

Kim suspends military plans against S Korea

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has suspended plans for military action against the South, state media reported yesterday, in an apparent sudden dialling down of tensions after Pyongyang blew up a liaison office. In recent weeks, Pyongyang has issued a series of vitriolic condemnations of Seoul over anti-North leaflets, which defectors based in South Korea send across the border -- usually attached to balloons or floated in bottles. Last week, North Korea military said it would take multiple measures against the South including re-entering areas of the North that it had withdrawn from as part of inter-Korean projects, restoring guard posts in the Demilitarized Zone that forms the border, and stepping up exercises. The North also began removing loudspeakers yesterday from border areas, which they had started setting up just two days ago to broadcast anti-South propaganda.

Human error blamed for Pakistan plane crash

A plane crash which killed 97 people in Pakistan last month was because of human error by the pilots, who were discussing the coronavirus crisis during the landing, according to an initial report released yesterday. The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane crashed into a crowded residential area on May 22 after both engines failed as it approached Karachi airport, killing all but two people on board. The report found the plane was flying at more than twice the altitude it should have been when it approached the runway without the landing gear down. Standard flight operating procedures were then ignored by the pilots and the air traffic controller, resulting in an aborted landing that heavily damaged the plane's engines. The aircraft went down as it attempted a second landing.

7.4 quake in Mexico kills six



A 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck southern Mexico on Tuesday, killing six people, sending hundreds fleeing from their homes and forcing the closure of a major state-owned oil refinery. Hundreds of aftershocks were reported in the hours following the initial tremor, which was felt in Mexico City, some 700 kilometers distant from the epicenter in Cuicuitlan, in Oaxaca state. The 7.4 quake struck at a depth of 23 kilometers, the US Geological Survey reported. An initial tsunami warning was later reversed. There was no damage reported to "strategic infrastructure" including ports, airports, refineries and hydroelectric plants, said President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. The quake has hit at a time when Mexico is already reeling from the coronavirus pandemic. It has suffered more than 23,000 COVID-19 death and 191,410 cases.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP

J&J told to pay \$2.1b over cancer-causing talc powder

AFP, Washington

A US court has upheld a verdict that talcum powder sold by Johnson & Johnson caused ovarian cancer and ordered the pharmaceutical giant to pay \$2.1 billion in damages.

The decision by the Missouri Court of Appeals cut by more than half the \$4.4 billion a jury had awarded 22 people in 2018. The court agreed that some of the plaintiffs should not have been included in the case as they were from outside the state.

But the Tuesday decision upheld the awarding of damages for the company "knowingly selling products that contained asbestos to consumers."

"Because defendants are large, multi-billion-dollar corporations, we believe a large amount of punitive damages is necessary to have an effect in this case," the judgement said.

"It is impossible to place monetary value

on the physical, mental and emotional anguish plaintiffs suffered because of their injury caused by defendants."

A spokeswoman for Johnson & Johnson said the company would appeal the decision in the Supreme Court of Missouri, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Johnson & Johnson has faced thousands of lawsuits across the United States alleging it failed to warn consumers of the risk of cancer from asbestos in its talc-based products.

In 2019 a California jury became the latest to award millions in damages to a plaintiff who said the company's baby powder had given her terminal cancer.

Last month the firm announced it was discontinuing production of its talc-based baby powder in the US and Canada, in part due to the "constant barrage of litigation advertising" over the product.

It will continue to sell the product in the rest of the world, it added.



Twitter hides 'abusive' Trump tweet

AFP, Washington

Twitter on Tuesday hid a tweet from President Donald Trump in which he threatened to use "serious force" against protesters in the US capital, saying it broke rules over abusive content.

In a growing dispute, the platform has recently labeled other Trump tweets as misleading and violating its standards on promoting violence.

"There will never be an 'Autonomous Zone' in Washington, DC, as long as I'm your President. If they try they will be met with serious force!" Trump tweeted.

The action by Twitter requires users to click through to read the Trump tweet, with a tag on the message that it "violated the Twitter rules about abusive behavior."



Soviet WWII-era T-34 tanks move through Red Square during a military parade, which marks the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, in Moscow, yesterday. President Vladimir Putin reviewed the spectacular Red Square military parade, a patriotic display critics said was designed to lift his lower-than-usual ratings on the eve of a nationwide vote that could extend his rule until 2036. Putin watched as intercontinental ballistic missile launchers trundled past, nuclear-capable bombers flew overhead, and columns of tanks and over 14,000 troops, including some from allies like China, India marched past under hot sunshine.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Drop West Bank annexation plans

UN, Arab League urge Israel; 1080 European MPs oppose move

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations and the Arab League yesterday made a joint appeal for Israel to abandon its plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

The call was made during a UN Security Council video conference in which several government ministers participated. It was the last international meeting before Israel goes ahead with the plans as early as July 1.

"I call on the Israeli government to abandon its annexation plans," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. He reiterated the longstanding goal of a two-state solution with an independent, contiguous, sovereign and viable Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states.

Arab League secretary general Ahmed Aboul Gheit said annexation "will destroy any prospect for peace in the future."

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 European lawmakers from 25 countries urged their leaders yesterday to step in and stop Israel's planned annexation of West Bank.

In a letter published in newspapers and sent to European foreign ministers, the 1,080 parliamentarians said they were "deeply worried about the precedent this would set for international relations."

"Such a move will be fatal to the prospects of Israeli-Palestinian peace," added the letter.

"Regrettably, President (Donald) Trump's plan departs from internationally agreed parameters and principles."

India funding militants

Accuses Pakistan as analysts say latest row may end in closure of each other's embassies

REUTERS, New Delhi

Pakistan yesterday accused old foe India of funding militant groups, a day after the nuclear-armed neighbours said they would expel half the other's embassy staff for the first time in nearly two decades.

Tuesday's announcement of planned expulsions followed weeks of accusations and counter-accusations including espionage and the harassment of rival diplomats as relations plummet.

"India has fomented terrorism inside Pakistan by providing training, financial and material support to terrorist groups," Aisha Farooqi, spokeswoman for Pakistan's foreign ministry, said in a statement, following a failed attempt to blacklist an Indian citizen at the United Nations for allegedly providing funding to banned militant groups.

India has frequently levelled identical accusations at Pakistan. Former officials in both countries said the move could eventually lead to the closure of the embassies altogether.

"I see a further downsizing embassy strengths of the two countries in the coming months," said Brahma Chellaney, a political analyst at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and a former Indian national security adviser. "India is even ready to cut diplomatic ties if things continue the way they are."

In August 2019, Pakistan suspended almost all trade and transport ties with India after New Delhi revoked autonomy and statehood of Kashmir.

With the latest expulsions, relations are now at an all-time low, said Asif Yasin Malik, a retired Pakistani general and former defence secretary. "They are as bad as they can be," he said. "It is possible we will break diplomatic relations altogether."

Tensions high in Ladakh

India reinforces flashpoint area; China holds ground in Galwan valley

AFP, Leh

Indian fighter jets roared over a flashpoint Himalayan region yesterday as part of a show of strength following what military sources say has been a Chinese takeover of contested territory.

Chinese forces have held onto a chunk of land covering several square kilometres (miles) at the mouth of the Galwan valley following a deadly brawl there on June 15, the Indian military sources told AFP.

The two sides publicly declared they would pull back following the clash, which saw 20 Indian soldiers killed in a battle involving rocks and nail-studded batons.

But both have maintained troops around the valley, with India deploying more forces and trying to project military might.

Indian jets regularly took off yesterday from a military base in Leh, the main Indian town in the contested region, and headed towards the mountainous border 240 kilometres (150 miles) away.

There were also checkpoints on main roads out Leh and a frenzy of military activity around the main town, which lies at 3,500 metres (11,500 feet).

Residents reported long lines of military trucks and artillery on roads near Leh. "We now have a good strength present in the area," an official of the Indian army's Northern Command told AFP on condition of anonymity, referring to the reinforcements.

Tashi Chhepal, a retired Indian army captain who has served in the area and



An Indian helicopter is seen flying near Leh, Ladakh, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

is based in Leh, said the mobilisation was unprecedented in a sensitive region touching Pakistan as well as China.

After the latest round of talks between military commanders on Monday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the two sides had "agreed to take necessary measures to promote a cooling of the situation". But they made similar comments after a first-fight in May that proved to be a warmup for the medieval-style battle at Galwan.

Images taken on Sunday by the US satellite firm Maxar showed trucks and huts at camps on the river at 4,500 metres near the scene of the fighting. It was not clear whose army they were.

The two countries fought a border war in 1962 but this month's fighting was their deadliest encounter in 53 years. According to Indian military sources, Chinese troops ambushed Indian soldiers and forced them down a ridge where they had gone to remove

a Chinese "encroachment". A bilateral accord prevents the use of guns, but the fighting was still fierce, reportedly with rocks and batons wrapped with barbed wire.

China has in turn accused Indian soldiers of twice crossing the Line of Actual Control, the unofficial boundary, provoking its troops.

But the Chinese appear to be sticking to their gains at Galwan and the nearby Pangong Tso lake, police intelligence as well as military sources told AFP. China is now claiming the valley as its own, in statements that India has rejected.

Indian analysts are dubious of the chances of a major easing of the tensions or that India will reclaim the territory. Harsh Pant from the Observer Research Foundation think-tank in New Delhi said: "Anything that the Chinese now say can't be taken on face value. India, hopefully, has learnt its lessons now."

Narayanganj City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban
10, Bangabandhu Road, Narayanganj.
www.ncc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.16.6700.015.09.059.18.1036
Date: 24-06-2020

e-Tender Notice No.-21/2019-20

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works under the Project "Construction of Scavenger's Colony in Narayanganj City Corporation."

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Description of work & Package No.	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Last Date & Time for Tender/ Proposal Security Submission	Last Date & Time for Tender Submission
01	471297	NCC-CC-1-2-A Construction of Scavenger's Colony (Part-A) at Tanbazar under Narayanganj City Corporation.	26-July-2020 Up to 5.00 pm	27-July-2020 Up to 12.00 noon	27-July-2020 Up to 2.00 pm
02	471299	NCC-CC-1-2-B Construction of Scavenger's Colony (Part-B) at Tanbazar under Narayanganj City Corporation	do	do	do

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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guide lines are available in the National e-GP portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). This notice is also available in Narayanganj City Corporation website (www.ncc.gov.bd). The bill will be paid under availability of the Project Fund.

(Md. Kamrul Ahsan)
Superintending Engineer
Narayanganj City Corporation, Narayanganj.
Ph. 02-7645032
e-mail: se@ncc.gov.bd

GD- 1032

ER Eastern Refinery Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Chattogram-4204

Invitation for National Tender
Partial Replacement/Reconstruction of Product Storage Tank No. T-6128

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.
3	Procuring entity name	Eastern Refinery Limited.
4	Procuring entity district	Chattogram.
5	Invitation for	Partial Replacement/Reconstruction of Product Storage Tank No. T-6128
6	Invitation Ref. No.	ER/DEV (M)-39(1)/2020
7	Date	23 June 2020.
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	National One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	Eastern Refinery Limited.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	Tender Package No.	ER/DEV (M)-39(1)/2020
11	Tender package name	Partial Replacement/Reconstruction of Product Storage Tank No. T-6128
12	Tender publication date	23 June 2020.
13	Tender last selling date	07 July 2020.
14	Tender closing date and time	08 July 2020, 14:15 Hrs.
15	Tender opening date and time	Technical: 08 July 2020, 14:30 Hrs. Financial: Will be informed to the successful bidders.
16	Name & address of the office(s):	
	Selling tender document (principal)	Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.
	Selling tender document (others)	AGM (DLO), ERL Liaison Office, YMCA Bhaban (2nd Floor), 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrai, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
	Receiving tender document	Development Department, Training Complex (2nd Floor), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.
	Opening tender document	General Manager (D & C)/DGM (Development) Office Room, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
17	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet (Section-2).
18	Brief description of works	Partial Replacement/Reconstruction of Product Storage Tank No. T-6128.
19	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) (each).
20	Lot No.	Identification of lot
1	ER/DEV (M)-39(1)/2020	Tank Farm Area of Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram
		Tender security amount (Tk)
		Tk 40,000.00 (Taka forty thousand)
		Completion time in days/weeks/months
		180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of getting hot work permit & electrical connection
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
21	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Amir Masud.
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Development).
23	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tele No.: 88-031-2501261-67, Ext-430 Fax: 88-031-2501269 E-mail: ameer_masud@erl.com.bd, md-office@erl.com.bd Website: www.erl.gov.bd, www.erl.com.bd
25	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	
	b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.	

GD-1033