



Demonstrators hold placards and Tunisian national flags during a protest against Tunisian President Kais Saied's seizure of governing powers, in Tunis, Tunisia yesterday. Saied last July sacked the government and moved to rule by decree, sparking fears for democracy in the birthplace of the 2011 Arab uprisings.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE Japan PM presses Modi for 'action'

AGENCIES

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida urged India's Narendra Modi on Saturday to take a tougher line on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but a joint statement after talks in Delhi fell short of condemning Moscow's actions.

Unlike fellow members of the Quad alliance – Japan, Australia and the United States – India has abstained in UN votes deplored Russia's actions, calling only for a halt to the violence while still buying Russian oil.

Kishida told a joint news conference that he and Modi held an "in-depth discussion" and that "Russia's invasion... shakes the very foundations of the international order and must be dealt with firmly."

But Modi made no direct mention of Ukraine and their joint written statement afterwards called only "for an immediate cessation of violence and noted that there was no other choice but the path of dialogue and diplomacy for resolution of the conflict".

Without naming any country, they "emphasised the need for all countries to seek peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law without resorting to threat or use of force or any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo".

Earlier this month in a four-way call, the other Quad leaders – Kishida, US President Joe Biden and Australia's Scott Morrison – also failed to win the Indian premier over to their position on Ukraine.

A joint Quad statement at the time said they "discussed the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and assessed its broader implications" – without any condemnation of Moscow, reports AFP.

A separate Indian readout pointedly underlined that the alliance must remain focused on its "core objective... in the Indo-Pacific region" of promoting peace, stability and prosperity.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, India's foreign secretary, told reporters that the two leaders had "assessed broader implications particularly for the Indo-Pacific region. They underscored the importance of safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine."

Japanese foreign direct investment into India has mainly been in the automobile, electrical equipment, telecommunications, chemical and pharmaceutical sectors, reports Reuters.



AFP, Colombo

At least two people in Sri Lanka died while waiting in long queues for fuel, officials said yesterday, as widespread shortages cause misery and hardship across the island nation.

Sri Lanka is battling the worst economic crisis in its history as an independent nation, with a lack of foreign exchange to purchase vital imports shrinking the supply of essential goods.

Motorists are forced to wait hours outside gas stations for petrol and the government has imposed rolling blackouts as power utilities are unable to pay for enough foreign oil to meet demand.

Police said a 70-year-old man who was standing in line to buy gasoline collapsed and died at a filling station on the outskirts of the capital Colombo yesterday.

It was the second such death in as many days, after another elderly man collapsed in Kandy while waiting for kerosene oil to use as cooking fuel, police in the city confirmed.

## Sri Lanka grapples with shortages

Two men die in fuel queues as multiple women standing in the hot sun to buy cooking gas faint



AFP, Colombo

Local media reports said multiple women standing in the hot sun to buy cooking gas had fainted at several locations across the island over the weekend.

Oil and liquefied petroleum gas shipments have sat idle at Colombo's main port, with importers unable to scrape together enough foreign currency to pay for them.

The Covid-19 pandemic throttled Sri Lanka's tourism sector – a key foreign exchange earner – and foreign worker remittances have also declined.

Authorities announced last week that the country will seek an IMF bailout to resolve its worsening foreign debt crisis and shore up reserves.

## BID TO OUST PAK PM No-confidence vote on Mar 25

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's parliament will convene on Friday to take up a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, the lower house speaker's office said yesterday, in what shapes up as his toughest test since coming to power in 2018. An alliance of opposition parties filed the motion against Khan this month, saying he had lost his parliamentary majority after over a dozen defections from his party, raising the risk of political turmoil in the nuclear-armed South Asian country. Under the constitution, the Speaker of the lower house of parliament is required to convene the session within 14 days of receiving the motion, which would fall today. But a statement from the Speaker's Office said the date was pushed back several days because of a conference of Islamic countries in Islamabad scheduled for March 23.

## North Korea fires multiple-rocket launchers

AFP, Seoul

North Korea fired multiple rocket launchers yesterday, Seoul said, the latest in a series of provocations by the nuclear-armed nation to heighten tensions in the region. Pyongyang launched a string of banned weaponry this year and tested what it claimed were components of a "reconnaissance satellite" – although Seoul and Washington have described them as a new ICBM system. "There were shots suspected to be from North Korea's multiple rocket launchers this morning," said the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a text message to reporters. "Our military is maintaining our defence readiness while closely following related developments," it added, without further detail. Four shots were fired into the western waters during a span of an hour from 7:20 am from an unspecified location in South Pyongan province, Yonhap news agency reported citing unnamed officials. The intention of the firing was being evaluated, it added. South Korea's NSC held an emergency meeting and called for a tight readiness posture to prevent security vacuum during transition period.

## SHAMANISTIC PRACTICES S Korea's Yoon ditches Blue House office

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's president-elect said yesterday he will relocate his office from the "imperial" Blue House, in a move critics charged is linked to his belief in shamanistic spiritual practices. Yoon Suk-yeol, who won a tight election earlier this month, pledged on the campaign trail that he would move presidential business out of the Blue House – home to South Korea's leaders since 1948. The former prosecutor has accused the hilltop headquarters of fostering an "imperial" presidency and undermining communication with the public. Outgoing President Moon Jae-in also pledged to move out "to eradicate the authoritarian presidential culture" but faced security and logistical hurdles.



**ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208



### Appointment of C&F Agents for Chittagong Seaport

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by EDCL for appointment of C&F and Carrying Agents according to tender schedule of Chittagong Seaport as mentioned below :

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Earnest money	Cost of tender schedule	Last date & time of closing	Date & time of opening
01	EDCL/PURCHASE/ C&F/LT/2022/99 Dated- 20/03/2022	Appointment of C&F Agent (as per tender schedule) for Dhaka Airport with carrying of goods to EDCL's Dhaka, Bogra, Gopalganj, Khulna Plants & Madhopur Plant.	Tk. 3,00,000.00 (three lac) only refundable/ adjustable with SD	Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) only non-refundable	17/04/2022 at 11.00 pm	17/04/2020 at 11.15 pm

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**N.B: This Information is also available at our Website : [www.edcl.gov.bd](http://www.edcl.gov.bd)**

General Manager  
Procurement  
For : Managing Director.

This is an online Tender Where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e- GP System portal and no official / hard copies will be accepted to submit e-Tender. Registration in the national e- GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e- GP portal and from e- GP help desk (helpdesk @ procure.gov.bd)

20/03/2022  
(Md. Mohidul Islam)  
Project Director