



(L-R) German Federal Constitutional Court President Stephan Harbarth, the President of the Bundestag Baerbel Bas, the Speaker of Israel's Knesset parliament Mickey Levy, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Thuringia's State Premier Bodo Ramelow take part in a wreath-laying ceremony at Berlin's Holocaust memorial, yesterday, as part of the ceremonies on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945.

PHOTO: AFP

WINTER OLYMPICS

China warns US over 'interfering'

AFP, Beijing

China warned the United States to "stop interfering" in the Winter Olympics yesterday, a week before the controversy-hit Games are due to start in Beijing.

As the first city to host both a Winter and Summer Games, Beijing has been hoping to turn next week's sports extravaganza into a soft power triumph.

But the lead-up has been clouded by a US-led diplomatic boycott over China's human rights record, particularly its policy towards its Uyghur Muslim minority in the Xinjiang region that Washington has labelled a "genocide".

China's top diplomat Wang Yi spoke with his US counterpart Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to a foreign ministry statement yesterday.

"The most urgent priority right now is that the US should stop interfering in the Beijing Winter Olympics," Wang said during the call.

In the call, the officials also discussed the growing tensions in Europe over Ukraine, with Wang telling Blinken that Russia's security concerns "should be taken seriously".

Rights campaigners have accused the International Olympic Committee of turning a blind eye to what they say is a litany of abuses in China, including in Tibet and its ongoing clampdown on free expression in Hong Kong.

US REPLY TO RUSSIA'S SECURITY CONCERNS Nato's door open for Ukraine

Says Blinken; Kremlin says Russia will 'not rush to conclusions', more talks possible



AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday said that the United States was failing to address its main security concerns over Ukraine but left the door open to further talks to ease tensions.

Relations between Russia and the West have reached their lowest point since the Cold War after Moscow deployed tens of thousands of troops on the border of pro-Western Ukraine, raising fears of an invasion.

Russia denies any plans to invade but last month put forward demands for wide-ranging security guarantees from the West, including that Ukraine never be allowed to join the US-led Nato military alliance.

The United States on Wednesday delivered a reply in co-ordination with Nato allies, rejecting any ban on Ukraine, but offering what it called a new "diplomatic path" out of the crisis.

Kremlin wasn't impressed by the reply but said "let's not rush into assessments".

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow's chief concern – the potential for Ukraine to join Nato – had been ignored, but that it would be

possible to move forward on other issues.

"There was no positive response to the main question," Lavrov said in a statement, but "there is a response which gives hope for the start of a serious conversation on secondary questions".

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that he would speak again in the coming days to Lavrov.

He renewed an offer on "reciprocal" measures to address mutual security concerns, including reductions of missiles in Europe and transparency on military drills and Western aid to Ukraine.

But he made clear that the United States would not budge on Russia's core demand that Ukraine never be allowed to join Nato.

"Nato's door is open, remains open, and that is our commitment," Blinken said.

In a bid to defuse tensions, senior Russian and Ukrainian officials met for eight hours in Paris with representatives of France and Germany on Wednesday.

Dmitry Kozak, the Kremlin deputy chief of staff, said the talks were "not simple" but that another round would take place in two weeks in Berlin.

'Afghanistan hanging by a thread'

Warns UN chief

AFP, United Nations

The Taliban must uphold the fundamental human rights of women and children, the United Nations chief said Wednesday, urging the international community to release frozen Afghan aid to prevent families from selling their babies to buy food.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also warned that "Afghanistan is hanging by a thread" as millions of impoverished citizens struggle to survive amid deteriorating humanitarian conditions.

"We urge the Taliban to seize this moment and garner international trust and goodwill by recognizing – and upholding – the basic human rights that belong to every girl and woman," Guterres told a UN Security Council meeting.

He expressed concern about recent reports of arbitrary arrests and abductions of women activists, saying: "I strongly appeal for their release."

Over half of all Afghans face "extreme levels of hunger," Guterres told the council, and "some families are selling their babies to purchase food."

The Taliban have held talks with Western powers in Oslo this week to release aid to avert the crisis. No country has recognized the Taliban government.

224 new species found in Mekong region: WWF

AFP, Bangkok

Scientists discovered more than 200 new species across the greater Mekong region in 2020, according to a WWF report, despite the threats posed by climate change and human activities such as logging.

The finds include a new primate, a colourless cavefish and an iridescent snake with an unusual non-overlapping pattern of scales.

In all, 224 new species of plants and vertebrate animals were found in the region – which includes Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam – WWF said in its "New Species Discoveries" report.

Images of the Popa langur monkey, which takes its name from the extinct volcano Mount Popa in central Myanmar, were caught by camera traps.

The mountain is still home to the largest population of the reclusive simian, around 100 individuals, WWF said. Only around 200 to 250 of the monkeys – which are threatened by hunting, logging and loss of habitat – are thought to survive in total.

In Vietnam, researchers found the vivid-coloured Mount Ky Quan San horned frog at an altitude of more than 2,000 metres on the peak which gives it its name.

The greater Mekong region, with landscapes ranging from jungles to mountains and karst formations, is a hugely important biodiversity hotspot.

N Korea fires 2 missiles

AFP, SEOUL

North Korea fired two suspected ballistic missiles yesterday, Seoul said, its sixth weapons test this month. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected two suspected short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Hamhung city area towards the East Sea from around 8:00 am. North Korea has not tested intercontinental ballistic missiles or nukes since 2017, but last week hinted it could restart such launches, blaming US "hostile" policy for forcing its hand.

UNSC meets on Myanmar

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council will meet today with a minister from Asean chair Cambodia to discuss the chaotic situation in Myanmar, nearly one year after a coup ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, diplomatic sources said. Cambodia's Asean envoy to Myanmar, Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, will attend the closed-door talks along with UN's special envoy for Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer, the sources told AFP. Cambodia's PM Hun Sen visited Myanmar as the first foreign leader since the coup. Critics say Hun Sen's visit risks legitimizing the junta.

OBITUARY

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

"Surely we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return"

Mahabub Kazi, loving and devoted husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. He was a well-respected businessman, philanthropist and social activist, breathed his last on 23 January 2022 (Sunday) at 04:45pm at Northwick Park Hospital, London, UK, at the age of 74. He was immensely loved and respected by everyone that knew him. We request you to pray for his departed soul and that Allah places him in the highest rank in Jannat. His **Namaze-Janaza will be held on 29 January 2022 (Saturday)** at Baridhara Jame Masjid, Road # 01, after Magrib prayers.

Regards from the grieving family,

Nasima Mahabub (Beloved wife), Mostafiz, Tania & Safiyy, Farhana, Shamim, Adyan & Uzair, Rifaetul, Tahsina, Shehzad & Zayden

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Begumganj, District: Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Date: 26/01/2022

Memo No. 46.02.7507.000.27.001.22-56

e-Tender Notice No. 04/2021-22 (OTM)
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details in table.

SL No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Tender document last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
01	653085	INF-2019-20-207507-01	16-02-2022 17.00	17-02-2022 12.00
02	653083	INF-2019-20-207507-02	16-02-2022 17.00	17-02-2022 12.00
03	653084	INF-2019-20-207507-03	16-02-2022 17.00	17-02-2022 12.00
04	653082	INF-2019-20-207507-04	16-02-2022 17.00	17-02-2022 12.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to abovementioned date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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GD-162

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিআরটিএ)

বিআরটিএ ভবন

নতুন বিমানবন্দর সড়ক, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১২।

জরিমানা মওকুফ সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অর্থ বিভাগের ০৪-০১-২০২২খ্রি: তারিখের ০৭.০০.০০০.১৪৩.৫০.০০৩.২১-০২ সংখ্যক স্মারকের সম্মতির প্রেক্ষিতে এবং সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগের ১০-০১-২০২২খ্রি: তারিখের স্মারক নং-৩৫.০০.০০০০.০২০.০৪.০১৭.১৩-১১ সংখ্যক প্রজ্ঞাপন মোতাবেক জরিমানা ব্যতীত মূল কর ও ফি জমা প্রদানপূর্বক সকল প্রকার মোটরযানের কাগজপত্র (ফিটনেস, ট্যাক্স টোকেন ও রুট পারমিট) এবং ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স হালনাগাদ করার সময়সীমা আগামী ২৮-০২-২০২২খ্রি: তারিখ পর্যন্ত শেষবারের মতো বৃদ্ধি করা হয়েছে।

২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত জরিমানা মওকুফের এ সুযোগ গ্রহণ করে মোটরযান মালিক ও ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সধারীকে কাগজপত্র হালনাগাদ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

বিআরটিএ

GD-168