

Will not supply arms to Pakistan

Russia reassures India

THE STATESMAN/ANN

Russia has reassured India that it would not supply arms to Pakistan while promising to give priority to India's needs for advanced military systems, according to defence sources.

Russia would also engage actively with India to ensure the success of the 'Make in India' programme and participate in a big way in the Aero India Exhibition to be held in February next year, Russian defence minister Gen Sergei Shoigu told Indian defence minister Rajnath Singh during bilateral talks in Moscow on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers' meeting.

The one-hour meeting was marked by the traditional warmth and friendship, characteristic of the special and privileged partnership between the two countries with the two sides focusing on intensifying military technical cooperation and military-to-military cooperation, the Defence Ministry said.

The two ministers covered a broad range of areas of cooperation between their two countries. It was noted that this meeting coincides with the Indra Naval Exercises to be conducted by the Indian and Russia navies off the Straits of Malacca over the next two days. Singh noted that these exercises demonstrated the common interests of both countries in maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

The two ministers welcomed the advance stage of discussions for the establishment in India of an India-Russian Joint Venture for the production of AK203 assault rifles which are considered one of the most modern weapons available for infantry forces. This provides a very positive basis for further engagement of the Russian defence industry in the 'Make in India' programme.



Police officers react during clashes with protesters over the death of a Black man, Daniel Prude, after police put a spit hood over his head during an arrest on March 23, in Rochester, New York, US, on Friday. Portland police made multiple arrests overnight on Friday as the Oregon city nears 100 days of demonstrations against US racism and police brutality, which have at times turned violent.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump ends anti-racism training in federal govt

US President Donald Trump has ordered government agencies to end employee training sessions on fighting racism because they amount to "un-American propaganda," the White House said on Friday. The order comes as Trump works to appeal to his white, blue-collar base while fighting an uphill battle for re-election amid a divisive national reckoning over how non-whites are treated in America, especially by police but in other spheres as well. The White House Office of Management and Budget said it had been ordered to "ensure that Federal agencies cease and desist from using taxpayer dollars to fund these divisive, un-American propaganda training sessions."

Taliban say team in Qatar for Afghan peace talks

The Taliban's negotiating team has arrived in Qatar, a spokesman said yesterday, in a sign that long-delayed peace talks with the Afghan government are inching closer to starting. A date for the talks, to be hosted in Doha, has not been set but the warring sides have this week made signals that negotiations could launch soon, including efforts to wrap up a drawn out prisoner exchange. The Afghan government's negotiating team remained in Kabul yesterday, but a logistics team landed in Doha earlier this week. Faraidoun Khawzoon, a spokesman for the Afghan government's reconciliation council, said its negotiating team was ready for talks. "The release of the prisoners is completed and there is no excuse for delaying the talks," he tweeted. "But the Taliban don't seem to be ready for the talks. We expect the Taliban to get ready and start the negotiations."

Navalny poisoning: Trump refuses to criticise Russia



US President Donald Trump said the United States must look "very seriously" into the suspected poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, but that his administration had not yet seen any proof. "It's tragic. It's terrible, it shouldn't happen. We haven't had any proof yet, but I will take a look," Trump said at a news conference, before telling journalists they should be focusing on China, not Russia. Trump did not take as strong a stand as the State Department, which earlier on Friday expressed grave concern about the finding that Navalny was poisoned. Germany, where Navalny is in a hospital, has said the Russian opposition figure was poisoned with a Soviet-style Novichok nerve agent and wants the perpetrators held to account.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

TRUMP'S ALLEGED INSULTS TO US WAR DEAD

Uproar grows over reports

Biden declares Trump 'unfit' for presidency as allies defend president

AGENCIES

Donald Trump, the president of the United States, has come under fire over reports that he mocked the country's war dead as "suckers" and "losers", with Joe Biden, his main opponent in the upcoming presidential election, declaring him "unfit" for the commander-in-chief role.



Biden's comments on Friday came as Trump again sought to dismiss as "false" the alleged comments, first reported on by The Atlantic magazine and then by The Associated Press news agency.

Voice cracking, Biden told reporters in Delaware that "you know in your gut" Trump's comments, if true, are "deplorable".

Trump, in the Oval Office, said no apology was necessary, because it was a "fake story".

The allegations, sourced anonymously, describe multiple offensive comments by the president towards killed and captured US service

members during a trip to France in November 2018.

In the morning of a scheduled visit to the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Trump reportedly told senior staff, "Why should I go to that cemetery? It's filled with losers." The White House later said the visit was cancelled because foggy weather made the helicopter trip from Paris too risky and a 90-minute drive was deemed infeasible.

The Atlantic also said Trump, in a separate conversation on the same trip, referred to more than 1,800 US soldiers who died during the

consequential 1918 battle at Belleau Wood as "suckers" for getting killed.

Political leaders and veterans have condemned Trump for the comments which have been confirmed by multiple news outlets including Fox News, which has been the president's go-to television news network.

Fox said two former Trump administration officials had confirmed The Atlantic's reporting.

Trump's supporters, meanwhile, took to television networks and social media to defend the president, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo telling the programme, Fox and Friends, on Friday that he was with the president and he "never heard him use the words."

First Lady Melania Trump also defended her husband, issuing a rare public statement, calling Trump's alleged mockery of US war dead "not true" and blasting The Atlantic's reliance on anonymous sources.

US ELECTION 2020

China has taken 'most active role' to interfere

Claims US national security adviser

REUTERS, Washington

China has taken the most active role among countries seeking to interfere in the US election and has the biggest program to influence domestic politics, US national security adviser Robert O'Brien said on Friday, without providing any details.

"We know the Chinese have taken the most active role," O'Brien told reporters at a briefing.

He said China had "had the most massive program to influence the United States politically," followed by Iran and then Russia.

US intelligence found that Russia orchestrated a cyber campaign to sway the 2016 presidential election in Republican Donald Trump's favor and there have been reports hackers may try to influence the election on Nov. 3. Moscow has denied interfering in 2016.

Trump-appointed Attorney General William Barr said on Wednesday he believed China was more of a threat than Russia when it came to election interference, also without offering details.

In August, O'Brien said the United States had seen Chinese hackers targeting US election infrastructure. China has consistently denied US government charges that it hacks US companies, politicians or government agencies.

Trump, who long touted his friendly ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping as he sought to make good on trade deal promises, has made getting tough on China a key part of his campaign for re-election in November.



Anti-government protesters and students attend a demonstration demanding the government to resign, in front of the Ministry of Education in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Hopes of miracle fade in Beirut

AFP, Beirut

Rescue teams kept up their search for survivors in Beirut yesterday even as hopes raised by sensor readings of a pulse beneath the rubble of last month's blast began to fade.

The cataclysmic August 4 explosion in the port of Beirut killed at least 191 people, making it Lebanon's deadliest peacetime disaster. One month on, seven people are still listed as missing.

On Wednesday night, a sniffer dog deployed by Chilean rescuers detected a scent beneath a collapsed building in the heavily damaged Gemmayzeh neighbourhood adjacent to the port.

High-tech sensors confirmed an apparent heartbeat and, a full month after the August 4 blast, rescue teams took up the search.

But despite removing piles of masonry, they have yet to find the source of the sensor reading.

"Search operations have been going on since the day before yesterday but the chances are very low," the civil defence agency's operations director, George Abou Moussa, told AFP.

"So far, we have found nothing." Lebanese officials had played down the chances of anyone surviving so long beneath the rubble.

FB blocks terminally ill Frenchman from streaming his death

AFP, Dijon

Facebook yesterday said it would block the livestream of a Frenchman suffering from an incurable condition who wanted to broadcast his death on the social media platform.

Earlier, Alain Cocq announced that he was now refusing all food, drink and medicine after President Emmanuel Macron turned down his request for euthanasia.

Cocq, 57, who suffers from a rare condition which causes the walls of his arteries to stick together, said he believed he had less than a week to live and would broadcast his death from Saturday morning.

"The road to deliverance begins and believe me, I am happy," he wrote on Facebook shortly after midnight in a post announcing he had "finished his last meal".

"I know the days ahead are going to be difficult but I have made my decision and I am calm," he added.

Facebook, which has been increasingly criticised over the way it polices the content it carries, yesterday said its rules did not allow it to portray suicide.

"Although we respect (Cocq's) decision to want to draw attention to this complex question, following expert advice we have taken measures to prevent the live broadcast on Alain's account," a Facebook spokesman told AFP.

"Our rules do not allow us to show suicide attempts."

Cocq had written to Macron asking to be given a substance that would allow him to die in peace but the president wrote back to him explaining this was not allowed under French law.

Cocq said he hoped his struggle would be remembered and "go down in the long term" as a step towards changing the law.

Earth is making the moon rust

CNN ONLINE

The moon is getting rusty.

Scientists had the same reaction you probably did when they reached this conclusion. It shouldn't be possible -- after all, there's no oxygen on the moon, one of the two essential elements to create rust, the other being water.

But the evidence was there.

India's lunar probe, Chandrayaan-1, orbited the moon in 2008, gathering data that has led to numerous discoveries over the years -- including the revelation that there are water molecules on its surface. The probe also carried an instrument built by Nasa that could analyze the moon's mineral composition.

When researchers at Nasa analyzed the data recently, they were stunned to find hints of hematite, a form of iron oxide known as rust. There are plenty of iron-rich rocks on the moon -- but rust is only produced when iron is exposed to oxygen and water.

Not only is there no air on the moon, but it is flooded with hydrogen that flows from the sun, carried by solar wind. Rust is produced when oxygen removes electrons from iron; hydrogen does the opposite by adding electrons, which means it's all the harder for rust to form on the hydrogen-rich moon.

"It's very puzzling," said Shuai Li of the

University of Hawaii, the lead author of the study, which was published on Wednesday in the journal Science Advances.

After months of research, Li and the Nasa scientists think they've cracked it -- and the answer to the mystery lies in our very own planet.

One major clue was the rust was more concentrated on the side of the moon that faces Earth -- suggesting it was somehow linked to our planet.

Earth is encompassed in a magnetic field, and solar wind stretches this bubble to create a long magnetic tail in the downwind direction. The moon enters this tail three days before it's full, and it takes six days to cross the tail and exit on the other side. During these six days, Earth's magnetic tail covers the moon's surface with electrons, and all sorts of strange things can happen. Dust particles on the moon's surface might float off the ground, and moon dust might fly into a dust storm, according to Nasa.

And, Li speculated, oxygen from the Earth travels on this magnetic tail to land on the moon, where it interacts with lunar water molecules to create rust.

The magnetic tail also blocks nearly all solar wind during the full moon -- meaning the moon is temporarily shielded from the blast of hydrogen, opening a window for rust to form.



LP Gas Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).			
3	Purchaser name	LP Gas Limited (LPGL), A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.			
4	Purchase code	N/A.			
5	Purchaser district	Chattogram.			
6	Invitation for	Supply of 25,000 LPG Cylinders for domestic users.			
7	Invitation Ref. No.	28.27.0000.001.07.001.20-132			
8	Date	02/09/2020			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget & source of fund	LP Gas Limited (own fund).			
11	Development partners	None.			
PARTICULARS INFORMATION					
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A.			
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	N/A.			
14	Tender Package No.	Cyl-20			
15	Tender package name	Supply of LPG cylinders.			
16	Tender publication date	06/09/2020			
17	Tender last selling date	11/10/2020			
18	Tender closing date & time	12/10/2020, Time: 14:30 Hrs (BST).			
19	Tender opening date & time	12/10/2020, Time: 14:35 Hrs (BST).			
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address			
	- Selling tender document (principal)	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.			
	-Selling tender document (others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100.			
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents					
	-Receiving tender documents	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.			
	-Opening tender documents	-Do-			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Place: LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh. Date 22/09/2020 Time 14:30 Hrs (BST)			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender schedule.			
23	Brief description of goods & works	Supply of 25,000 LPG cylinders of 26.6 Litre water capacity fitted with valve (22mm version) and protection cap.			
24	Brief description of related service	Related service are as per tender schedule.			
25	Price of tender documents	BDT 10,000 or US\$ 130 (non-refundable).			
26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount	Completion time in weeks
	1	N/A (Single Lot)	LP Gas Limited	BDT 12 (twelve) lac or US\$ 15 (fifteen) thousand	24 (twenty-four) weeks
PURCHASER DETAILS					
27	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Siddique Hossain.			
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Assistant General Manager.			
29	Address of official inviting tender	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.			
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: +88-031-2501220, Mobile: +88-01715-694093 E-mail: sidd_hossain@yahoo.com			
31	This Tender Notice will be available at LPG website: www.lpgl.gov.bd and CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd				
32	The purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.				

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