

# Bangladesh sees **SURGE IN VIOLENCE** against police under Yunus-led interim Government

DHAKA, Mar 8 (IANS)

**BANGLADESH** has witnessed a surge in violence against law enforcement agencies under the Muhammad Yunus-led interim Government, the country's media reported on Saturday citing details from the police reports.

Bangladeshi police personnel have been victims of mob attacks and the country has witnessed as many as 225 attacks on law enforcement agencies in the last six months, the data revealed.

According to the police headquarters reports, there were 24 such attacks on police in September 2024, 34 in October, 49 in November, 43 in December, 38 in January and 37 in February 2025. Apart from that, local



policemen are being subjected to rude behaviour on the streets on a regular basis. There are also several reports of attacks on police to snatch away the accused, Bangladesh's leading Bengali daily 'Prothom Alo' reported on Saturday.

Several videos of police personnel being beaten in and around Dhaka and across the country by student activists and anti-social elements have gone viral on Bangladeshi social media handles over the past few months.

# North Korea unveils nuclear-powered submarine for first time



SEOUL, Mar 8 (AP)

NORTH Korea unveiled for the first time a nuclear-powered submarine under construction, a weapons system that can pose a major security threat to South Korea and the US.

State media on Saturday released photos showing what it called “a nuclear-powered strategic guided missile submarine,” as it reported leader Kim Jong Un’s visits to major shipyards where warships are built.

The Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, didn’t provide details on the submarine, but said Kim was briefed on its construction.

The naval vessel appears to be a 6,000-ton-class or 7,000-ton-class one which can carry about 10 missiles, said Moon Keun-sik, a South Korean submarine expert who teaches at Seoul’s Hanyang University. He said the use of the term “the strategic guided missiles” meant it would carry nuclear-capable weapons.

“It would be absolutely threatening to us and the US,” Moon said.

# Manipur violence: One protester killed, 25 injured in clashes in Kangpokpi district

IMPHAL, Mar 8 (PTI)

ONE protester was killed while 25 others, including women, were injured in clashes between Kuki demonstrators and security forces in different parts of Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Saturday, officials said.

The deceased has been identified as Lalgouthang Singsit. The 30-year-old received bullet injuries during the clashes at Keithelmanbi and died on the way to hospital, police said.

At least 25 protesters sustained different types of injuries during the clashes with security forces at Gamgiphai, Motbung and Keithelmanbi, police said, adding they have been admitted to the nearby public health centre for treatment. Clashes erupted between demonstrators and security forces in the Kuki-dominated district after police fired tear gas to disperse them, as they opposed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive allowing free movement across the state.

The situation worsened when protesters set fire to private vehicles and attempted to stop a state transport bus traveling from Imphal to Senapati district.

Protesters also blocked NH-2 (Imphal-Dimapur highway) and burned tyres to obstruct movement of government vehicles.

The protest was also directed against a peace march by the Federation of Civil Society (FOCS), a Meitei organisation.

The march, involving over 10 vehicles, was halted by security forces at Sekmai before it could



A vehicle in flames after Kuki protesters clashed with security personnel on day one of their Manipur Free Movement, Kangpokpi district on Saturday. (PTI)

reach Kangpokpi district.

Police claimed they had been told to stop the march as they did not have permission.

"We are just following orders. We have been told to stop the march. If they want to go, they can go in the state buses arranged by the government," a policeman said.

However, FOCS members objected saying they were just following what Shah's instruction allowing free movement across the state from Saturday.

Meanwhile, a purported video released by Kuki-Zo village volunteers group from an undisclosed location said it was against the government of India's decision regarding free movement and demanded a separate administration. The authenticity of the video could not be corroborated by PTI.

"Any attempt to enter our areas will be met with strong resistance. No free movement before separate administration" a volunteer was heard saying in the video.

**114 WEAPONS RECOVERED BY SECURITY FORCES ACROSS MANIPUR:** IN A series of operations, security forces have recovered 114 weapons, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), grenades and ammunition across Manipur after the expiry of a two-week period for voluntarily surrendering looted and illegally held arms in the ethnic strife-torn state, an official statement said on Saturday.

Intelligence-based operations were launched in the hill and valley districts of Bishnupur, Senapati, Thoubal, Jiribam, Chandel, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Imphal East and Imphal West.

# ISRO's POEM-4 completes 1,000 orbits

BENGALURU, Mar 8 (PTI)

INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday announced that the fourth edition of the PSLV Orbital Platform Experiment Module (POEM-4), the repurposed spent upper stage of the PSLV vehicle used for the space docking experiment mission, has successfully completed 1,000 orbits on March 4.

The PSLV-C60 Mission was launched on December 30, 2024, and POEM-4 began its operations subsequent to the successful injection of the SPADEX spacecraft, it stated.

In a statement, ISRO said, "POEM-4 was configured as a three-axis stabilised platform that carried 24 payloads including 10 payloads from Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) and 14 payloads from ISRO.



All the payloads including those from NGEs have completed the intended experiments in orbit."

According to ISRO, POEM-4 carried out experiments in space robotics, germination of seeds and growth of bacterium in

microgravity, green propulsion, laser ignition of pyro thrusters, amateur radio transmission and advanced sensors.

A space start-up also tested the uplinking and execution of an AI model as part of an AI lab in space.

"The POEM-4 avionics system also validated a Mission Management Computer based on a 'Made-in-India' 32-bit processor, Vikram3201, with a custom architecture developed by ISRO along with the use of a Nano star sensor for the first time to aid the navigation system," it stated.

The platform utilised a reaction wheel-based stabilisation system for attitude control, along with cold gas thrusters that extended the module's orbital life by at least 45 days compared to previous POEM missions, the space agency stated.

POEM-4 carried the highest number of payloads among all POEM missions so far, reaffirming its versatility as a cost-effective experimental platform for diverse payloads, the statement added.

## ISRO developing LOX-methane engine for NGLV

BENGALURU, Mar 8 (PTI)

INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on Friday that it is developing a LOX-methane engine and stages for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which would feature a reusable booster stage and two expendable upper stages.

A LOX-methane engine is a rocket engine that uses liquid oxygen as an oxidizer and methane as fuel. ISRO stated that multiple restarts will be essential for booster stage recovery as well as for restarting the upper stage to enhance mission flexibility in this con-

figuration. To make it viable, the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of ISRO is developing a spark torch igniter for the future LOX-Methane stages, featuring multi-restart capability, higher ignition reliability, and cleaner combustion products, the release added.

A demonstration model of the spark torch igniter was successfully tested using the GSLV Cryogenic Upper Stage vernier engine, with gaseous oxygen and gaseous hydrogen as propellants, the release stated.

The three-second-long test, conducted at the Combustion Research Facility in LPSC, resulted in smooth ignition.

# High degree of collusivity: Army chief on Pak, China

NEW DELHI, Mar 8 (PTI)

**I**N A veiled reference to China and Pakistan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said there is a "high degree of collusivity," which must be accepted.

"What it means, as far as I am concerned, the two-front threat is a reality," he said in response to a question on proximity between China and Pakistan during an interactive session at the 'India Today Conclave' here.

During the session, he field-

ed a broad range of questions about the Army's preparedness for the future, lessons from ongoing conflicts, the situation in Bangladesh, and at the Line of Actual Control and the Line of Control.

"Now, the second thing that you have brought out is collaboration or the relationship between our western neighbour and Bangladesh.



General Upendra Dwivedi

"As far as I am concerned, since I have said that the epicentre of terrorism is in a particular country, they have a relationship with any of my neighbouring country, I should be looking worried, because as far as I am concerned, the terrorism route can be used from that country also, which is my major concern as of today," General Dwivedi said, when asked

about reports suggesting growing proximity between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The General said it was "too early" to take a call on the role of Bangladesh, where a change in Government may bring about a change in the relationship between it and India.

"Because as far as I am concerned, I am very clear, the present military to military relationship is very strong. And, we exchanging note on regular basis, to avoid any kind of a misgiving," he added.

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