

# China tells US not to 'bully' Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo

China yesterday warned the United States not to "coerce and bully" Sri Lanka ahead of a visit to the strategically-placed island by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Pompeo is expected to raise rights issues when he meets the Rajapaksa today in Colombo which is under a partial lockdown because of a surge in coronavirus infections.

Pompeo is expected to ask Colombo to make "difficult" choices on its blossoming relationship with Beijing during his visit.

"We are firmly opposed to the United States taking the opportunity of the State Secretary's visit to sow and interfere in China-Sri Lanka relations, and to coerce and bully Sri Lanka," China's embassy in Colombo said.

The top US diplomat for South Asia, Dean Thompson, said at the start of Pompeo's four-nation tour of Indian Ocean nations -- India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia -- that he will ask Colombo to review options offered by Washington.

The US visit comes less than three weeks after Yang Jiechi, a Chinese Community Party politburo member, pledged more economic help to Sri Lanka during a visit.

Colombo has leaned heavily on China for loans and diplomatic support to fight off allegations of human rights violations, particularly in the final months of a brutal decades-long civil war.

Washington has insisted on credible investigations into charges that Sri Lankan troops killed at least 40,000 civilians while crushing Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the island's top defence official and his brother Mahinda was president when the final onslaught was carried out. Mahinda is now prime minister.



Judge Amy Coney Barrett is sworn in as an associate justice of the US Supreme Court by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as her husband Jesse Barrett and President Donald Trump watch on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, US, on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nearly 6,000 Afghan civilians killed or wounded in 2020: UN

Nearly 6,000 Afghan civilians were killed or wounded in the first nine months of the year as heavy fighting between government forces and Taliban insurgents rages on despite efforts to find peace, the United Nations said yesterday. From January to September, there were 5,939 civilian casualties in the fighting -- 2,117 people killed and 3,822 wounded, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a report. Civilian casualties were 30% lower than in the same period last year. The Taliban were responsible for 45% of civilian casualties while government troops caused 23%, it said. US-led international forces were responsible for 2%.

### Israel to approve settler homes in Hebron area

Israel is set to approve construction of Jewish settler homes in a flashpoint area of the West Bank city of Hebron for the first time since 2002, the anti-occupation group Peace Now said yesterday. Peace Now, which tracks settlement construction in the occupied territory, said Israeli military authorities had given the green light to the construction of 31 settler housing units "in the heart of Hebron". Hebron is considered a West Bank powder-keg where around 800 Jewish settlers live under hefty Israeli army security, surrounded by around 200,000 Palestinians.

### Malaysia's PM gets reprieve from key ally in political crisis

The largest party in Malaysia's ruling coalition has declared its support for Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, providing some respite for the premier as he faces calls to resign after a failed bid to impose an emergency to tackle the coronavirus. The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, which had this month threatened to withdraw support for Muhyiddin, said it would now back him as the time had come for reconciliation to ensure stability and to focus on managing the pandemic. UMNO also said it would not work with opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's party, rejecting a proposal to do so from a former premier, and now-ruling party lawmaker, Najib Razak.

### Air pollution linked to 15pc of coronavirus deaths: study

Long-term exposure to air pollution may be linked to 15 percent of Covid-19 deaths globally, according to research published yesterday that highlights the health risks posed by greenhouse gas emissions. Previous research has showed how air pollution from exhaust fumes and factories takes two years off the life expectancy of every man, woman and child on Earth. In East Asia, which has some of the highest levels of harmful pollution on the planet, the authors found that 27 percent of Covid-19 deaths could be attributed to the health effects of poor air quality. In Europe the proportion was 19 percent, compared with 17 percent in North America.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## US ELECTION 2020



5 DAYS TO GO

### Trump goads Biden for forgetting his name

US President Donald Trump on Monday taunted opponent Joe Biden for forgetting his name and calling him "George". Biden's habit of verbal gaffes reemerged on Sunday evening when he struggled to remember Trump's name as he addressed a virtual concert by TV link. "Four more years of George, er, George, er, he -- we're going to find ourselves in a position where, if Trump gets elected, we're going to be in a different world," Biden said. Trump has sought to paint Biden as mentally unfit for office, and the president swiftly jumped on the moment of forgetfulness. "Joe Biden called me George yesterday. Couldn't remember my name," Trump tweeted with glee. "The Fake News Cartel is working overtime to cover it up!"

### Clinton says idea of four more years of Trump makes her 'literally sick'

Hillary Clinton has described another Trump election win as an idea that makes her "literally sick". The former US secretary of state told Sway, a New York Times Opinion podcast, that she "can't entertain the idea of [Trump] winning" the 2020 election, which takes place in a week's time. "It makes me literally sick to my stomach to think that we'd have four more years of this abuse and destruction of our institutions," she told the podcast, as The Hill reported. "And [the] damaging of our norms and our values. And lessening of our leadership. And the list goes on," she continued. "It would cause cognitive dissonance of a grave degree." The 2016 Democratic presidential nominee went on to berate Republicans who had enabled Trump's administration, saying they were "spineless" and "cowards".

SOURCE: AFP

# Trump celebrates as Barrette takes oath as US SC justice

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump reveled in one of his signature achievements on Monday at a White House ceremony to celebrate US Senate confirmation of his third Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, 6 days before the election.

The made-for-TV prime-time event on the White House lawn mirrored one a month ago, when Barrett's nomination was announced, which preceded a coronavirus outbreak among top Republicans including Trump himself.

It came little more than an hour after the Republican-controlled Senate confirmed Barrett to the lifetime appointment on a 52-48 vote, with Democrats unified in opposition.

Her confirmation as successor to liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last month, creates a 6-3 conservative majority on the high court. One Republican, Susan Collins, voted against the confirmation.

Barrett's confirmation shifts the Supreme Court further to the right, which could pave the way to conservative rulings curbing abortion rights, expanding gun rights and limiting voting rights, among other things.

Trump had pressed the Senate to confirm Barrett,

48, before the Nov. 3 election in which he trails Democrat Joe Biden in national opinion polls. No Supreme Court justice had ever been confirmed so close to a presidential election.

Conservative Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, wearing his judicial black robes, administered one of the two oaths of office that justices have to take.

In brief remarks, Barrett declared her independence from Trump and the political process even as the president stood behind her. "The oath that I have solemnly taken tonight means at its core I will do the job without fear or favor and do it independently of the political branches and of my own preferences," she said.

Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the separate judicial oath at the court later yesterday.

Trump's other Supreme Court appointees are conservatives Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

Trump has said he expects the court to decide the outcome of the election and wants Barrett to participate on any election-related cases that go before the justices.

Just before the Senate vote, the court on a 5-3 vote with the conservative justices in the majority, issued an order curbing the deadline for mail-in ballots to be received in the electoral battleground of Wisconsin.

# HARPOON COASTAL DEFENSE SYSTEMS US approves \$2.4b arms sale to Taiwan

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday said it had approved a \$2.4 billion sale of 100 Harpoon coastal defense systems to Taiwan, defying Beijing's anger over a \$1 billion missile deal last week.

The proposed sale of the Harpoon systems "will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance... and progress in the region," the State Department said in a statement.

The deal involves 100 Harpoon Coastal Defense Systems (HCDS), which includes 400 RGM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II surface-launched missiles with a range of around 78 miles (125 kilometers).

The missiles, manufactured by Boeing, can be positioned on fixed platforms or mounted on trucks.

Democratic and self-ruled Taiwan lives under constant threat of invasion by authoritarian China, whose leaders view the island as part of their territory. They have vowed to one day seize Taiwan, by force if necessary.

Beijing yesterday said it "firmly opposed" such moves, urging the US to "call off the relevant arms sales plan to Taiwan, so as not to cause further damage to China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait".

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China would "take proper and necessary measures."



Smoke rises from the Silverado Fire near Irvine, California, on Monday. More than 90,000 people fled their homes near Los Angeles on Monday as two fast-spreading and uncontained wildfires raged across more than 14,600 acres, blocking key roadways and critically injuring two firefighters.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# US stands with India to deal with any threat

FROM PAGE 1

at the media in a joint media appearance with Jaishankar and Rajnath, mentioned the killing of 20 Indian army personnel in Galwan Valley in a clash with Chinese troops in Ladakh on June 14 and said "the US stands with India to deal with any threat".

"Big things are happening as our democracies align to better protect the citizens of our two countries and indeed, of the free world," Pompeo told reporters.

"Our leaders, and our citizens, see with increasing clarity that the Chinese Communist Party is no friend to democracy, the rule of law, transparency, nor to freedom of navigation, the foundation of a free and open, prosperous Indo-Pacific," Pompeo said.

The new defence pact was a "significant milestone" that would foster cooperation between the militaries of both countries, Esper told the news conference.

The United States planned to sell more fighter planes and drones to India, Esper added. The pact will give India access to a range of topographical, nautical and aeronautical data that is considered vital for targeting of missiles and armed drones.

It would also allow the United States to provide advanced navigational aids and avionics on US-supplied aircraft to India, an Indian defence source said. Rajnath said the talks "reaffirmed

our commitment to peace and security in Indo-Pacific region where China has been increasingly assertive economically and militarily, sparking concerns in New Delhi and Washington."

US President Donald Trump has made being tough on China a key part of his campaign to secure a second term in next week's presidential election and Pompeo has been trying to bolster allies to counter China's growing influence in the region, reports Reuters.

China dismissed Pompeo's accusations.

"We urge Pompeo to abandon his Cold War mentality, zero-sum mindset, and stop harping on the 'China threat,'" Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a news briefing in Beijing earlier yesterday.

Jaishankar did not refer directly to China in his comments at the news conference but hailed "national security convergences" with the United States and their determination to tackle security and counter-terrorism issues and ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

This month, India invited Australia to join naval drills it holds each year with the United States and Japan, brushing off Chinese concerns that the exercises destabilise the region.

Pompeo and Esper met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier yesterday for talks that included regional stability, a US government

spokesman said.

Following talks in India, Pompeo will go on to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia. China's growing investment and influence in Sri Lanka and the Maldives have sparked concern in both the US and India.

The inking of the BECA completes finalisation of four key foundational pacts underpinning the strategic military ties between the two countries, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Ever since India and the US signed the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002, the strategic ties between them have grown. The GSOMIA provides for specific measures to ensure security standards for safeguarding critical information shared by the US with India.

In 2016, the US had designated India a "major defence partner" seeking to elevate defence trade and technology-sharing to the level of its closest partners and in the same year the two countries inked the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) that allows their militaries use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provide for deeper cooperation.

In 2018, India and the US signed another pact Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for sale of high-end technology from the US to India.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director  
"Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project  
Directorate General of Food  
Khaddya Bhaban, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.  
www.dgfood.gov.bd

Memo No: 13.01.0000.362.07.009.20-13 Date: 27/10/2020

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)

1	Ministry	: Ministry of food
2	Agency	: Directorate General of Food
3	Procuring Entity Name	: Project Director, "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project
4	Procuring Entity Code	: N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka
6	Invitation for	: • Selection of Outsourcing Firm for Supply of 02 (Two) Outsourcing Manpower [01 (One) Office Assistant Cum-Computer Operator and 01 (One) Office Sahayak] • Other information's are in Tender schedule (Section 7).
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
7	Procurement Method	: NCT Open Tendering Method (OTM)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
8	Budget and Sources of Funds	: Development Budget GoB
9	Development Partner	: N/A
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
10	Project Code	: 224306600
11	Project Name	: "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project
12	Tender Package No. & Name	: N/A
13	Tender Publishing Date	: 28-10-2020
14	Tender last selling date & time	: 24-11-2020 on 5:00 PM
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	: 25-11-2020 on 2:00 PM
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	: 25-11-2020 on 2:30 PM
17	Name & Address of the Office(s)	: Office of the Project Director, "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project, Directorate General of Food, Room No. 329, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
18	Eligibility of Tenderer's	: (a) Tenderer must have the experience of supplying Manpower for 05 years in any Ministry/ division/ authority/ agency/ Government Company/ government organization/ government project/ consultant's organization for the foreign aided project. Certificates of relevant experiences are to be attested by first class gazetted officer. (b) Tenderer must have experience of a single contract completed/ ongoing of supplying Manpower valued at least of Taka 30.00 (Taka thirty lakh only) lakh in last 03 (Three) years. (c) Tenderer current capital/credit facility will be 10(Ten) lakh. In case of Loan facility PSN-5 must be attached as documents. In other cases, bank certificate must be submitted. (d) Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable law. (e) Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. (f) Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay VAT & Taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. (g) Other Conditions are mentioned in Tender schedule.
19	Brief description of the services to be provided	: Selection of Outsourcing Firm for Supply of 02 (Two) Outsourcing Manpower [01 (One) Office Assistant Cum-Computer Operator and 01 (One) Office Sahayak]
20	Price of the Tender Documents	: BDT 1000/- ( Taka One Thousand only) in Cash (Non-refundable)
<b>Identifications of Services Location Tender Security Amount (BDT) Completion Time</b>		
21	The Outsourcing Firm Supply of 02 (Two) Outsourcing Manpower [01 (One) Office Assistant Cum-Computer Operator and 01 (One) Office Sahayak]	Office of the Project Director, Project, Directorate General of Food, Room No. 329, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000. Tk. 15,000/- (Taka Fifteen Thousand Only) Initially 12 (Twelve) months may be extended upon the satisfactory completion of initial contract period.
<b>INFORMATION OF PROCURING ENTITY</b>		
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	: Md. Humayun Kabir
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	: Project Director
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	: Office of the Project Director, "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project, Directorate General of Food, Room No. 329, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.
<b>The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all Tenders.</b>		

(Md. Humayun Kabir)  
Project Director  
Tel: +880 2-41050153  
e-mail: pdkamel.dgfood@gmail.com

GD-1704