

## Blinken in Australia for Quad meet

AFP, Melbourne

Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Australia yesterday to meet Asia-Pacific allies concerned by China's rise and signal United States commitment to the region despite Washington's recent focus on Ukraine.

Blinken will join two days of meetings of the Quad grouping, aiming to strengthen the partnership with India, Australia and Japan as a bulwark against Beijing's growing economic and military might.

The top US diplomat admitted the possibility of Russia invading Ukraine has been "front and centre" for the US government.

However, he insisted that Washington's "pivot" to the Asia-Pacific region in the face of China's challenge is still alive, despite the powerful diversions of crises in the Middle East and now Eastern Europe in recent years.



A protestor walks in front of parked trucks as demonstrators continue to protest the vaccine mandates implemented by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa, Canada, on Tuesday. Canada's Saskatchewan province announced Tuesday the lifting of all Covid restrictions including wearing of masks and proof of vaccination for indoor dining.

PHOTO: AFP

## All for a baby boy Pak faith healer hammers nail into woman's head

AFP, Peshawar

A pregnant Pakistani woman had a nail hammered into her head by a faith healer who said it would guarantee she gave birth to a boy, a doctor said yesterday.

Exploitative faith healers, whose practices are rooted in mystic Sufi lore, are common across Muslim-majority Pakistan despite the disapproval of some schools of Islam.

In South Asia, a son is often believed to offer better financial security to parents than daughters.

The woman arrived at a hospital in the northwestern city of Peshawar after trying to extract the nail herself with pliers, doctor Haider Khan told AFP.

"She was fully conscious, but was in immense pain," said Khan, who removed the spike.

The mother of three daughters said she was pregnant with another girl, the doctor added. An X-ray showed the five-centimetre (two-inch) nail had pierced the top of the woman's forehead but missed her brain.

Khan said a hammer or other heavy object was used to knock it in.

The woman initially told hospital staff she had hammered the nail into her head herself on the advice of the faith healer, before later saying he had carried out the act.

Peshawar police are trying to track down the woman in order to question her.

## DRIVE TO DEESCALATE UKRAINE TENSIONS

# Russia, EU see 'positive signals'

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said there were "positive signals" for the resolution of the Ukraine crisis following a meeting of the French and Ukrainian leaders in Kyiv.

French President Emmanuel Macron met his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday amid a flurry of European diplomacy aimed at defusing fears that Moscow could invade Ukraine.

"There were positive signals that a solution to Ukraine could be based only on fulfilling the Minsk agreements," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, referring to accords signed in 2015 between Kyiv and pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Zelensky in Kyiv on Tuesday, Macron said he saw a path toward easing tensions.

European leaders on Tuesday pledged unity in their goal of averting war on the continent.

Arriving in Berlin after two days of talks in Kyiv and Moscow, Macron urged continued "firm dialogue" with Russia as the only way to defuse fears Russia could invade its ex-Soviet neighbour.

The focus will now turn to separate talks involving high-ranking officials in Berlin today that Zelensky said could pave the way for a summit with the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany aimed at reviving the stalled peace plan for Kyiv's conflict with Moscow-backed separatists.



Let us continue to beg the God of peace so that the tensions and threats of war can be overcome through a serious dialogue and that the Normandy Format talks can contribute to this aim. And let's not forget. War is madness.

Pope Francis

## Scientists smash fusion energy record

AFP, Abingdon

Scientists in Britain said Wednesday they have smashed a previous record for generating fusion energy, an achievement hailed a "milestone" on the protracted path towards harnessing a power source considered cheap and clean.

Nuclear fusion is the same process that the sun uses to generate heat and proponents believe it could one day help address climate change by providing an abundant, safe and green source of energy.

A team at the Joint European Torus (JET) facility near Oxford in central England generated 59 megajoules of sustained energy during an experiment in December,

more than doubling a 1997 record, the UK Atomic Energy Authority said. The site is the largest in the world.

The results "are the clearest demonstration worldwide of the potential for fusion energy to deliver safe and sustainable low-carbon energy," the agency added in a statement.

Inside, a tiny amount of fuel comprising deuterium and tritium — both are isotopes of hydrogen, with deuterium also called heavy hydrogen — is heated to temperatures 10 times hotter than the centre of the sun to create plasma.

This is held in place using superconductor electromagnets as it spins around, fuses and releases tremendous energy as heat.

Fusion is inherently safe in that it cannot start a run-away process.

Pound for pound (gram for gram) it releases nearly four million times more energy than burning coal, oil or gas, and creates virtually no waste.

The results announced Wednesday demonstrate the ability to create fusion for five seconds, but longer times will be needed for the process to become viable as a conventional power source.

A larger and more advanced version of JET is currently being built in southern France, called ITER.

About 350 scientists from EU countries (plus Switzerland, the UK and Ukraine), and more from around the globe, participate in JET experiments each year.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level  
for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project  
Department of Agricultural Extension  
Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215

### Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Agriculture.
2	Agency	Department of Agricultural Extension.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of non-consulting service (Selection of consulting firm for organizing foreign study tour).
6	Invitation Ref No. and date	12.01.0000.000.25.018.22-660, Date: 08/02/2022
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
7	Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
9	Project/program code	224188300
10	Project name	Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project.
11	Tender Pckage No.	Package No. FTUTTP/2021-22/S-01
12	Tender package name	Selection of consulting firm for organizing foreign study tour.
13	Tender last selling date and time	23/02/2022 05.00pm
14	Tender closing date and time	24/02/2022 12.00pm
15	Tender opening date and time	24/02/2022 12.30pm
16	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	Selling tender document (principal)	Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project, 1st Building 3rd Floor, Room No. 401-407, Department of Agricultural Extension, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.
	Selling tender document (others)	N/A.
	Receiving tender document	Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project, 1st Building 3rd Floor, Room No. 401-407, Department of Agricultural Extension, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.
	Opening tender document	Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project, 1st Building 3rd Floor, Room No. 401-407, Department of Agricultural Extension, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
17	Eligibility of tenderer	The firm must have at least 3 (three) years of general experience in arranging foreign training/Exposure visit, specific experiences in arranging at least one batch foreign training/Exposure visit with minimum value of Tk 60.00 (sixty) lakh on modern agricultural technologies, and MoU/Contract Agreement with overseas government/semi-government agril. Institutions and other related documents.
18	Brief description of services	Arranging 3 (three) batches (Maximum 7 participants in each batch) of foreign Study visit/Tour on latest technological intervention for modern agriculture in Netherlands, India, Thailand, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Malaysia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam and other Asian countries.
19	Price of tender document (Tk)	1,000/- (one thousand Taka only).
20	Tender security amount (Tk.)	1,00,000/- (one lakh Taka only).
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
21	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Tajul Islam Patwary.
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.
23	Address of official inviting tender	Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project, Department of Agricultural Extension, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	Farmer's Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology (3rd Phase) Project, 1st Building 3rd Floor, Room No. 401-407, Department of Agricultural Extension, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215, Phone: +8802-55028306 Email: ftuttp.3@gmail.com
The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.		

**Md. Tajul Islam Patwary**  
Project Director  
Phone: 55028306

### The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Gazipur  
Website: [www.spcbl.org.bd](http://www.spcbl.org.bd)

### e-Invitation for e-Application for Appointment of Clearing and Forwarding Agent and Carrying Contractors for Hazrat Shahajalal International Airport, Dhaka, ICD Kamalapur, Dhaka, Benapole Landport, Jessore and Chattogram Seaport, Chattogram

Electronic e-applications are hereby invited from reputed clearing and forwarding agent and carrying contractors for clearing of imported paper/ink/spares/equipments/chemicals/consumables etc. from Hazrat Shahajalal International Airport, Dhaka, ICD, Kamalapur Dhaka, Benapole Landport Jessore, Chattogram Seaport, Chattogram and transportation of the same by road to The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur site as per under noted schedule. Invitation documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at web: <https://spcbletender.bb.org.bd>. It is to mention here that this is online invitation(s) where only e-application will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-invitation schedule and security deposit. To submit e-application applicant need to register on e-Tender <https://spcbletender.bb.org.bd>. For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

- Price per e- invitation schedule : 500.00 (five hundred) Taka only
- Date of publish of e-invitation : 10/02/2022
- Last date & time for submission of e-application : 10/03/2022 up to 11.00am
- Date & time for opening of e-application : 10/03/2022 at 11.15am

Applicants may collect e-invitation schedule from the aforementioned website. The interested applicants shall have to submit security deposit in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of "The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur" along with the price of e-invitation schedule in the form of a separate Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at the Corporation office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-application. E-application without security deposit and price of e-invitation schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-application shall have to submit as per e-application guidelines mentioned at above website. The e-application(s) will be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the applicant(s) if any. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-application(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-application after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

**Rashid Ahmed**  
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)  
Phone: 880-02-9205103

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