

# Ultimatums, threats ‘road to nowhere’

Says Lavrov as Russia launches Belarus military drills amid Ukraine tensions

AFP, Moscow

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday said that Western threats towards Moscow would do nothing to ease tensions over Ukraine as Russia and Belarus launched joint military drills.

The war games, set to run until February 20, are the latest point of contention between Russia and the West over Ukraine. Kyiv quickly denounced the manoeuvres as “psychological pressure”.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called the exercises “a very violent gesture” while British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss used a visit to Moscow to accuse Russia of attempting “to undermine Ukrainian sovereignty”.

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the build up was “a dangerous moment for European security”.

Lavrov replied that Western threats towards Moscow would do nothing to ease tensions over Ukraine.

“Ideological approaches, ultimatums, threats -- this is the road to nowhere,” Lavrov said.

Western leaders have been warning for weeks that Russia could be preparing to escalate an eight-year separatist conflict in east Ukraine after building up of some 100,000 troops around the former Soviet

state.

The United States has said Russia is also dispatching some 30,000 troops to Ukraine’s neighbour Belarus for the exercises that started yesterday.

Columns of Russian missile systems rolled across snow-carpeted fields on the eve of the start of the drills in footage released by the defence ministry.

Russia has also sent six warship through the Bosphorus for naval drills on the Black Sea and the neighbouring Sea of Azov. Kyiv denounced their presence as “unprecedented” attempt to cut off Ukraine for both seas.

Answering Western concerns, the Kremlin has insisted the Russian troops in Belarus will go home after the exercises.

The diplomatic crisis has spurred weeks of talks between Russian, Western and Ukrainian officials.

Those efforts have drawn cautious optimism for negotiated solution, with French President Emmanuel Macron saying he had secured a pledge from Russian leader Vladimir Putin that Moscow “would not be the source of an escalation”.

Russia has put sweeping security demands to the United States and the Washington-led Nato military alliance with the aim of reducing their role in eastern Europe and former Soviet states.



A woman shows her marked finger after casting her vote at a polling station during the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh state assembly elections, in Ghaziabad, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## KEY TEST OF MODI'S POPULARITY Polls begin in UP

AGENCIES

People in India’s most populous state of Uttar Pradesh yesterday voted in the first of a series of local elections that will be a key test of the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ruling party.

With a population almost as big as that of Brazil, keeping power in the bellwether state would give the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) a boost in its bid for a third successive victory at nationwide parliamentary polls due by 2024.

More than 48% voter turnout recorded till 3:00 PM for 58 seats spread across 11 districts in the western part of the state, reports NDTV. UP has over 15 crore eligible voters who elect 403 MLAs to the state assembly. Over 2.28 crore voters will decide the fate of 623 candidates, including 73 women candidates, in the first phase of the polls.

The elections will be held in seven phases - February 10, 14, 20, 23, 27, March 3 and 7. The votes will be counted and the results will be declared on March 10.

Defeat in UP, or in any of the other three states - Manipur, Goa, Punjab -- it holds that also stage elections this month, would add to pressure on BJP amid criticism of high unemployment and its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, reports Reuters.

“If the BJP loses, especially in UP, that will be a big setback,” said Rahul Verma, a fellow at New Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Policy Research. “But you can call this a semi-final. The game in 2024 will be very, very different.”

## Omicron sub-variant ‘dominant’ in S Africa

REUTERS

The BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron is now the dominant Covid-19 variant in South Africa and has been detected in multiple other African countries, the head of the continent’s top public health body said yesterday. “We have data from South Africa that the BA.2 lineage has now become the predominant variant in South Africa,” said John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at a regular online media briefing. “BA.2 is more transmissible than BA.1 so we expect to see BA.2 increasing in detection around the world,” Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO’s Covid-19 technical lead, said during a question-and-answer session livestreamed on the WHO’s social media platforms Tuesday.

## Indonesia to buy 6 Rafale warplanes

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia yesterday signed a deal with France to buy six Rafale warplanes as part of an anticipated total order of 42, Jakarta’s defence minister said, as Paris bolsters military ties in the Asia-Pacific. “We agreed on the purchase of 42 Rafale. The contract signed today is for the first six, which will be followed by 36 others,” said Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto. It was the latest sign of warming ties between Jakarta and Paris, as France rethinks its alliances in the region following the collapse in September of a multibillion-dollar Australian submarine deal.

## South’s Moon warns of ‘crisis’ if N Korea restarts ICBM tests

AFP, Seoul

South Korea’s leader warned yesterday that the peninsula could slide back into a “state of crisis” if Pyongyang follows through on threats to resume testing long-range missiles. Pyongyang conducted an unprecedented seven weapons tests in January, including of its most powerful missile since 2017 when leader Kim Jong Un baited then-US president Donald Trump with a spate of provocative launches. President Moon Jae-in said that any move by North Korea to restart long-range missile tests would wipe out years of effort and peace talks. “If North Korea’s series of missile launches goes as far as scrapping a moratorium on long-range missile tests, the Korean Peninsula may instantly fall back into the state of crisis we faced five years ago,” he said.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges

Bridges Division

Bangladesh Bridge Authority

Construction of Bridge Over Paira River

Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212

www.bba.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Bridges Division, Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).		
3	Procuring entity name	Md. Tofazzel Hossain, Project Director, Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not available.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Invitation for	Supply of 4 Nos. Motorcycle for the project of Construction of Bridge at 17th km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.		
7	Invitation Ref No.	50.01.0000.851.14.040.21-343		
8	Date	February 10, 2022		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB.		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	224310300		
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira river.		
14	Tender Package No.	1 (one).		
15	Tender package name	Supply of 4 Nos. Motorcycle for the project of Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.		
16	Tender publication date	Date: February 10, 2022		
17	Tender last selling date	Date:	February 27, 2022	Time: During office hours
18	Tender closing date and time	Date:	February 28, 2022	Time: 03:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	Date:	February 28, 2022	Time: 04:00pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)			
	Selling tender document (principal)	Accounts Section, Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.		
	Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.		
	Receiving tender document	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, Room No. 303, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, Room No. 303, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Eligibility of tenderer	i) <b>General experience:</b> The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the supply of goods as a supplier shall be 03 (three) years. ii) <b>Specific experience:</b> The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of motorcycle of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 10 (ten) years, with a value of at least Tk 3.75 (three lac seventy-five thousand). iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 5.00 (five lac).		
22	Brief description of works	Supply of Motorcycle.		
23	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.		
24	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk)
	1	Supply of 4 Nos. Motorcycle for the Project of Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.	Dhaka	1,000.00
				Tender security amount (Tk) (fifteen thousand Taka only)
				7 weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
25	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Tofazzel Hossain.		
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, For the Project of Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.		
27	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.		
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 55040323		
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
Md. Tofazzel Hossain Project Director Construction of Bridge Over Paira River Ph: +880255040323 E-mail: tofabbag@gmail.com				
GD-268				



## IMPACT OF COVID PANDEMIC Democracy slides in 2021: study

AFP, Paris

Democratic standards across the world fell again in 2021 amid the pandemic and growing support for authoritarianism to leave just over 45 percent of the world’s population living in a democracy, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said yesterday.

As in 2020, less than half of the world’s population is living in a democracy but the trend has deteriorated further, the London-based analysis group said.

Its annual democracy Index “sheds light on continued challenges to democracy worldwide, under pressure from the coronavirus pandemic and increasing support for authoritarian alternatives,” the group said.

Its annual index, which provides a measurement of the state of global democracy, registered its biggest fall since 2010 and set “another dismal record” for the worst global score since the index was first produced in 2006.

The EIU said the UK dropped in the ranking following controversies over party financing and a series of scandals, but remains a “full democracy”.

Less than half -- 45.7 percent -- of the world’s population now live in a democracy of some sort, a significant decline from 2020 where the figure was 49.4 percent.

More than a third of the world’s population live under authoritarian rule, a large proportion of which are in China. The top three places in the index are occupied by Norway, New Zealand and Finland while the final three countries are North Korea, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Laxmipur

www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.5100.000.07.001.22.357

Date: 10-02-2022

e-Tender Notice No. 19/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl No.	Description of Works & Package No.	Tender ID No.	Last date & time
1	1) Major Maintenance of 6.85m RCC Slab Culvert on Panpara-Shampur Miar Hat Road at Ch. 1190.00m (Old Ch. 1100m) [451652006] [Ramganj] 2) Major Maintenance of 8.30m RCC Girder Bridge on Raipur-Haidergonj Road at Ch. 3934.00m [451582001] [Raipur] 3) Major Maintenance of 12.80m RCC Girder Bridge on Raipur-Haidergonj Road at Ch. 10763m (Old Ch. 10476.00m) [451582001] [Raipur] 4) Major Maintenance of 12.60m RCC Girder Bridge on Raipur-Panpara Road at Ch. 5101.00m [451582002] [Raipur] 5) Major Maintenance of 54.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Bashabri-Udmara-Haidergonj Road at Ch. 4870.00m [451582005] [Raipur], Package: SupRB/Lax/Main/21-22/W-199	654909	Procurement Method: OTM, Date: 03-03-2022, Time: Selling-12.00pm, Tender Security Submission-14.00pm, Closing & Opening-16.00pm
2	1). Major Maintenance of 26.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Dhaka-Laxmipur-Raypur RHD (Eterpol) – Char Ruhita-Nobigonj Bazar-Jonota Bazar Road at Ch. 630m [451432018], [Sadar] 2). Major Maintenance of 26.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Dhaka-Laxmipur-Raypur RHD (Eterpol) – Char Ruhita-Nobigonj Bazar – Jonota Bazar Road at Ch. 4907m [451432018], [Sadar], Package: SupRB/Lax/Maint/21-22/W-281	657904	

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Shah Alam Patwary  
Executive Engineer  
Phone: 0381-62462  
E-mail: [xen.laxmipur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.laxmipur@lged.gov.bd)

GD-274