



Sadhus or holy men return after taking a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of rivers Ganges, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati, on the occasion of “Basant Panchami” during the Magh Mela festival in Allahabad, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

China urges ‘flexibility’ from US on N Korea

AFP, United Nations

China’s UN ambassador on Friday called on the United States to be more flexible in its dealings with North Korea, as Beijing joined others to scrap a US-drafted Security Council joint statement condemning Pyongyang’s missile launches, diplomats said.

Kim Jong Un’s regime conducted an unprecedented seven weapons tests in January, including launching its most powerful missile since 2017 as it hinted it could restart long-range and nuclear testing.

Washington had proposed a statement decrying those launches, but China and Russia, along with other nations, refused to sign on to it.

“If they do want to see some new breakthrough, they should show more sincerity and flexibility,” China’s ambassador to the UN, Zhang Jun, said of US officials ahead of a closed-door meeting.

‘Good but not enough’

Says Tehran after US waives sanctions on Iran’s civil nuclear program

AFP, Tehran

US steps on lifting sanctions are “good but not enough”, Iran said yesterday, following Washington’s announcement it was waiving sanctions on Iran’s civilian nuclear programme.

The US action came as talks to restore a 2015 deal between Tehran and world powers over its nuclear programme reached an advanced stage, with the issue of sanctions relief a major issue.

“The lifting of some sanctions can, in the true sense of the word, translate into their good will. Americans talk about it, but it should be known that what happens on paper is good but not enough,” Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said, quoted by ISNA news agency.

The secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council also reflected Tehran’s view that the US move falls short.

“Real, effective and verifiable economic benefit for Iran is a necessary condition for the formation of an agreement,” Ali Shamkhani said in a tweet.

“The show of lifting sanctions is not considered a constructive effort,” he added.

The US State Department on Friday said it was waiving sanctions on Iran’s civilian nuclear programme in a technical step necessary to return to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

State Department spokesman Ned Price insisted this US step is a sanctions waiver for the civilian nuclear program and not broader sanctions relief.

Former president Donald Trump withdrew from the pact in 2018 and reimposed crippling sanctions on Iran,

“Real, effective and verifiable economic benefit for Iran is a necessary condition for the formation of an agreement. The show of lifting sanctions is not considered a constructive effort.”

ALI SHAMKHANI secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council

prompting the Islamic republic to begin pulling back from its commitments under the deal.

The waiver allows other countries and companies to participate in Iran’s civilian nuclear programme without triggering

US sanctions on them, in the name of promoting safety and non-proliferation.

Iran’s civilian programme includes increasing stockpiles of enriched uranium.

Amir-Abdollahian reiterated that one of the “main issues” in the JCPOA talks is obtaining guarantees that the US will not withdraw from the 2015 deal again.

“We seek and demand guarantees in the political, legal and economic sectors,” he said, adding that “agreements have been reached in some areas”.

Iran is negotiating with the UK, France, Germany, China and Russia directly and with the US indirectly in the Vienna talks which different parties say have reached a stage where the sides have to make important “political decisions”.

Earlier on Saturday, foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said: “Naturally, Tehran is carefully considering any action that is in the right direction of fulfilling the obligations of the JCPOA”, local media reported.

Moscow’s ambassador to the UN in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, yesterday welcomed the US waiver decision as “a move in the right direction”.

Talks on reviving the nuclear deal were halted last week and the negotiators returned to their capitals for consultations.

Experts say the JCPOA talks could resume next week.

‘ANTI-NATIONAL’ POSTS

India arrests Kashmir journo

AFP, Srinagar

A prominent journalist in Indian-administered Kashmir has been arrested by police and accused of “glorifying terrorism” and “spreading fake news” in the disputed territory, where a running press crackdown has intensified.

Fahad Shah, the editor of Kashmir Walla news portal, had already been questioned several times for his reporting by officers in recent years.

He had been arrested for “glorifying terrorism, spreading fake news and inciting general public”, Kashmir police said yesterday. A police statement that followed his arrest the day before added that Shah’s Facebook posts had dented “the image of law enforcing agencies”.

The Committee to Protect Journalists demanded Shah’s release and called on Indian authorities to respect press freedom in Kashmir.

Dozens of journalists in Indian-controlled Kashmir have regularly been summoned by police and questioned on their work since 2019, when New Delhi revoked the territory’s partial autonomy and brought it under direct rule.

They have also been increasingly subject to harassment, arrests, raids and prosecution on “terrorism” related charges.

Everest’s highest glacier rapidly losing ice: study

AFP, Kathmandu

Ice on a glacier near the summit of Mount Everest that took millennia to form has shrunk dramatically in the last three decades due to climate change, a new study has shown.

The South Col formation may already have lost around 55 metres (180 feet) of thickness in the last 25 years, according to research led by the University of Maine and published this week by Nature.

Carbon dating showed the top layer of ice was around 2,000 years old, suggesting that the glacier was thinning more than 80 times faster than the time it took to form, the study said.

At that rate, South Col was “probably going to disappear within very few decades”, lead scientist Paul Mayewski told National Geographic.

The South Col glacier is around 7,900 metres (26,000 feet) above sea level and a kilometre below the peak of the world’s highest mountain.

Other researchers have shown that Himalayan glaciers are melting at an accelerating rate. As the glaciers shrink, hundreds of lakes have formed in the foothills of Himalayan mountains that could burst and unleash floods.

Himalayan glaciers are a critical water source for nearly two billion people living around the mountains and river valleys below. They feed 10 of the world’s most important river systems and also help supply billions of people with food and energy.



Journo Pir Habib no more

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movement.

He was the brother of Jatiya Party lawmaker Pir Fazlur Rahman of Sunamganj-4.

He worked at Jugantor and Banglabazar Patrika before joining Bangladesh Pratidin. He also worked as an advisory editor of Manobkhantha.

He wrote several books including Off The Record,

Exclusive, Talk of the Press, novel Mandira and Lajjabati etc.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Sunamganj Sadar’s Majibari on Monday.

His body will be taken in front of Central Shaheed Minar at 11:30am today.

After Johar prayers, his Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on National Press

Club premises.

Then, the body will be taken in front of Dhaka Reporters’ Unity and Bangladesh Pratidin office.

The next day at 12:00pm, the body will be taken to Sunamganj Shaheed Minar, central mosque and his village.

Pir Habib’s first Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Uttara’s Sector-4 yesterday.

New Paxovir

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to be a breakthrough in ending the pandemic.

Prof Ismail Patwary, former head of medicine at Sylhet M. A. G. Osmani Medical College, said Paxovir would be a lifesaver for patients older than 60 and have comorbidity.

Mohammad Mujahidul, executive director (marketing and sales) at Eskayef, said the drugmaker will leave no stones unturned to bring all possible Covid drugs to Bangladesh.

Murad Hossain, senior manager (medical affairs) at Eskayef, moderated the discussion.

Paxovir is the second oral Covid treatment drug rolled out by Eskayef, which recently marketed the antiviral pill Monuvir.

Paxovir appears to be substantially more effective than monuvir, which reduced the risk of hospitalisation and death for high-risk patients by 30 percent.

Cyclone Batsirai closes in on Madagascar

AFP, Vatamandry

As powerful Cyclone Batsirai closed in on eastern Madagascar yesterday people sought shelter in more secure concrete buildings while others reinforced their roofs with large sandbags.

Govt doubling down on stance

FROM PAGE 1

A Bangladesh diplomat from Geneva told this correspondent yesterday that the Bangladesh embassy has not yet received any invitation for the meetings, adding that which countries will be discussed in the meeting has not been known yet.

In a statement on December 6, the UN Working Group said 76 cases of enforced disappearances were pending in Bangladesh.

The group reiterated its concerns regarding the situation, which it has been raising in similar reports for several years, with little engagement by the Bangladesh government.

It said it has not received replies to any outstanding cases during the reporting period and that only one case has been clarified by

the government since the working group transmitted the first case to it in 1996.

The Working Group noted with concern that it has been raising similar reports regarding enforced disappearances in Bangladesh for several years, but was alarmed that it continues to receive cases, many of which relate to individuals linked to opposition political parties, and by the apparent impunity for the practice in the country.

Foreign Minister Momen said the objective of the ongoing propaganda against Bangladesh is not about human rights for its geopolitical and strategic position.

After attending an event titled “Branding Bangladesh”, organised by the Centre for Non-resident Bangladeshis, he said some

UN organisations were provided with the report on enforced disappearances by a “very biased” Bangladeshi organisation.

On the recent allegations by victim family, Momen said some people alleged being harassed after police went to talk to them about their missing family members. However, police have now stopped enquiring about them.

The minister added they have asked police to hold meetings with those families in the presence of media.

“The government does not want a single person to be a victim of extra-judicial killings or enforced disappearances. It wants to establish rule of law.

“However, sometimes various criminal groups commit such crimes, which is not unique in Bangladesh,” he said.

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়		
প্রশাসন শাখা		
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
১.	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ঃ বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।
২.	অর্থের উৎস	ঃ জিওবি।
৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও তারিখ	ঃ ১১.০০.০০০০.৬০৪.০৭.০৭৩.২১/৩৭৬, তারিখঃ ০৩/০২/২০২২।
৪.	দরপত্রের ধরণ	ঃ ওপেন টেন্ডার।
৫.	অনুষ্ঠান নির্মাণের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	ঃ সংসদ বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশনে সম্প্রচারের নির্মিত “বিজয়ের নিশান উড়ছে ঐ” নামীয় অনুষ্ঠান নির্মাণের জন্য উপযুক্ত প্রোডাকশন হাউজ/সার্ভিস প্রোভাইডার/নটিক ও চলচ্চিত্র নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগ।
৬.	সরবরাহের সময়	ঃ চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।
৭.	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ দরপত্রের সাথে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ২০২০-২০২১ কর বর্ষের আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রমাণক, ১১ ডিজিটের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র/বিন, হাল তারিখের লিকুইড এ্যাসেটের প্রমাণক (সিডিউল মোতাবেক) অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (সিডিউল মোতাবেক) ইত্যাদি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। এগুলো ছাড়াও দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য দলিলাদী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (ফেরতযোগ্য নয়)।
৯.	Tender security & tender validity period	ঃ Tender security (ফেরতযোগ্য) ৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) টাকা। টেন্ডার ভ্যালিডিটি পিরিয়ড ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।
১০.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	ঃ উপসচিব (প্রশাসন) (উত্তর-পূর্ব ব্লক, লেভেল-১, কক্ষ নং-১৩১, জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১২২৫।
১১.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২ হতে ২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০টা হতে বেলা ৪.০০টা পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন।
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ দাখিলঃ ২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ তারিখ সকাল ৯.৩০টা হতে বেলা ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
১৩.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ উপসচিব (প্রশাসন-১ অধিশাখ) এর কার্যালয় (কক্ষ নম্বর-৭৪১, পূর্ব ব্লক, লেভেল-৭, জাতীয় সংসদ ভবন)।
১৪.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৫.	টেন্ডার আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	ঃ এ এস এম হুমায়ুন কবীর, উপসচিব, প্রশাসন শাখা, জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২২৫। ফোনঃ ৫৫০২৯০০৭, ৯১৩১১০০-২৭৯৪/২১৮৮/২৩০৬।
❖ আগ্রহী দরদাতাগণকে অবশ্যই তাদের প্রতিষ্ঠানের লেটারহেড প্যাডে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য ২ (দুই) কপি আবেদনপত্র সংগে নিয়ে আসতে হবে। তন্মধ্যে ১টি আবেদন সংসদ ভবনে প্রবেশের জন্য অভ্যর্থনা কক্ষে এবং অপর আবেদনটি সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রশাসন শাখায় জমা দিতে হবে।		
২।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের www.parliament.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।	
এ এস এম হুমায়ুন কবীর উপসচিব ফোনঃ ৫৫০২৯০০৭		
জিডি-২১৬		