quader said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was talking to reporters after joining a programme at Roads and Highways Department headquarters in capital's Tejgaon.Referring to yesterday's clash between police and BNP men in the capital and vandalising of >see page-2

# Interbank dollar rate hits record high

**Staff Correspondent** 

The interbank exchange rate for the US greenback has reached a declined 16.27 per cent year-onrecord high of Tk 108.75 per dollar as Bangladesh continues to money transferred by migrant face a shortage of the foreign cur-

Banks traded each dollar ranging from Tk 108.50 to Tk 108.75 on May 22, down 24.28 per cent from a year ago, data from Bangladesh Bank showed.

The interbank exchange rate increased almost every working day this month after starting out at Tk 106.80 per dollar on May 1.

The local currency has been facing depreciation for the last one year due to higher import payments and slower-thanexpected export earnings and 2.36 per cent to \$17.71 billion in remittance inflow.

12.33 per cent year-on-year to growing by 5.38 per cent to \$53.93 billion. As a result, the \$45.67 billion in the first 10 trade deficit, which occurs when months of the ongoing fiscal year. a country's imports exceed its exports, declined 41.6 per cent director of the Policy Research

year to \$1.68 billion. Overall, workers and non-resident should be allowed to determine Bangladeshis living abroad grew

July-April.Export earnings In the first nine months of dipped 16 per cent year-on-year 2022-23, import bills dropped in April with overall receipts

Ahsan H Mansur, executive

year-on-year to \$14.61 billion in Institute of Bangladesh, says the July-March.In April, remittance depreciating trend of the interbank exchange rate is a good

> The foreign exchange market the exchange rate based on the

demand-supply method of the greenback, he said. If the exchange rate for the dollar is kept strong artificially, it will not bring any good for the economy, added Mansur, also a former official of International Monetary Fund.

The country's foreign exchange reserves stood

at \$30.18 billion on May 18, down 28.5 per cent year-on-year. Mansur also suggested the cen-

tral bank follow a uniform exchange rate to bring back stability in the foreign exchange market.

Last month, banks decided to offer remitters Tk 108 for each greenback instead ▶see page-2

# cases, High Court rules

Staff Correspondent

The High Court (HC) has ruled that the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) can now initiate criminal cases.

The bench of Justice SM Quddus Zaman and Justice Shahed Nuruddin on Wednesday lifted the stay on the BGB's filing of cases, marking a pivotal development in their jurisdiction.

The court decision comes in the wake of a temporary suspension on the filing of criminal cases by the BGB, imposed after a hearing on Tuesday. However, the court upheld the ruling issued on the BGB's jurisdiction to file cases. During the court proceedings, Deputy Attorney General Sujit Chatterjee Bappi represented the state's interests.

#### BGB can now file criminal this year in hig II-turn this year in big U-turn

Staff Correspondent

The IMF on Tuesday delivered a major U-turn on its forecast for the UK economy, saying it expected growth this year, just one month after predicting a contraction.

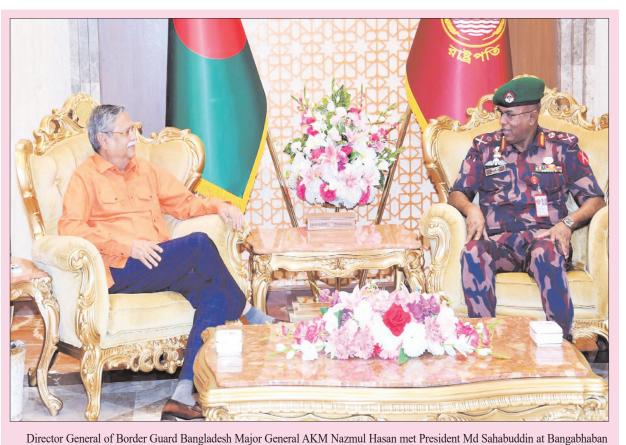
Britain's economy is now predicted to expand by 0.4 percent, the International Monetary Fund said in its latest outlook document which partly cited weaker energy prices. The institution ripped up its previous forecast in April of a

0.3-percent contraction. But there had still been a "significant" slowdown from

2022, when the economy grew 4.1 percent despite sky-high inflation and energy bills owing to the Ukraine war. "Buoyed by resilient demand in the context of declining

energy prices, the UK economy is expected to avoid a recession and maintain positive growth in 2023," it added in Tuesday's statement.

"Still, economic activity has slowed significantly from last year and inflation remains stubbornly high following the severe terms-of-trade shock due to Russia's war in Ukraine and, to some extent, labour supply scarring from the pandemic."It also cautioned that this year's growth outlook remains "subdued". The IMF said the 2023 upgrade reflected "higher-than-expected resilience" in both demand and supply, alongside improved confidence in reduced post-Brexit uncertainty as well as lower energy costs.Britain's Conservative government welcomed the news, with finance >see page-2 minister Jeremy Hunt declaring that the ▶see page-2



## UN seeks \$42m for Bangladesh

The United Nations and its partners in Bangladesh on Tuesday appealed for \$42.1 million for the Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi communities in Cox's Bazar who are facing the devastating impact of cyclone Mocha. The cyclone severely affected all 33

refugee camps and surrounding Bangladeshi villages, leaving thousands desperately in

under the Rohingya Refugee Response to benefit refugees and Bangladeshi communi-

Additionally, the UN and its partners seek \$5.6 million exclusively for Bangladeshi families in Teknaf.

The appeal focuses on the urgent needs to replenish contingency stocks, prepare ahead of the monsoon season, and use weather and fire-resistant materials for shelters and facilities that are critical in saving lives.

Cyclone Mocha struck the Bangladesh-Myanmar border on 14 May, bringing heavy rains and strong winds. Hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis and Rohingya were impacted by the cyclone. Shelters built of completely reliant on

bamboo and tarpaulin were damaged and destroyed. Many more lost access to clean drinking water and other water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. Key facilities for education, nutrition, protection, and more were damaged or destroyed. The cyclone has taken a huge toll on Bangladeshi and refugee communities, even if we missed the eye of the storm,' said Gwyn Lewis, the UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh.

'What we need to do is to build back bet-The urgent appeal includes \$36.5 million ter with weather and fire-resistant materials. Many refugees lost their homes in March due to devastating fires and had just begun rebuilding their lives. They are now rebuilding their shelters once again following the cyclone and are bracing for the monsoons that are around the corner,' he said.

> Rohingya refugees are particularly vulnerable this year because the 2023 Appeal seeking \$876 million dollars is only 17% funded as of mid-May. Funding shortfalls, resulting in two ration cuts in March and imminently in June 2023, will decrease food assistance by 33.3%. Other critical programmes and activities are also being cut.

'Refugees are not allowed to work and are taken all-out preparation for ► see page-2 the polls

#### enforcers to be on polls duty: GMP Commissioner

Staff Correspondent

A total of 13,000 law enforcers will be engaged to maintain law and order during the Gazipur City Corporation election slated Thursday, said Commissioner of Gazipur Metropolitan Police (GMP) Molla Nazrul Islam on Wednesday.

"About 20-22 members of law enforcement agencies will be on duty at each centre. I hope a free and fair election will be held with the efforts of all amid foolproof security," he told the media.

The campaign for the Gazipur City Corporation election has ended and the local administration has ▶see page-2





# THE DAILY EVENING TEWS

ধীনতা বিরোধীদের কর্তৃক অন্থিতিশীল পরিছিতি সৃষ্টির অপচেষ্টার বিরুদ্ধে, অসাংবিধানিকভাবে ক্ষমতা দখলের পাঁয়তারা রুখে দাঁড়ানোর এখনই সময়

Dhaka: Thursday, 25, May 2023, 11 Jaistha 1430, Reg. No: DA-168.Vol.-29, Issue No: 19, 8 Page, Price: TK.5.00

Carp Eggs in Halda River

# Fishers worry over salinity experts brush aside fear



Kamal Uddin Sawdagor has been collecting carp eggs in Halda river for around 50 years. However, this season, eggs in this season," he added. he has been frustrated as the carps are yet to release their eggs in the water.

"Brood fishes released some sample any," he told this correspondent recent-

climate change are responsible for the delayed spawning. We are uncertain whether the brood fish would release

However, researchers and experts have said there's nothing to worry about.The salinity level indeed eggs on May 18. Several hundred egg increased in Halda before Cyclone collectors were in the river all night to Mocha as there had been no rain for a collect some. However, none of us got long time in this region, said Halda researcher Dr Shafiqul Islam, also ly."Egg collectors believe that salinity head of the department of biology, releasing eggs in the first and second in the water and the adverse impacts of Chattogram Cantonment Public week of June

"However, the salinity level has decreased after the cyclone due to the rain. When I tested the salinity of he river water around a month ago, I found the level 2 ppt (parts per thousand) in the spawning zones of the river. When I tested again on Saturday, I found the level 0.5 ppt in the same zones," he added.

The normal reference value for salinity in freshwater is either equal to or less than 0.5 ppt, said Dr

"Research found that carp, including Rui, Katla, Kali Baush can survive and release eggs in rivers with salinity level 5 ppt. Even in an adverse atmosphere, they can survive in water with a salinity level of 14 ppt," he mentioned.

Echoing Dr Shafiqul, Prof Manzoorul Kibria of the zoology department at Chittagong University, said, "Earlier, we saw the brood fish ▶see page-7

#### Biman offers special flights, discount for RU admission candidates

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman Airlines is going to operate three special flights on the Dhaka-Rajshahi-Dhaka route on May 29-31 to ease travel for students, and their parents, attending admission tests at Rajshahi University (RU).

The special flights will depart from Dhaka at 3:30pm, arrive in Rajshahi at 4:20pm, and then return to Dhaka, leaving Rajshahi at 4:45pm and arriving back in Dhaka at 5:35pm, reads a press release.

Tickets can be purchased through the airline's website, mobile apps, sales centres, call centre (01990997997) and authorized travel agen-

When purchasing tickets on the Biman website (https://www.biman-airlines.com/) or mobile apps, promo NEWYEAR23 can be used for a 5% discount on airfare.

In addition to these special flights, Biman operates regular flights on the Dhaka-Rajshahi-Dhaka route four



## Distribution of forest fruit tree saplings to new born children in Ulipur

Abdul Quader, Kurigram:

In Ulipur of Kurigram, under the initiative of environmentalist organization Aranya and with the support of 'Gatsby Ore', fruit tree saplings have been distributed to newborn children. On Tuesday (May 23) at 11 am, these fruit seedlings were distributed to the parents of newborn children aged 0-1 years who came for vaccination services at Ulipur Health Complex.Dr. Abid Bin Hussain, Chairman of Usarga Nursing Institute, Khorshed Alam, Journalist Taiyubur Rahman, Acting Principal of Ulipur MS School and College Jahangir Alam were present during the distribution of fruit saplings under the chairmanship of Aranya Deputy General Secretary Tajul Islam and Treasurer Jamiul Islam. Adviser of Sardar Ulipur Green Voice Rafiqul Islam Ansari, Journalist of Daily Bhorer Patar Abdul Malek Asian Television and representative of Jayayatra Television Mahamudul Hasan Shaheen, Forest Department Editor Shariful Islam and Adviser Noor Amin are all members. The speaker said that trees naturally provide us with pure oxygen and selflessly provide oxygen to the people of the world for a lifetime. It is our responsibility to the child born today to create an environment where he can grow up healthy. We get so busy building a mountain of wealth for our children for a secure future that we forget that a toxic environment will never allow them to grow up healthy ▶see page-7

### Lightning strikes: Govt issues precautionary measures

The government has issued some precaupeople on an average every year in the counthunderstorms, the government has asked according to the

Bangladesh Meteorological Department.Thunderbolts also kill or injure a large number of livestock.

Lightning strikes mostly occur from April-May till June and most of the deaths occur in flat lands and haor

day. Nine people including a woman died open paddy fields have been asked to sit on after being struck by lightning in Narsingdi, their toes and put fingers in their ears. tricts yesterday. According to the Ministry of concrete sheds or

Disaster Management and Relief, 2,164 people died in lightning strikes in the country from 2011 to 2020. Considering the upward tionary measures to avoid deaths and injuries trend, the government in 2016 declared it as by lightning strikes.Lightning strikes kill 250 a natural disaster. To avoid casualties during

> people to take the following precautions: Thunderbolts usually last 30 to 35 minutes and people have been asked to remain in their respective houses during this period. It is safe to go out wearing rubber shoes in case of any emergency which will protect peo-

areas, said a handout of PID issued yester- ple from thunderbolts. People who are in

# Saudi visas

Staff Correspondent

A total of 40,407 Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims have obtained Saudi visas as of Tuesday night.

Of the pilgrims who have obtained Saudi visas, 6,967 have already arrived in Saudi Arabia, with 2,489 under government management and 4,478 under private management.

This year, a total of 603 Hajj agencies are offering their services to the pilgrims. The visa allocation for gov-▶see page-7 ernment

#### Over 40,000 Hajj pilgrims obtain bank in the country bank in the country soon: Governor

Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Bank will soon start a digital bank in the country, said Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder today.

"Soon we will introduce digital bank in the country. We are also planning to introduce an online real-time credit rating system very soon. We are very close to issuing national debt cards," he said while speaking as the chief guest of the first Digital Transformation Summit 2023 on Wednesday (24 May). The Association of Bankers Bangladesh Limited (ABB) is hosting the two-day summit with the theme "Banking on Digital Transformation" at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka. Abdur Rouf Talukder also said, "The most talked about issue in the banking sector now is corporate governance and non-performing loans. We need to bring cultural changes, and enforce ethics and ▶see page-7

Footage is in FTP RAB arrested the main accused Khokon Miah in the murder of Barga farmer Ali Hossain



**Ayub Ali Mymensingh:** A raid team of Mymensingh RAB-14 has arrested Mo Khokon Mia, the main accused in the case of hacking to death in the case of hacking to death fake farmer Ali Hossain in broad daylight. He was arrested from Payari village under Mymensingh's Phulpur police station at 5 am today. The arrested accused is in the process of being handed over to Nakla police station in Sherpur district. Mymensingh RAB-14 Senior Assistant Director Mo Anwar Hossain confirmed this Anwar Hossain confirmed this news in an e-mail message today.In that message, he said, Md. Idris Ali Gong was claiming the 50th century land of Md. Salim Mia, a resident of Charbhabana village in Nakla Upazira of Sherpur. Bargachasi Ali Hossain cultivated Boro

Ali Hossain and his younger brother Shukkur Ali (32) and son Md Rabbi (20) went to harvest paddy in the cultivated land. At this time, when the accused party blocked the cutting of paddy, an argument started between the two. At one point, the accused hit Ali Hussain on the head and stomach with sharp knives and shulach with sharp knives and shulki in their hands, seriously injuring his brother and son. Later, when Ali Hossain's family members took him to Nakla Upazila Health Complex, the doctor on duty declared him dead. In this incident, the wife of the deceased, Mosa Nachima Begum (42), filed a murder case against 19 people including Md Khokon Mia (25) and 15/20 unknown people at Nakla police station. Accused Khokon Mia Ali Hossain cultivated Boro station. Accused Khokon Mia paddy in this disputed land. Last and other accused were May 5, in the morning, farmer absconding since the incident.

## Extreme Bangladesh kills 0.52m in 50 years

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has the highweather, climate and waterrelated events in Asia, recording 520,758 deaths from 281 events between 1970 and 2021, according to a report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) published on Monday.

The WMO issued the report for the quadrennial Meteorological Congress, which opened on Tuesday with a high-level dialogue on accelerating and scaling up action to ensure that early warning services reach everyone on Earth by the end of 2027, reports Xinhua.

"Asia accounted for 47 per cent of all reported deaths worldwide, with tropical cyclones being the lead-▶see page-7

## Jiban Bima sees steady weather in growth despite challenges

Staff Correspondent

Jiban Bima Corporation, a state-run life insurance provider in Bangladesh, witnessed steady growth for the past few years as its subscriber base has expanded even though customers lack faith in the industry. The company's life insurance fund advanced 7.37 per cent

year-on-year to Tk 2,474 crore in 2022, registering annual growth of above 6 per cent for the past three years. "The main reason for the higher life premium is that peo-

ple are confident they will get their funds back without facing any fraud as we are a state-run company," said Ferdous Alam Khan, manager for consolidation accounts of Jiban Bima Corporation. The insurer's total premium increased 15.43 per cent year-

on-year to Tk 763 crore in 2022. In the previous four years, the growth in premium was more than 11 per cent. However, the premium growth in 2020 fell significantly to

4.04 per cent due to poor business amid the coronavirus crisis, according to company documents.

In 2020, overall life insurance premiums dropped by more than 1 per cent year-on-year to Tk 9,501 crore. It then rose by around 8 per cent to Tk 10,260 crore in 2021, as per data from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA). Muhammad Shahidul Islam, a policyholder of Jiban Bima Corporation, said the benefit of the policy he has taken is slightly higher compared to those offered by private life Insurance companies. He then said he has taken three separate policies from as many companies but the largest in terms of value is the one opened with Jiban Bima Corporation."Every two years, we get a dividend from the corporation without any hassle. This is a good thing," Islam added. Tanim Hussain Shawon, another policyholder, said the premium he pays to Jiban Bima ▶see page-7

# Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of the Project on

Development Strategy for the Very Poor Community under PKSF at Agargaon in Dhaka

## Import LCs drop by 26.80pc in July-April

Staff Correspondent

The opening of letters of credit for imports dropped by 26.80 per cent in the July-April period of the financial year 2022-23 as the Bangladesh Bank strengthened monitoring over the LC opening, according to a Bangladesh Bank report. According to the central bank's data, LC opening dropped to \$56.36 billion in July-April of FY23, a substantial fall of \$20.64 billion from the \$77 billion recorded in the same period of FY22. Bankers said that imports declined drastically as the central bank asked banks to provide advance notifications for any LCs worth more than \$3 million and increased monitoring on imports to check any misuses of the facility and to prevent money laundering amid the current crisis situation. Besides, the persisting dollar shortage compelled many businesses to reduce their imports, they said. Moreover, several banks facing the dollar of FY23 against those

crisis were unable to meet their LC payment obligations, leading to a decrease in new LC opening. Association of Bankers Bangladesh Limited chairman Selim RF Hossain at a press conference on Monday said that the pricing control of imported goods by the Bangladesh Bank helped reduce trade-based money laundering. Regarding the shortage of dollars in the banking sector, Selim said that it was still a prevalent issue, hindering many small and medium entrepreneurs from opening letters of credit. LC opening for various imports, including capital machinery, intermediate goods, consumer goods, and industrial raw materials, showed significant declines in July-April of FY23 Among the consumer goods, LC opening for import of fruits, onions, milk food and rice dropped by 34.56 per cent, 35.28 per cent, 13.52 per cent and 14.38 per cent respectively in July-April

#### Russia intercepts two US military jets over Baltic Šea

MOSCOW, AFP: Russia said Tuesday it had scrambled an Su-27 fighter jet to 'prevent violations of the state border" by two US Air Force strategic bombers flying over the Baltic Sea.

"After removing the foreign military aircraft from the Russian state border, the Russian fighter went back to its air base," the Russian defense ministry said.

The army prevented the violation of the border, the statement said, adding that "the flight of the Russian fighter was carried out in strict accordance with international rules for the use of airspace." Pentagon

▶see page-7



#### Discussion meeting in memory of Belabte Pankai Bhattacharya

Narsingdi representative.

In memory of Oikya NAP president Pankaj Bhattacharya, a memorial service was organized on Wednesday afternoon at Char-Ujilab Muktijoddha memorial plaque area of ??Belab upazila of Narsingdi. Char-Ujilab Union Muktijodha Sangsad Acting Commander Md. Mojibur Rahman presided over the commemoration meeting as the chief guest of Dhaka University senate member Ranjit Kumar Saha.

In the commemoration meeting, Belab Union Parishad Chairman Belab Union Parishad Chairman Belab Freedom Fighter Mohammad Ali Safi, Char-Ujilab Union Parishad Chairman Shafiqul Islam Samrat, Narsingdi District CPB General Secretary Tofazzal Hossain Shanti, Guerrilla Freedom Fighter spoke. Md. Fazlur Rahman, President of Narsingdi District Combined Social Movement, former president of Narsingdi Press Club, Nibaran Roy, Hero Freedom Fighter Ah Khalek, District NAP Editor, Journalist Holdhar Das, Hero Freedom Fighter Supad Saha, Women Leader Rabeya Begum Shanti, UP Member Rahima Begum, Kabir Ahmed, Kamranur Rahman. Tuhin et al. The speakers in the meeting expressed deep respect for late Pankaj Bhattacharya and discussed various aspects of his career.

#### IMF says UK

"big upgrade" credits the government's "action to restore stability and tame inflation".

He added: "If we stick to the plan, the IMF confirm our long-term growth prospects are stronger than in Germany, France and Italy...but the job is not done yet.'

GDP is expected to grow by 1.0 percent in 2024, unchanged from the IMF's prior guidance.

The news comes after the Bank of England forecast earlier this month that the UK economy would avoid recession this year despite the country's annual inflation stuck above 10

Britain is due to publish its official April inflation data on

#### UN seeks UN seeks

the international community.' said Lewis, 'We desperately need \$56 million to restore the full food rations of refugees. Now we also need additional support to rebuild the camps after the cyclone and prepare for the monsoons.'

The Resident Coordinator acknowledged the government's leadership in implementing its sophisticated disaster preparedness and response systems that has saved countless lives in the past years and during Cyclone Mocha.

In Myanmar, the humanitarian community also launched a \$333 million Flash Appeal on Tuesday to assist 1.6 million people affected by Cyclone Mocha.

#### 13,000 law

.Twenty platoons of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been deployed alongside 30 teams of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Ansar members, said Returning Officer Faridul Islam.

The EVM machines and all necessary materials have already been sent to the polling centres and CCTVs were

Mobile teams will be there in 57 wards while 19 striking forces led by 19 magistrates will remain vigilant at the cen-

As 351 polling centres out of 480 have been declared vulnerable, additional forces will be deployed there, said

Gazipur City Corporation election will be held on Thursday (May 25), using

(EVMs) at all polling stations. Eight candidates will contest for mayoral posts in the election. There are 248 councillors and 79 female councillor can-

A total of 11,79,476 voters are expected to exercise their

franchise and of them, 5,92,762 are male while 5,86,696 female and the number of transgender is 18.

#### Govt to procure

informed that the day's CCGP meeting approved a total of 11 proposals. He said following a proposal from the Ministry of Commerce, the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) would procure some 1.10 crore liters of soybean oil under international tender method from Accentuate Technology Inc USA (Local Agent:OMC Ltd Dhaka) with around Taka 129.58 crore where per liter soybean oil would cost Taka 140.16. Besides, the TCB would procure some 12,500 metric tons of sugar under Direct Procurement Method from Brandshare Trading Ltd Dhaka with around Taka 131.25 crore where per KG sugar would cost Taka 105.The TCB would also procure some 70 lakh liters of soybean oil under local Open Tender Method from City Edible Oil Ltd with around Taka 127.85 crore where per liter soybean oil would cost Taka 182.65.The Cabinet Division additional secretary said following two separate proposals from the Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) would procure some 30,000 metric tons of TSP fertilizer under the 3rd lot under state-level agreement from OCP, SA, Morocco with around Taka 120.03 crore with per ton fertilizer costing \$368.Besides, the BADC would procure some 50,000 metric

Memo.... 3900/2

tons of MOP fertilizer under the 5th lot under state-level agreement from Canadian Commercial Corporation with around Taka 226.68 crore with per ton fertilizer costing \$418.Mahbub said that the day's CCGP meeting approved three separate proposals from the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) on the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar.He said that the joint venture of Cheil Engineering Co Ltd Korea, Yooshin Engineering Corporation, Korea and Engineering and Planning Consultants Ltd Bangladesh will act as consultants at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar Development Project with around Taka 53,53,34,375. The joint venture of CCECC, China and CRCC, China will implement the work for constructing 10.70 kilometer roads and 16.557 kilometer drainage works with around Taka 237.99 crore at the Mirersarai-2A economic zone area under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar. Apart from these, the CCGP meeting approved a proposal under which the National Development Engineers Ltd would construct 12.10 kilometer roads and 12.861 kilometer drainage network with around Taka 219.93 crore at Mirersarai-2B economic zone area. Besides, the meeting approved a proposal from the Ministry of Land and two variation proposals from the Local Government Division and the Ministry of Water Resources.

#### BGB can now

The case under consideration stems from an incident in 2022 when the BGB seized a substantial amount of Indian goods and filed a case at Akhaura railway police station in Brahmanbaria, invoking Section 25(B) of the Special Powers

Challenging the validity of the complaint, the accused, Kamruzzaman Khan, appealed to the High Court. The hearing of the appeal focused on the BGB's legal authority to ini-

State Counsel Sujit Chatterjee Bappi argued that according to Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, any individual or entity, including the BGB, can file a case.

However, the court noted that the Border Guard Bangladesh Act did not explicitly grant the BGB the power to

#### We want Qatar

natural gas (LNG) to Bangladesh in future came up for dis-

Sheikh Hasina has urged to sign the new contract as soon as possible to procure a larger amount of energy from Qatar, said Momen at the press briefing.

The existing 15-year agreement signed in 2017 to import LNG from Qatar will be effective till 2032, but it needs to sign a new contract to get the larger amount of energy after 2025, he said.

Momen said the Bangladesh prime minister urged to sign the contract immediately, fixing the pricing related issues.

Describing Bangladesh as a friendly country that stood with Qatar in their tough days, they (Qatar) promised that they would consider all sorts of concessions whatever possible for Qatar during signing of the contract.

Besides, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a meeting with President of Rwanda Paul Kagame on the sidelines of Qatar Economic Forum at Raffles Tower. During the meeting, Kagame told Sheikh Hasina that he

always hears the development story of Bangladesh and he wants to visit Bangladesh. "We are very proud of Bangladesh," he was quoted as saying by Momen. "Bangladesh is a very densely populated country and you

Sheikh Hasina) are governing the country very well. I want to see it," the president of Rwanda said during the meeting. In reply, the prime minister invited Kagame to visit Bangladesh.

Paul Kagame said he wants to create a bridge between Bangladesh and Rwanda, particularly setting air connectivity between the two countries.

Referring to the recent opening of a pharmaceutical factory by a Bangladeshi company in Rwanda, the president invited more Bangladeshi investment in different sectors in his

Sheikh Hasina praised Paul Kagame, saying that Rwanda is in a very good position in Africa due to his good leadership.

She told Kagame that the Ukraine-Russia war has created difficulties and sent warnings to countries like Bangladesh, Rwanda. "We can overcome such a situation if we cooperate with each other," she was quoted as saying.

Kagame appreciated Sheikh Hasina's remark saying that it is high time to strengthen the cooperation between the two

PM's speechwriter M Nazrul Islam was present at the briefing.

#### We will counter

BRTC buses, he said the incident exposes BNP's real face. He said police would take action against them.

#### Interbank dollar

of Tk 107.

Banks also decided to increase their purchase prices of the dollar from exporters to Tk 106, up from Tk 105 earlier.

#### Import LCs

. I don't believe there is anything to worry about regarding the salinity level in this matter. "

"Every year, indigenous carp species like Rui, Katla, Mrigel and Kali Baush from different rivers like the Karnaphuli and the Sangu come to the Halda and release eggs

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer, Barisal PWD. Division, Barishal.

www.pwd.barisal.gov.bd

Dated: - 23/05/2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works

SL No	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	837418	PWD/Bari/Nursing/Memo- 12/20-02-23/SI-103/2022-23	Installation work of security lamp Boys Hostel of Nursing College at Barishal	31-05-2023 12:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no off line/hard

To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System 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 (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)



within the period from April to June (Bangla month Chaitra to Ashar). Different natural factors, such as the water temperature, strength of the current and thunderstorms and rain determine the environment best suited for the purpose," he

After collecting the eggs, they are nurtured for 18 hours in the traditional small mud ponds, and after 96 hours the eggs transform into fries, said Dr Kibria.

#### Biman offers

a week. Flights depart from Dhaka at 11:15am every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, arriving in Rajshahi and then departing back to Dhaka at 12:35pm.

Every Thursday, flights leave Dhaka at 1:15pm, aiming for Rajshahi and then returning to Dhaka, departing from Rajshahi at 2:35pm.

For purchasing tickets and related information on the Dhaka-Rajshahi route, people are advised to visit the Biman website and, if necessary, contact the Biman call centre (01990997997)and sales counter in Rajshahi (01777715736).

The Rajshahi University admission tests will begin on May 29 with entry test for the C (science group) unit.

The admission test for A (humanities group) and B (business group) units will take place on May 30 and 31, respec-

#### Lightning strikes:

buildings as soon as possible and refrain from going to rooftops or high places during.

Children have been asked to refrain from playing outside and stay home.

Avoid places where there are tall trees, electric poles and mobile towers as it is dangerous to take shelter under trees. The government also asked people to stop fishing in the

sea or the river during thunderbolt. If someone is inside a vehicle, the body should not be in

contact with the metal part of the vehicle. There is no danger in touching any injured people hit by lightning strikes and people should be treated in the same way as those injured by electric shock. Efforts should be taken to restore the breathing and heart rate of the person injured by lightning quickly. It may be possible to save the person if artificial breathing can be arranged within a few minutes. If there is any delay, it may cause death.

Provide Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to activate the heart of injured victims and take the victim to the hospital by ambulance or vehicle as soon as possible.

#### Distribution of

. Deforestation and other elements of the environment have been destroyed in such a way that if this continues, the child born today will either fail to reproduce or will give birth to a disabled child. These are the effects of global climate change that can affect anyone. So there is no alternative to planting trees and maintaining them to make the future generation a healthy nation.

#### Over 40,000

-managed pilgrims is 14%, while for privately managed

A regular coordination meeting of the Hajj administrative team, under the chairmanship of Religious Affairs Ministry Additional Secretary (Hajj Wing) Matiul Islam, was held in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday night.

The meeting focused on the formation of issue-based committees with the aim of ensuring uninterrupted service to the incoming pilgrims. The first flight transporting Hajj pilgrims from Bangladesh

to Saudi Arabia took off on May 21. Hajj is expected to commence on June 27, depending on

the sighting of the moon.

#### BB to introduce

properly educating of our workforce. Introduction of guide-

lines and the strong role of the management and CEOs may solve the problem."

"We have successfully implemented the Digital Bangladesh vision. Now We are taking steps to achieve the Smart Bangladesh vision. We also have a goal to make 75% of the transaction cashless,' the central bank governor further said.

#### Extreme

cause of reported deaths. Tropical cyclone Nargis in 2008 led to 138,366 deaths," the report said.

Extreme weather, climate and water-related events caused 11,778 reported disasters between 1970 and 2021, with over 2 million deaths and 4.3 trillion US dollars in economic losses, it said.

According to the report, over 90 percent of the reported deaths worldwide occurred in developing countries.

"The most vulnerable communities unfortunately bear the brunt of weather, climate and water-related hazards," said WMO Secretary General Petteri Taalas.

"In the past, both Myanmar and Bangladesh suffered death tolls of tens and even hundreds of thousands of people Thanks to early warnings and disaster management, these catastrophic mortality rates are now thankfully history. Early warnings save lives," said the secretary general. The WMO report said the

United States alone incurred 1.7 trillion dollars in economic losses, accounting for 39 percent of the total worldwide in the 51 years.

It said Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States suffered a disproportionately high cost in

relation to the size of their economies.

Improved early warnings and coordinated disaster management have slashed the human casualty toll over the past half a century although economic losses have soared, according to the report.

Thursday, 25 May, 2023

The WMO compiled the figures as an update to its Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes, which initially covered the 50-year period 1970-2019, based on the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters' Emergency Events Database.

#### Jiban Bima

Corporation is comparatively less than that charged by private firms while the service is satisfactory.

In 2010, only 40 per cent of all life insurance policyholders would continue paying premiums past the second year but it is more than 80 per cent now.

Regarding the general public's distrust in insurance

schemes, Alam said this is because several large private companies are not properly settling claims while others have almost gone bankrupt. "Our claim settlement rate is very good though and

because of this, peoples' confidence in Jiban Bima Corporation has increased. Therefore, the amount of life fund has also increased," he added.

Bangladesh's life insurance penetration is well behind the emerging market average of 3.3 per cent. In 2020, India's life insurance penetration was 3.2 per cent while it was 2.4 per Currently, there are 35 life insurance and 46 non-life insur-

ance companies active in the country. Of them, 49 are listed with the stock market. The insurance industry contributes only 0.4 per cent to

#### Bangladesh's growing gross domestic product. Russia intercepts

spokesman Brigadier General Pat Ryder confirmed that US aircraft were intercepted by Russia, saying the B-1 bombers were taking part in a "long-planned exercise in

It is the latest in a series of similar incidents.

Just over a week ago, Russia said two aircraft, one German and one French, were intercepted attempting to "vio-

Mid-April, Russia dispatched a fighter jet to escort a German naval aircraft over the Baltic Sea.

In March, an American drone crashed after colliding with a Russian jet over the Black Sea.

Russia's defense ministry said it had scrambled jets after detecting a US drone over the Black Sea, but denied causing the crash, saying the aircraft had lost control.

#### Import LCs

in the same period in the previous financial year.

LC opening for capital machinery was \$2.44 billion in the first 10 months of FY23, compared with that of \$5.68 billion in the same period of the previous financial year.

LC settlement or import payments also declined by 8.15 per cent to stand at \$62.4 billion in July-April in FY23 compared with that of \$67.93 billion in the same period in FY22.

The country's forex reserve decreased to \$30.17 billion on May 17, down from \$44 billion in April 2022 and \$48 billion

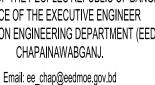
country's reserve, the government and Bangladesh Bank have implemented several initiatives since April 2022. The BB imposed high LC margins on imports, particularly non-essential and luxury items. The cash margin for LCs was initially increased to 25 per cent on April 17, 2022, and

To address the rapid growth of imports and safeguard the

has gradually been expanded to 100 per cent in phases. The country's trade deficit narrowed to \$14.61 billion in July-March period of FY23 compared with that of \$25.03 billion in the same period in FY22 due mainly to a fall in

The country's trade deficit reached a record high of \$33.25 good practices in the banking system through planning and billion in FY22 from \$23.78 billion in the previous financial

> GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (EED)** CHAPAINAWABGANJ.



web site: www.eed.chapainawabganj.gov.bd

#### e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 24/e-GP/EED/Chapai/Furniture-6821/SHED/2022-23

Date: 23.05.2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e- GP System Portal portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works.

Tender ID	Lot/Package Location (Name of Institution)	Procurement Method	Document Last/Selling Date & Time	Document Closing/Opening Date & Time
826949	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Baliadanga Islamia Girls High School, Sadar, Chapainawabganj. (FY-2021-22)	NCT (OTM)	05-Jun-2023 15:00	06-Jun-2023 12:00
826950	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Krishnogobindopur Degree College, Sadar, Chapainawabganj. (FY-2022-23)	NCT (OTM)	05-Jun-2023 15:00	06-Jun-2023 12:00
826951	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Enayetpur High School, Gomastapur, Chapainawabganj. (FY-2022-23)	NCT (OTM)	05-Jun-2023 15:00	06-Jun-2023 12:00
826952	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Jambaria Girls High School, Bholahat, Chapainawabganj. (FY-2022-23)	NCT (OTM)	05-Jun-2023 15:00	06-Jun-2023 12:00
826953	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture at Krisnopur Hariabari Adompur High School, Bholahat, Chapainawabganj. (FY- 2022-23)	NCT (OTM)	05-Jun-2023 15:00	06-Jun-2023 12:00

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Package from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to the Following Date & Time. The Provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPR -2008 including latest all amendment" and STD will be Followed. The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any cause. Tenders published date & time is: 23-May-2023 at 12:00 PM. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.)

Sd/-

(Md. Rakibul Ahsan) **Executive Engineer** Office of the Executive Engineer **Education Engineering Department** Chapainawabganj. e-mail: ee chap@eedmoe.gov.bd

#### INTERNATIONAL





# Will Pakistan ban Imran Khan's PTI party?

#### **International Desk**

Any attempt to dissolve the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party would likely plunge Pakistan into a deeper political crisis - not to mention boosting the ex-PM's popularity, analysts have warned.

Police have arrested more than 7,500 PTI members and supporters since Khan's arrest on 9 May triggered deadly riots and attacks on Pakistani military installations.

The PTI complained that hundreds of its workers and leaders were rearrested even after having been granted bail by courts — including former Human Rights Minister Shirin Mazari.

Khan has incensed the military Pakistani authorities warned that those suspected of being involved in the violent protests would face trials in the country's controversial military courts — a platform typically reserved

for enemies of the state. The decision to try civilians under army laws has been slammed by rights groups. Over a dozen of PTI parliamentarians, former ministers and office bearers have deserted Khan over the attacks. However, the former PM asserted that his party leaders were

pressured into parting ways with him. Khan has been highly critical of the country's military since his ouster from power last year. And earlier this month, the ex-PM accused the military of

abducting him — a claim that has infuriated the army, which slammed the former prime minister's assertions as completely baseless.

Putting the PTI under pressure

Anyone who challenges Pakistan's army faces the wrath of the nation's most powerful institution, Karachibased analyst Tauseef Ahmed Khan pointed out.

It seems that Khan's party will be banned, he told DW, adding that he might even be prosecuted and disqualified. "Such pressure will affect the party, forcing leaders to part ways with Khan. So, in a way, it will be dismantled," the analyst said.

Asma Shirazi, an Islamabad-based commentator, believes that the attacks have incensed the military.

Imran Khan might be disqualified, she told DW, adding that his party would also face a lot of pressure which it might not be able to sustain.

Husain Haqqani, former Pakistani ambassador to the US and a scholar at Hudson Institute Washington, echoed Shirazi's sentiments. "Khan's party will subsequently emerge as a much smaller party than it currently seems,' Haqqani said. Would a ban dent Khan's popularity? But the former PM is considered Pakistan's most popular leader.

Noor Fatima, an Islamabad-based academic, believes that a ban would harm Khan's rivals and not Khan himself. It will not be a wise decision, she told DW, adding that political plurality strengthens democracy."But if the government ends this plurality by banning PTI, it would damage the democratic credentials of ruling parties, affecting their vote banks, not that of Khan's,' said Fatima. While the ruling PDM alliance and other pro-establishment elements are calling for a ban on the PTI, critics warn against such actions.

Activist Sadia from Okara city of Punjab believes that if the PTI is outlawed, it would be used as a pretext to ban other political parties in the future.

"We don't like the PTI's way of politics but would strongly oppose banning any political party. Such a ban would spell disaster for the democratic future of the country," Sadia said.

Tauseef believes that such a ban would further consolidate the position of the army. "It will create an impression that democratic parties are not capable of dealing with political crises. Therefore, politicians should avoid banning PTI, sorting out issues through dialogue," Tauseef said. History repeating itself?If Khan's Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf were to be banned, it wouldn't be the first party to be outlawed after drawing the ire of the country's army. In the 1960s, the religious Jamaat-e-Islami party was outlawed — while during 1970s the left-wing National Awami Party was declared illegal.



An aerial view shows destructions in the frontline city of Bakhmut, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Donetsk region, Ukraine, in this handout picture released

# Fighting in Russia as Ukraine 'sabotage' group crosses border

#### International Desk

Moscow said Monday that its troops were battling a Ukrainian "sabotage" group that infiltrated the southern Russian region of Belgorod as locals fled the latest bout of fighting in the troubled territory.

In a first since the start of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russian authorities introduced an "anti-terror regime" in Belgorod.

Since the start of the war, the region bordering Ukraine has been repeatedly shelled in attacks that have killed dozens of people, and the region's main city was struck in April by a Russian fighter jet that dropped ammunition over Belgorod by accident.

In the latest incursion, members of a "sabotage" group crossed over from Ukraine, Russian authorities said, adding that President Vladimir Putin had been notified.

Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said eight people had been injured, adding that authorities were helping people leave the scene of the fighting. The announcement came as Russian forces pummelled the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro with missiles and drones overnight, while Kyiv insisted it was

still fighting for control of the flashpoint eastern city of Bakhmut.

"The situation here continues to be extremely tense," Gladkov said, adding that authorities were going door to door to notify local residents. "Most of the population left the territory," he said. "I hope that our military will complete their task in the nearest future." The "anti-terror regime" introduced in the southern region gives special powers to security services and entails the enforcement of a number of restrictions and measures including beefed-up security and communications surveillance. A similar regime was in place in Chechnya between 1999 and 2009, when Russian authorities battled insurgents during Moscow's second military campaign in the mountainous region. 'Totalitarian country'

Members of the anti-Kremlin Freedom of Russia Legion claimed responsibility for the incursion into Belgorod. In a video released by a Telegram channel claiming to represent the group, a camouflaged spokesman, surrounded by armed men in fatigues, said: "Russia will be free!"—a slogan frequently used by Russian opposition activists.

India's G20 tourism meet begins in Kashmir under tight security

#### **International Desk**

A G20 tourism meeting began on Monday under tight security in Indian-administered Kashmir, as New Delhi seeks to project an image of normality in a region wracked for decades by violence.

Both China and Pakistan have condemned holding the event in the disputed Muslim-majority territory, which is split between New Delhi and Islamabad, both of whom claim it in full.

Over the decades an insurgency seeking independence or a merger with Pakistan has seen tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers and rebels killed.But India wants to show that what officials call "normalcy and peace" are returning to the region after New Delhi revoked its limited autonomy in 2019 and took direct control, imposing an extended lockdown.Dissent has been criminalised, media freedoms curbed and public protests limited in what critics say is a drastic curtailment of civil liberties by authorities. Since the lockdown, the rebels have largely crushed -- although young men continue to take up arms -- and the annual death toll, once in the thousands, has been on a downward trend. with 253 fatalities last year.

# German spy chief sees no 'cracks' in Putin system

#### **International Desk**

Disputes in Russian society do not pose a threat to Vladimir Putin's government, says Bruno Kahl, head of Germany's foreign intelligence service. He argues Moscow has enough recruits and equipment for the war.

Bruno Kahl, the head of the German Intelligence Agency (BND), said on Monday that he does not see any weakening of Russian president Vladimir Putin's rule.

"We see no cracks in the Putin system," Kahl said at the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS).

What the German spy chief said about Russia Kahl argued that public criticism of the management of the war amount to routine disputes within Russian society and do not pose a threat to the Putin regime.

"Russia is still capable of waging a long-range war," he said, pointing to newly-recruited soldiers. Kahl said



that Russia also has enough equipment and ammunition.

However, Kahl said that Russia had certain vulnerabilities, including the performance of the armed forces.

The spy chief argued that Putin's long-term strategy could prevail if the West does not support Ukraine in a very organised way. Kahl said that the BND knew that Russia would

launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine two weeks before the start of the war in 24 February, 2022. "Around 14 days before the start of the war we detected phenomena that could not be interpreted any other way," he said. Responding to criticism regarding the fact that the US and British secret services expected an attack much earlier.



# Air strikes, combat as one-week Sudan truce officially starts

#### **International Desk**

reported clashes and air strikes minutes after a one-week humanitarian ceasefire took effect Monday night, with the smell of smoke still lingering after gunfire and explosions rocked Khartoum throughout the day.

The witnesses reported combat in north Khartoum, and air strikes in the east of the capital shortly after 9:45 pm (1945 GMT) when the truce was to take effect. A series of previous truce announcements were all violated by the warring generals, but the United States and Saudi Arabia—which brokered the deal—had said this one was different because it was "signed by the parties" and will be supported by a "ceasefire monitoring mechanism".

A witness in southern Khartoum had reported an air strike, followed by silence, shortly before the ceasefire was to take effect.

Air strikes and gun fire have usually were to use the two days before it took war which has lasted more than five

Earlier on Monday, residents of the capital—anxious for a reprieve to enable them to reach stranded relatives, flee to safety or get access to humanitarian assistance—said there was little to show fighters were preparing to pause, reporting air strikes and anti-aircraft fire for the 37th consecutive day.

"Fighter jets are bombing our neighbourhood," Khartoum resident Mahmoud Salah el-Din told AFP, in the hours before the truce was to take effect. Battles began on 15 April between the army, led by Sudan's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces commanded by Burhan's for-

mer deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. According to the seven-page agreement released by the US, warring sides ian crisis.

Witnesses in the Sudanese capital quietened down overnight during the effect Monday night to "inform their respective forces" about it and "instruct them to comply."

But Volker Perthes, the UN's envoy to Sudan, told the United Nations Security Council, that "fighting and troop movements have continued even today, despite a commitment by both sides not to pursue military advantage before the ceasefire takes effect".

While government forces control the skies they have few men on the ground in the centre of Khartoum, where RSF are on the streets.

"We have seen no sign that the Rapid Support Forces are preparing to withdraw from the streets," said Salah el-Din, the Khartoum resident.

Around 1,000 people have been killed in five weeks of violence that have plunged the already povertystricken country deeper into humanitar-

# Nepali sherpa scales Everest for record 28th time



**International Desk** 

A Nepali sherpa reached the summit of Mount Everest for a record 28th time on Tuesday, an official said, completing his second ascent in just a week, as the toll in this year's climbing season reached 11. Kami Rita Sherpa, 53, reached the 8,849-metre (29,032feet) summit by the traditional southeast ridge route, said Nepali tourism

official Bigyan Koirala, following his 27th climb last week.

Pioneered by the first summiteers, New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953, the route remains the most popular path to the world's tallest peak. "Kami Rita is on his way down from the summit," said Thaneswar Guragai, the general manager of his employer, the Seven

Summit Treks company, which says climbing is a passion for the sherpa. "He climbed with other clients but

we are waiting for details." Kami Rita first climbed Everest in

1994, and has done so almost every year since, except for three years when authorities closed the mountain for various reasons. "He developed a deep passion for climbing from a young age and has been scaling the mountains for over two decades," the company said last week. Another sherpa climber scaled Everest for the 27th time this week, the most summits after Kami Rita.British climber Kenton Cool last week climbed Everest for the 17th time, the most by a foreigner. However, the dangers the mountain presents for many climbers were reflected in two more deaths on Everest over the weekend that took the toll to 11 since April.

One was a Nepali sherpa, working to clean the mountain, who died on Monday, the Nepali Army said in a statement. Equipment and other items left by climbing expeditions can litter the mountain for decades.