

S Korea demands Pyongyang further probe killing of official



South Korean soldiers are seen near a border fence

AFP | Seoul

Seoul said yesterday it will demand further investigation by Pyongyang into the killing of a South Korean official after a rare public apology from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The fisheries official was shot dead by North Korean soldiers on Tuesday, the first such killing of a South Korean civilian in a decade.

In a surprise move, Kim said he was "very sorry" for the "unexpected and disgraceful event", but South Korea announced it would ask for further investigation.

"We have decided to demand the North carry out a further probe and request a joint investigation if necessary," the Blue House, South Korea's presidential office, said in a statement.

It added that South Korea's own investigation will continue because of "discrepancies" in the accounts of the shooting.

South Korean military officials say the man was interrogated while in the water for several hours and expressed a desire to defect, but was killed after an "order from superior authority".

They also said North Koreans poured oil over his body

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BLUE HOUSE, SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE

and burnt it, calling it an "outrageous act".

In contrast, Pyongyang said in a letter sent Friday -- which contained Kim's apology -- that the official had "illegally entered our waters" and refused to properly identify himself.

It acknowledged that around 10 rounds were fired at the man, and that he was not visible after the shooting.

Troops then set the official's flotation device -- which was covered in blood -- on fire in accordance with North Korea's emergency coronavirus regulations, the letter added.

Apologies from North Korea -- let alone attributed to Kim personally -- are extremely unusual, and the message came with inter-Korean ties in a deep freeze, and nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington deadlocked.

Ukraine leader praises crash survivor as toll climbs to 26

The plane was carrying 20 cadets and seven officers from Kharkiv Air Force University and was on a training flight

● The security service, citing preliminary information, said the pilot reported an engine failure

AFP | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday praised the only survivor of a military plane crash as the death toll climbed to 26, after another cadet died and three more bodies were found.

Zelensky went to the scene of the tragedy near the northeastern city of Kharkiv where an Antonov An-26 transport plane carrying 20 air force cadets and seven officers crashed during a training flight on Friday evening.

"Ukraine has lost 26 worthy sons," Zelensky said on Facebook, referring to the cadets and officers of the Kharkiv National Air Force University.

"It is difficult to find words to express the pain of this loss," he said, declaring yesterday a day of mourning.

The plane burst into flames on landing near a highway around two kilometres (more than one mile) from the Chuguv military air base.

On yesterday, the death toll rose after three more bodies were found under the charred remains of the plane and one of the two survivors died in hospital from extensive burns.

Zelensky visited the only re-



Military and experts work on the place of the Antonov-26 transport aircraft crash

maining survivor in a military hospital in Kharkiv, posting a picture of the 20-year-old cadet lying in bed with a bandaged head and right arm.

He said the cadet, Vyacheslav Zolochevsky, "came to his senses near the wreckage of the An-26."

"The plane was destroyed, there was fire, darkness and bodies all around. One of the guys was burning," he said on Facebook, adding that Zolochevsky rushed to try and save him.

The second cadet died in hospital, the Ukrainian president said as he praised Zolochevsky for his "heroism."

"Ukraine is proud of you!" he said.

Doctors said that Zolochevsky suffered a concussion but his life was not in danger.

Most cadets onboard were

believed to be between the ages of 19 and 22.

One other cadet was not allowed on the flight.

Zelensky said the cause of the crash should be quickly established and called for an "objective" investigation.

Flights suspended

Investigators were looking at several possible causes of the crash including technical malfunction, human error and poor aircraft maintenance.

The SBU security service said the plane was performing a training flight but the cadets were not involved in piloting it.

The security service, citing preliminary information, said the pilot reported an engine failure and seven minutes later the plane hit the ground.

Defence Minister Andriy Taran said "the plane like-

ly caught the ground with its wing" and then burst into flames.

Citing preliminary information, the defence minister said that one of the sensors in the left engine had failed. He said the final conclusion would be made after authorities analyse the plane's black boxes.

"Everything went according to plan: the plane was performing a training flight for cadets," he said.

He said the instructor was at the controls and cadets took turns to sit next to the pilot.

Taran said the aircraft was made in 1977 but could be operated for three more years without undergoing repairs.

On Friday, the plane made six take-offs and five landings, he said.

Officials said all flights by An-26 aircraft would for now be suspended.

Space bubbles ease New York restaurant troubles

AFP | New York

Space bubbles are frothing up business at a New York bistro, offering fresh air in safe capsules on sidewalks for customers on guard against the coronavirus.

The plastic tents, which take a minute to set up and take down, have become an attraction at Café du Soleil on Manhattan's Upper West Side, especially as the weather gets colder and wetter in the fall.

"With everything going on in this world, eating in a bubble is about one of the best experiences we can have," said Valerie Worthy, as she dined with two coworkers. "They have everything safe, clean. Everything is six feet apart. Love it."

New York is committed to making outdoor dining a permanent option for the thousands of restaurants that have embraced the concept since the coronavirus pandemic struck in the spring, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Friday.

To keep outdoor patrons warm through the autumn and winter months, the city will allow restaurants to use certain heaters and enclosed tents. Restaurants can also reopen for indoor dining at 25% capacity on Wednesday.



Bubble tents are seen outside Cafe Du Soleil in New York

The bubbles caught the eye of Café du Soleil owner Alain Chevreux in July when he was online, figuring out how to stay in business.

At limited indoor capacity, Chevreux said the 20 seats would not be enough to pay his chef, cooks and other staff. And who would pay to eat in the cold, rain or snow without shelter?

Fifteen bubbles saved Chevreux much toil and trouble. At \$400 a pop, the capsules hold six people, and customers ask to reserve them over the phone. "Families love it. Kids love it.

20
seats were only available
at Café du Soleil after
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dining at 25% capacity

Friends who want to get together love it," Chevreux said. "It was raining a couple of weeks ago, midweek, pouring, raining. Everybody that was inside those

bubbles were having a blast." Childhood fantasies awaken for some diners.

"As soon as I came in, I said, wait a minute, it looks like Cinderella's carriage," said Sylvia Gonzalez as she dined with her granddaughter and friend. "It's beautiful."

Her friend Blanca Morales felt safe and optimistic inside the "carriage."

"You're not being cluttered with other people, crowded, very, like, individual, you know?" she observed. "Like she said, I'm waiting for my prince to get here."

Serbia commemorates daring World War Two airlift mission with monument



The Pranjani memorial in the shape of a C-47 transport plane

Reuters | Pranjani

day's inauguration ceremony.

For more than 50 years, during Communism, the operation was not officially acknowledged or taught in schools because it received local support from royalist troops led by convicted Nazi collaborator Draza Mihajlovic.

Radoljub Jankovic, a local resident who was 14 at the time of the airlifts, recounted his memories of the operation in a speech at the ceremony.

"I still hear the noise of the engines of the American planes in the air," he said, presenting a bottle of home-made traditional plum brandy to the U.S. ambassador to Serbia and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.