



Troops are seen at the main square where hundreds of people were protesting against the government, after authorities’ decision to lift price caps on liquefied petroleum gas, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, yesterday; a man takes a picture as a burned car is seen in front of theorched mayor’s office building.

PHOTO: REUTERS



# ‘Dozens’ killed in Kazakhstan unrest

## Russia-led troops sent to tackle ‘terrorist groups’; nationwide state of emergency declared

AFP, Almaty

A Moscow-led military alliance dispatched troops to help quell mounting unrest in Kazakhstan on Thursday as police said dozens were killed trying to storm government buildings.

Long seen as one the most stable of the ex-Soviet republics of Central Asia, energy-rich Kazakhstan is facing its biggest crisis in decades after days of protests over rising fuel prices escalated into widespread unrest.

Under increasing pressure, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev appealed overnight to the Russia-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), which includes five other ex-Soviet states, to combat what he called

“terrorist groups” that had “received extensive training abroad”.

Within hours the alliance said the first troops had been sent – including Russian paratroopers and military units from the other CSTO members – in its first major joint action since its founding in 1999.

Tokayev said in a televised address early yesterday that “terrorists” were seizing buildings, infrastructure and small arms, and battling security forces.

Tokayev tried to head off further unrest by announcing the resignation of the cabinet early on Wednesday, but protests continued.

Military forces had deployed en masse in the streets of Almaty and were firing live rounds, according to footage

shown on Russian television yesterday. Videos on social media showed pillaged shops and burned buildings in Almaty, automatic gunfire in the streets and residents screaming in fear.

Officials said more than 1,000 people had been wounded in the unrest, with nearly 400 hospitalised and 62 in intensive care. As of midday yesterday, more than 350 security officers had been wounded and 13 killed, including two who had their heads cut off, officials told local media.

Protests spread across the nation of 19 million this week in outrage over a New Year increase in prices for liquid petroleum gas (LPG), which is widely used to fuel cars in the west of the country.

Protesters were reported to have stormed several government buildings on Wednesday, including the Almaty mayor’s office and the presidential residence. The full picture of the chaos was unclear, with widespread disruptions to communications including mobile phone signals, the blocking of online messengers and hours-long internet shutdowns.

With protests escalating, the government late on Wednesday said a state of emergency declared in protest-hit areas would be extended nationwide and in effect until January 19.

The EU and the UN called for “restraint” on all sides, while Washington urged authorities to allow protesters to “express themselves peacefully.”

# China isn’t trapping Africa in debt: FM

AFP, Mombasa

China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi yesterday rejected suggestions that Beijing was luring African countries into debt traps by offering them massive loans, dismissing the idea as a “narrative” pushed by opponents to poverty reduction. Wang, speaking ahead of touring Beijing-funded infrastructure projects in Kenya, said China’s considerable lending to Africa was “mutually benefiting” and not a strategy to extract diplomatic and commercial concessions.

Wang’s three-nation tour of Eritrea, Kenya and the Comoros follows a trip to Africa by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in November that in part aimed at countering China’s growing influence on the continent. China is Africa’s largest trading partner, with direct trade worth over \$200 billion in 2019.

# Bulli Bai app: India arrests ‘mastermind’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Delhi Police yesterday arrested the alleged mastermind and creator of the controversial ‘Bulli Bai’ app. According to the Delhi Police, the accused has been identified as Neeraj Bishnoi, a 21-year-old engineering student who is also allegedly the main Twitter account holder of the mobile application where hundreds of Muslim women were listed for “auction” with doctored photographs. Police claimed Bishnoi, who was arrested in Assam, as the “main conspirator and creator” of the app. Bishnoi is the fourth arrest made in connection with the controversial case which sparked an outrage. The cyber cell of Mumbai Police, which is also probing the case, has so far made three arrests – a 19-year-old woman from Uttarakhand, a 21-year-old engineering student from Bengaluru, and another 21-year-old, also from Uttarakhand.



# North Korea tested ‘hypersonic missile’

AFP, Seoul

North Korea has successfully tested a hypersonic missile, state media reported Thursday, in the first major weapons test by the nuclear-armed nation this year.

This was the second reported test of what Pyongyang claimed were hypersonic gliding missiles, as it pursues the sophisticated technology despite international sanctions and condemnation.

Hypersonic missiles move far faster and are more agile than standard ones, making them much harder for missile defence systems – on which the United States is spending billions – to intercept.

The missile fired on Wednesday carried a “hypersonic gliding warhead” that “precisely hit a target 700 km away”, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, without identifying the launcher.

The warhead also demonstrated a “new” capability, moving 120 km laterally after it detached from the launcher to strike the target, it added.

The Wednesday launch also tested the “fuel ampoule system, according to KCNA. An ampoule system involves a propellant canister attached to the missile when it is manufactured, and could eliminate the need for fuelling it at the launch site. This offers an advantage over ordinary liquid-fuelled missiles, which have to be loaded with propellant on-site just before launch – a time-consuming process that gives an enemy ample opportunity to locate and destroy them.

The US, Japan and Canada condemned the test.

# ‘I’ll defend this nation’

## Biden, on Capitol riot anniversary, says Trump’s ‘lies’ poses threat to US democracy

REUTERS, Washington

President Joe Biden yesterday accused his predecessor Donald Trump of posing a continuing threat to American democracy in a speech on the anniversary of the deadly US Capitol attack by Trump supporters who tried to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

Speaking at the white-domed building that was the scene of the Jan 6, 2021, riot, Biden warned that Trump’s false claims that the election was stolen from him through widespread voting fraud could unravel the rule of law and undermine future elections.

“We must be absolutely clear about what is true and what is a lie. Here’s the truth: A former president of the United States of America has created and spread a web of lies about the 2020 election. He’s done so because he values power over principle,” Biden said.

“He can’t accept he lost,” Biden added.

According to Reuters/Ipsos polling, some 55 percent of Republican voters believe Trump’s false claim, which was rejected by dozens of courts, state election departments and members of Trump’s own administration.

Accusing Trump of seeking to perpetuate a “big lie,” Biden said there is a “battle for the soul of America” and a struggle at home and abroad between the forces of democracy and autocracy.

“I will allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of democracy,” Biden

said at the Capitol. “I will stand in this breach. I will defend this nation.”

Trump in a statement issued after the speech said that Biden “used my name today to try to further divide America.”

Four people died in the hours-long chaos a year ago, which occurred after Trump urged supporters to march to the Capitol and “fight like hell.” One police officer died the day after battling rioters and four later died by suicide. Around 140 police officers were injured.

Some observers say they worry Trump’s false claims could make it less likely that future transfers of power in America will be peaceful – especially those involving closer margins than the 2020 election, which Biden won by 7 million votes nationwide.

On Tuesday, Trump canceled plans to mark the anniversary with a news conference. He plans to speak instead on Jan 15 at a rally in Arizona.

Most Republican officials and officeholders have remained loyal to Trump.

US prosecutors have brought criminal charges against at least 725 people linked to the riot.

Democrats are using the anniversary to push for broad voting-rights legislation that they say is needed to counteract Republican efforts to tighten voting laws at the state level. So far Democrats have been unable to round up enough support to ensure passage in the Senate.

Republicans say Democrats are exploiting the anniversary for partisan purposes.



A child tries to run away before receiving a dose of a vaccine as the country continues a mass vaccination program for children aged 6-12 amid the spread of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, in Bandung, West Java province, Indonesia, yesterday, in this photo taken by Antara Foto.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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It’s very hard to make actual progress in any of these areas in an atmosphere of escalation and threat with a gun pointed to Ukraine’s head. Russia should be in no doubt that further military aggression against Ukraine would have massive consequences.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken ahead of talks with Russia

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD				
Road Division, Satkhira				
Quotation Notice for Lease of Toll Collection				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division.		
2	Agency	Roads & Highways Department.		
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Satkhira.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Satkhira.		
6	Invitation for	Lease for Toll Collection.		Single lot
7	Invitation Ref No.	1108		
8	Date	05-01-2022		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	N/A.		
11	Development partners	--		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/programme code	N/A.		
13	Project/programme name	N/A.		
14	Quotation Package No.	01 (One)/SRD/2021-22. (1st Call).		Single Lot
15	Quotation package name	Lease for Toll collection of Noabaki Ferryghat (for three years) over the river Kholpatua at 25th km of Koyra-Noabaki-Shyamnagar Road (Z-7610), under Road Division, Satkhira during the year 2021-2022.		
		Date		
16	Quotation publication date	08-01-2022		
17	Tender last selling date	23-01-2022		Up to office hour.
		Date	Time	
18	Quotation closing date and time:			
	Primary Place	24-01-2022	12:30pm	
	Secondary Place	24-01-2022	12:30pm	
19	Quotationer opening date and time	24-01-2022	02:00pm	
20	Name & address of the office(s)			
	Address			
	- Selling quotation document (principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Satkhira.		
	- Selling quotation document (others)	1. Divisional Commissioner, Khulna. 2. Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira. 3. Superintendent of Police, Satkhira. 4. Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Khulna/Bagerhat. 5. Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division 1/2/1st line w/s Sub-Division, Satkhira.		
	- Receiving quotation document (primary place)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Satkhira.		
	- Receiving quotation document (secondary place)	Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Khulna. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Satkhira.		
	- Opening quotation document	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Satkhira.		
21	Place/date /time of			
	Pre-quotation meeting (optional)	For any clarification concern agency may communicate with the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Satkhira.		
		Date	Time	
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INFORMATION FOR QUOTATION				
22	Eligibility of quotationer	Enlisted contractors/interested person or firm those who have trade license, Vat registration certificate & up-to-date renewal income tax certificate.		
23	Brief description of works	Lease for Toll collection of Noabaki Ferryghat (for three years) over the river Kholpatua at 25th km of Koyra-Noabaki-Shyamnagar Road (Z-7610), under Road Division, Satkhira during the year 2021-2022.		
24	Brief description of physical services	As per lot description.		
25	Price of quotation document (Tk)	Tk 5,000/- (five thousand) only.		
26.1	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Quotation security amount (Tk)
	1	Lease for Toll collection of Noabaki Ferryghat (for three years) over the river Kholpatua at 25th km of Koyra-Noabaki-Shyamnagar Road (Z-7610), under Road Division, Satkhira during the year 2021-2022.	At 25th km	10% of total quoted rate (inc. Vat & I.T.) (BD/PO in favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Satkhira.
				Lease period
				01-07-2022 to 30-06-2025 Or from the signing of contract agreement to 30-06-2025
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
30	Name of official inviting quotation		Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed.	
31	Designation of official inviting quotation		Executive Engineer, RHD.	
32	Address of official inviting quotation		Road Division, Satkhira.	
33	Contact details of official inviting quotation		Tel. No. 0471-62657, Fax No. 0471-62656. Email No. eesat@rhd.gov.bd	
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the quotations or annul the tender proceedings.			
Note:1- In under any unavoidable circumstances tender documents selling, receiving & opening disturbance, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.				
Note:2- This tender notice will be found in RHD website <a href="http://www.rhd.gov.bd">www.rhd.gov.bd</a> .				
GD-38				
Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Satkhira				