

Russia ties at 'low point' Says EU top diplomat in Moscow

AFP, Moscow

The European Union's top diplomat yesterday said that the bloc's ties with Russia had reached a new low following the jailing of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, but still raised hopes for cooperation.

In Moscow for talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell repeated European calls for Navalny's release and an investigation into his poisoning last year.

"Our relationship is indeed in a difficult moment," Borrell told Lavrov, adding that EU-Russia ties are "under severe strain and the Navalny case is a low point."

Hours after his comment, Moscow said it was expelling diplomats from Poland, Germany and Sweden for participating in unsanctioned demonstrations last month in support of 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner Navalny.

Borrell "strongly condemned" the action, a spokesman said, while Sweden branded it "completely unfounded".

The Russian foreign ministry said in a statement that an unspecified number of diplomats from the three EU countries took part in "illegal demonstrations" on January 23 and had been declared persona non grata.

Earlier, Borrell said there were no immediate plans for new European sanctions and both he and Lavrov stressed that the two sides would continue to work together on issues including the coronavirus pandemic.

Borrell's visit was the first to Russia by a senior EU envoy since 2017, following years of deteriorating relations sparked by Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.



University teachers hold up three-finger salutes and signs with red ribbons calling for civil disobedience during a protest against the military coup at Dagon University in Yangon, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'UNCONSTITUTIONAL' IMPEACHMENT TRIAL Trump refuses to testify

US House punishes lawmaker in QAnon storm, Republicans cry foul

AFP, Washington

Former president Donald Trump refused Thursday to testify in his looming impeachment trial after being called by House prosecutors to give evidence, branding the process "unconstitutional."

Trump's lawyers ridiculed the request in a letter by lead House prosecutor Jamie Raskin to answer questions over the January 6 attack on the US Capitol as a "public relations stunt."

The refusal came five days before the trial of the former US leader on one charge of "incitement to insurrection" opens in the US Senate.

The Democratic House prosecutors, or impeachment managers, say the Republican leader was "singularly responsible" for the Capitol attack, which left five dead.

Trump's team argued in a filing Tuesday that whatever he said in the days and hours before the attack to encourage supporters to reject Biden's election win amounted to constitutionally protected free speech.



PHOTO: AFP

bipartisan opprobrium for a series of disturbing comments and support of social media posts advocating the assassination of Democratic lawmakers, was stripped of her two assignments on the House education and budget committees.

The punishment was meted out in a modestly bipartisan vote of 230 to 199 which occurred hours after Greene took to the House floor to renounce the conspiracy movement and expressed regret for spreading misinformation.

Eleven Republicans defied their party to join all voting Democrats in disciplining Greene. But Republicans blasted the action against one of their own as shattering congressional precedent, with members of leadership warning of potential political payback should they regain power.

"This vote today sets a dangerous precedent for this institution that Democrats may regret when Republicans regain the majority," said number three Republican Liz Cheney.



Pro-government activists gather yesterday near the portrait of Nepal's Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli during a mass gathering in his support, after the dissolution of parliament, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Getting a shot at a new life

FROM PAGE 12 On a recent visit to the project in Sirajganj, this correspondent talked with the community members and the officials related to the project.

The houses have been built on 66 decimals of land in Sirajganj and as part of the project, the beneficiaries have been trained to rear domestic animals and to become beauticians. They are now rearing cows, goats and ducks. They have also planted vegetables like brinjal and beans on spare land adjacent to their houses.

Baha Moni, 35, has a story similar to Borsha's. She left her parents in Bogura when she was 10. She also received training to rear domestic animals, but also has the additional skill of sewing clothes which she learned from her elder sister. She now sews clothes for the community.

"I'm now happy that I don't have to beg anymore and this has given us a new life. Everyone wants to live with dignity, and that is the same for transgender people," she said, adding that she hoped to sell some of the clothes she sewed.

Maya, 31, who is one of the chiefs of the community, feels the same. Hailing from Pabna, she had to leave her parents during her teenage years and was able to study only up to SSC level. She received training as a beautician and also to rear animals.

"The government gave us 10 cows for the community and we get 40-50 litres of milk every day and sell it. Besides, we planted vegetables to meet the daily food demand. This initiative has given us that opportunity," she said.

According to the government, there are 11,000 transgender people in Bangladesh. They lack proper

support and are neglected by society. Officials related to the project said this will give them hope and provide a better life.

Highlighting the government's achievement, Sirajganj Deputy Commissioner Farook Ahmed said, "To bring the transgender community into the mainstream, the government recognised them as third gender in 2013, issuing a gazette on January 26 [of that year]. Also, to educate the community the government arranged stipends in four layers [for primary education a transgender receives Tk 700 per month, Tk 800 for secondary, Tk 1,000 for higher secondary and Tk 1,200 for higher education]."

"The Ashrayan project is also a part of bringing the transgender community into the mainstream," he added.

Regarding the initiative, Ashrayan's Project Director Mahub Hossain (additional secretary) said, "The prime minister is providing houses to those who are landless and poor. The third gender community are also included in it. More houses will be built for them in the future."

The government's Ashrayan project was launched in 1997. Till December last year, some 3.2 lakh families, who had neither land nor houses, have been rehabilitated under the project. This project is now named Ashrayan-2.

As of June last year, a list of 8,85,622 families, who neither have their own land nor house, has been prepared from all over the country as part of a Mujib Borsho initiative.

On January 23, 2021, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the handing over of houses to some 66,189 beneficiary families alongside rehabilitation of 3,715 in barracks via a video conferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Al-Qaeda's leader in Yemen under arrest: UN report

The leader of al-Qaeda's Yemeni affiliate has been under arrest for several months, according to a United Nations report released on Thursday, in what will be seen as a huge breakthrough in the fight against the global jihadist threat. The document said Khalid Batafai, the leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) for just under a year, was arrested and his deputy, Saad Atef al-Awlaqi, died during an "operation in Ghayda City, Al-Mahrah Governorate, in October."

The report -- filed to the Security Council from a UN monitoring team specializing in extremist groups -- is the first official confirmation of Batafai's arrest following unverified reports. Washington considers AQAP to be the worldwide jihadist network's most dangerous branch, and has waged a long-running drone war against the leaders of the group.

China takes aim at BBC after UK revokes CTGN's licence

The BBC came under renewed fire from Chinese officials yesterday in a diplomatic dispute a day after Britain's media regulator revoked the TV licence of Chinese state media outlet CGTN.

Britain and China have exchanged barbs for months over China's crackdown on dissent in the former British colony of Hong Kong, concern over the security of Huawei technology, and the treatment of ethnic Uighur Muslims in China's Xinjiang region. On Thursday, Britain revoked CGTN's licence after concluding that China's ruling Communist Party had ultimate editorial responsibility for the channel. Minutes later, China's foreign ministry accused the British Broadcasting Corp of pushing "fake news" in its Covid-19 reporting, demanding an apology and saying that the broadcaster had politicized the pandemic and "rehashed theories about covering up by China." The BBC said its reporting is fair and unbiased.

Egypt frees Jazeera jurno after 4 years jail: security

Egypt has released Al Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein after more than four years in detention on accusations of publishing false news, a security source said yesterday. Hussein, an Egyptian national held under preventive detention since December 2016, was released from jail Thursday night, the source said, without giving further details. Hussein's reported release from jail comes weeks after Egypt said it had agreed to restore ties with Qatar, shortly after the end of a three-year Saudi-led freeze on relations with Doha. Gulf powerhouse Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, cut ties and transport links with Qatar in June 2017, alleging it backed radical Islamist groups and was too close to Riyadh's rival Iran -- claims Doha denied.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Work together to end vaccine shortage

Urges WHO; J&J seeks US vaccine approval

AGENCIES

World Health Organization Europe's chief appealed for European nations and Big Pharma to unite in the struggle to accelerate coronavirus inoculations, as Johnson & Johnson applied for emergency authorisation of its single-shot vaccine in the United States.

Pressure is growing not only on wealthy nations to speed up their stuttering rollouts, but also for a more equitable allocation of precious vaccine supplies to poorer countries, in a push to end a pandemic that has claimed close to 2.3 million lives.

Supply shortages and diplomatic bickering have marred the vaccine rollouts in Europe, where just 2.5 percent of the population has received a first dose, with the production capacity at pharmaceutical plants a source of tension between the firms and EU bosses.

The virus is known to have infected more than 104 million people globally, and experts have warned that vaccines will only help control its spread and end unpopular and economically painful restrictions if the whole world is covered. The milestone of 100 million administered doses was passed on Tuesday, but 65 percent of them were in high-income countries.

Kluge reiterated the WHO's call for rich countries to help poorer parts of the world, urging them to donate spare doses. "We know that in the EU, Canada, UK, US, they all ordered and made deals for four to nine times more doses than they need," he said.

Meanwhile, Pfizer Inc yesterday said it had withdrawn an application for emergency-use authorisation of its Covid-19 vaccine in India, after failing to meet the drug regulator's demand for a local safety and immunogenicity study.

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তারিখ: ২১ মার্চ, ১৪২৭ ০৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২০-২০২১ অর্থবছরে পিরোজপুর জেলার ০৭টি উপজেলায় কর্তৃত্ব ৪৮০ গ্রাম গ্রাম পুলিশের পোশাক/সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি গ্রহণকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত) মোতাবেক নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

Table with 2 columns: S/N and Details. It lists various items for procurement such as uniforms, equipment, and other supplies for police stations across different upazilas.

স্ব/- আবু আলী মোঃ সাক্কাদ হোসেন জেলা প্রশাসক পিরোজপুর ফোনঃ ০৪৬১-৬২৪০০ E-mail: dcpirojpur@mopa.gov.bd