

# FIRST CALL WITH SAUDI TOP DIPLOMAT Blinken defends human rights

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken championed human rights and called for an end to the war in Yemen in his first phone call with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan, the State Department said Saturday.

During their call Friday, the two men "discussed regional security, counterterrorism, and cooperation to deter and defend against attacks" on the Saudi kingdom, department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

"The Secretary outlined several key priorities of the new administration including elevating human rights issues and ending the war in Yemen," he added.

Former president Donald Trump had been accused by critics of having a low regard for human rights in his support for Saudi leaders.

When the US Congress deemed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman responsible for the killing of US-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Trump instead reiterated his support for the prince, explaining that the relationship with and arms sales to key ally Riyadh were more important than anything else.

The phone call comes after Biden announced Thursday he was ending US support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen, where it has been involved since 2015 to shore up the government against the Iran-backed Huthi rebels. Biden also said his administration would end all connected arms sales for ally Saudi Arabia in the war.

Saudi Arabia welcomed the decision noting that US has committed to defend the Kingdom's sovereignty.



(From right, anti-clockwise) People show the three-finger salute and hold signs demanding the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi as they take part in a protest against the military coup, in Yangon, yesterday; cops threatens with rifles as they continue to disperse protesters in Myawaddy; and a woman holds a candle as Myanmar citizens protest against the military coup in Bangkok.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Biden suspends Trump's controversial asylum deals

The Biden administration said on Saturday it was immediately suspending Trump-era asylum agreements with El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, part of a bid to undo his Republican predecessor's hardline immigration policies. The so-called "safe third country" agreements, inked in 2019 by the Trump administration and the Central American nations, force asylum seekers from the region to first seek refuge in those countries before applying in the United States. The moves announced Saturday came after Biden unveiled a host of measures last week aimed at revamping the US immigration system, including a task force to reunite families separated at the United States-Mexico border and another to increase an annual cap on refugees. Biden plans to raise the refugee cap for the current fiscal year to 62,500. The allocations will create spots for 22,000 refugees from Africa, 6,000 from East Asia, 4,000 from Europe and Central Asia, 5,000 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 13,000 from South Asia.

### Cuba authorizes private activity in majority of sectors

Cuba announced Saturday that private activity will be authorized in most sectors, a major reform in the communist country where the state and its companies dominate economic activity. The measure, which was unveiled last August by Labor Minister Marta Elena Feito, was approved Friday during a meeting of the Council of Ministers, according to the daily Granma, the official newspaper of the ruling Communist Party. Until now, private activity - which has been authorized in Cuba since 2010 but whose real boom dates back to the historic warming of ties between Cuba and the United States, initiated at the end of 2014 under Barack Obama - was limited to a list of sectors set by the state. From now on, a list will determine the sectors reserved for the state, which will be a minority: "Of the more than 2,000 activities in which private work is allowed... only 124 will be limited, partially or totally," Feito said.

### Second Hong Kong radio host arrested for sedition

A Hong Kong internet radio host was arrested yesterday under a little-used colonial era sedition law that authorities have begun to wield against Beijing's critics. Officers from the police's national security department arrested 52-year-old Wan Yiu-sing on a charge of "seditious intent", according to a police statement. Authorities did not disclose what Wan had said or did that was potentially seditious. The radio personality, better known by his DJ name "Giggs", has hosted programmes discussing anti-government demonstrations and previously called for donations to support young Hong Kongers who have fled to nearby Taiwan. Hong Kong's sedition law is separate to a sweeping national security law that Beijing imposed on the city last summer in a bid to stamp out dissent.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Protesters from the faction of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) chant slogans during a protest against the dissolution of the country's parliament, in Kathmandu, yesterday. Political tensions have been rising in the Himalayan nation since Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli dismissed the legislature in December, accusing members of his Communist Party of non-cooperation.

PHOTO: AFP

# Lift all sanctions to save deal

## Khamenei tells US as he delivers 'final' decision on nuke deal; Iran says Biden's actions not enough to solve Yemen crisis

AGENCIES

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday said that Tehran's "final and irreversible" decision was to return to compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal only if Washington lifts sanctions on the Islamic Republic, Iranian state TV reported.

The deal between Iran and six major powers limited Iran's uranium enrichment activity to make it harder for Tehran to develop nuclear arms - an ambition Iran has long denied having - in return for the easing of US and other sanctions. But former US president Trump abandoned the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

"Iran has fulfilled all its obligations under the deal, not the United States and the three European countries... If they want Iran to return to its commitments, the United States must in practice... lift all sanctions," state TV quoted Khamenei as saying in a meeting with Air Force commanders.



"Then, after verifying whether all sanctions have been lifted correctly, we will return to full compliance... It is the irreversible and final decision and all Iranian officials have consensus over it."

In response to Trump's withdrawal, Tehran has breached the deal's key limits one after the other, building up its stockpile of low-enriched uranium, refining uranium to a higher level of purity and using advanced centrifuges for enrichment.

US President Joe Biden, who took office last month, has said that if Tehran returned to strict compliance with the pact, Washington would follow suit and use that as a springboard

to a broader agreement that might restrict Iran's missile development and regional activities.

Earlier, Iran's foreign minister urged Washington to act fast to return to the nuclear accord, pointing out that legislation passed by parliament forces the government to harden its nuclear stance if US sanctions are not eased by Feb 21. Mohammad Javad Zarif also referred to elections in Iran in June. If a hardline president is elected, this could further jeopardize the deal.

Separately, Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that a new US stand on the Yemen war could be a helpful step, after Biden said this week Washington was ending its support for a Saudi Arabia-led military campaign in Yemen.

But the statement added, "This alone won't solve Yemen's problem, and the air, sea and land blockade that killed thousands of people in the country due to a lack of food and medicine must be lifted, and the military attacks of the aggressor states led by Saudi Arabia must be ended".

# VACCINE DIPLOMACY India seeks to rival China with broad shipments

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has approved the shipment of Covid-19 vaccine to Cambodia and plans to supply Mongolia and Pacific Island states, officials said yesterday, as supplies arrived in Afghanistan - all part of the country's widening vaccine diplomacy.

Seeking to steal a march over rival Asian giant China, which has also promised to deliver shots, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been giving nearby countries millions of doses of the locally made AstraZeneca PLC vaccine, even as its domestic immunisation programme has just begun.

Modi is using India's strength as the world's biggest maker of vaccines for various diseases to improve regional ties and push back against China's political and economic dominance.

New Delhi has approved 100,000 doses for Cambodia on an urgent basis following a request to Modi from Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, India's envoy to Phnom Penh said.

Cambodia is an important ally of China, which is expected to provide a million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, mainly developed by state firm Sinopharm.

India has given doses to Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to help them get started with frontline workers as part of its Vaccine Friendship initiative.

Yesterday, it sent 500,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Afghanistan, the first to arrive in the war-ravaged country, which is still waiting for emergency approval from the World Health Organization to administer them.

So far, India has supplied 15.6 million doses of the vaccine to 17 countries either through donations or commercial contracts, said foreign ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava.



# EU's Borrell backs dialogue with Russia

AFP, Brussels

The European Union's top diplomat defended his controversial trip to Russia, adding that European diplomats had been in contact with lawyers of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

Europe has fiercely condemned a Russian court's decision this week to jail the 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner for nearly three years, and a crackdown on pro-Navalny protesters that has seen more than 10,000 people arrested in recent weeks.

Amid the outrage over Navalny, the visit by Josep Borrell divided EU member states, but the former Spanish foreign minister insisted that dialogue with Russia must be maintained despite the acrimony.

"Diplomatic channels need to remain open, not only to de-escalate crises or incidents, but to hold direct exchanges, deliver firm and frank messages, all the more so when relations are far from satisfactory," he said.

The strategy was put to the test, however, when Moscow expelled diplomats from Poland, Germany and Sweden during his visit and just hours after Borrell met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to discuss ties.

Russia accused them of attending "illegal protests" on January 23 in support of Navalny.

Borrell said he would debrief his trip to foreign ministers from the 27 member states on February 22 and that EU leaders would discuss their strained ties with Moscow at a summit in March.

# Modi Warns Mamata of 'Ram Card' ahead of polls

NDTV ONLINE

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi - whose silence on the "Jai Shri Ram" slogan episode during his last visit to Bengal was questioned by the state's ruling Trinamool Congress, made his position clear yesterday.

Ahead of state polls, which may be held in April or May, war of words have escalated between BJP and TMS. BJP has launched "Mission Bengal", a poll effort the party has taken under the direct supervision of BJP chief JP Nadda and Amit Shah. An 11-member team, packed with two national general secretaries and five national secretaries including BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya, has been formed to oversee the election effort.

"Bengal loves football. So let me speak in that language. Trinamool has made many fouls, one after the other. The foul of misgovernance, attacks on opposition leaders, theft of money... The people of Bengal are watching. Bengal will soon show Trinamool the Ram card," the PM said at a function in Haldia, the home turf of former minister Suwendu Adhikari, who left Trinamool to join the BJP in December.

Banerjee, still smarting from the January 23 episode when "Jai Shri Ram" slogans were shouted at the programme at Victoria Memorial, sent a negative RSVP for yesterday's event.

What stung her party more was the PM's silence about the episode. "His silence condones the behaviour of the BJP supporters," Bengal's urban affairs minister Firhad Hakim said.

The CM, known to get upset at "Jai Shri Ram slogans" which have become a battle cry for the BJP in the state, had refused to continue with her speech when some people from the back shouted the slogans as she rose to speak. "This is not a political programme. Government programmes should have some dignity. It is not fair to insult someone you have invited," she had said, before stepping down.

Her stance got support from rivals - the Congress and the CPIM.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়  
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১  
আদামজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

তারিখঃ ০৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২১

"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক সন্মতি ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে র‍্যাব-১১, এর অধিনস্থ সিপিএসসি নারায়ণগঞ্জ ক্যাম্পের অফিস ও এমটি গ্যারেজ সেরামত/সংস্কার এবং সিপিএস-২ কুমিল্লা ক্যাম্পের এমটি গ্যারেজ সেরামত/সংস্কার কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশের ত্রিকাদার/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। সংস্থা	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (র‍্যাব)।
৩। সংগ্রহ সত্ত্বার নাম	ঃ পরিচালক, র‍্যাব-১১, আদামজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৪। সংগ্রাহক সত্ত্বার জেলা	ঃ নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৫। দরপত্রের বিষয়	ঃ সেরামত/সংস্কার কাজ।
৬। দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর	ঃ স্মারক নং র‍্যাব হেঃ কোঃ ৫৯৬/উন্নয়ন/কন্সট্রাক্ট/২১২ তারিখ ০৫ জানুয়ারি ২০২১।
৭। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)।
৮। বাজেট ও বরাদ্দের উৎস	ঃ রাজস্ব বাজেটের আওতায় র‍্যাবের অনুকূলে বরাদ্দ।
৯। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ উন্নয়ন ০১/২০২০-২০২১।
১০। দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রান্তির তারিখ	ঃ ২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১ খ্রিঃ সময় ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১ খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১ খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও ঠিকানা	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদামজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির স্থান	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদামজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
দরপত্র আহ্বানের স্থান	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদামজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ "The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" অনুযায়ী সেরামত/সংস্কার কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সরকারি/খায়তপালিসিত সংস্থার তালিকাভুক্ত বৈধ ত্রিকাদার।
১৪। দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ "The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" অনুযায়ী সেরামত/সংস্কার কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সরকারি/খায়তপালিসিত সংস্থার তালিকাভুক্ত বৈধ ত্রিকাদার।
১৫। দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হইবে	ঃ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ত্রিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, দরপত্র জমানতের পে-অর্ডার এবং কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র।

লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জমানত	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
০১।	র‍্যাব-১১, এর অধিনস্থ সিপিএসসি নারায়ণগঞ্জ ক্যাম্পের অফিস সেরামত/সংস্কার করণ	৫০০.০০	১০০০০.০০	কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ১৫ দিন
০২।	র‍্যাব-১১, এর অধিনস্থ সিপিএসসি নারায়ণগঞ্জ ক্যাম্পের এমটি গ্যারেজ সেরামত/সংস্কার করণ	৫০০.০০	১০০০০.০০	
০৩।	র‍্যাব-১১, এর অধিনস্থ সিপিএস-২ কুমিল্লা ক্যাম্পের এমটি গ্যারেজ সেরামত/সংস্কার করণ	৫০০.০০	১০০০০.০০	

১৭। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম  
১৮। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী  
১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা  
২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম  
২১। বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ

ক। ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাকেট আবেদনপূর্বক পরিচালক র‍্যাব-১১, আদামজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

খ। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে।

গ। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হইতে দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র ৩০ দিন পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকিবে।

ঘ। অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

ঙ। দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করিতে হইবে।

চ। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

ছ। কোন প্রকার কাটা ছেঁড়া, ঘষামাজা বা কারেকাটি মুহূর্ত বাবহার করা যাবে না।

জ। সিডিউল ক্রমের সময় অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের তালিকাভুক্ত ত্রিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আনতে হবে।

খন্দকার সাইফুল আলম, পিবিজিএম, পিবিজিএমএস।  
পেঃ কর্ণেল  
পরিচালক  
ফোনঃ ৭৬৯৪৯৩৩

জিডি-২৫৭