

TEXAS SCHOOL TRAGEDY Grief turns to anger

AFP, Uvalde

Grief at the massacre of 19 small children at an elementary school in Texas spilled into confrontation Wednesday, as angry questions mounted over gun control – and whether this latest tragedy could have been prevented.

The tight-knit Latino community of Uvalde on Tuesday became the site of America's worst school shooting in a decade, committed by a disturbed 18-year-old armed with a legally bought assault rifle.

More than a dozen children were also wounded at the school attack, which also claimed the lives of two teachers.

Briefing reporters, Governor Greg Abbott revealed that teen shooter Salvador Ramos – who was killed by police – shot his 66-year-old grandmother in the face before heading to Robb Elementary School.

Details have emerged of Ramos as a deeply troubled teen – he was repeatedly bullied over a speech impediment that included a stutter and a lisp and once cut up his own face “just for fun,” a former friend, Santos Valdez, told The Washington Post.

In the days after turning 18 this month,



Ramos purchased two assault rifles and several hundred rounds of ammunition, and a week later he staged his attack.

Pressed on how the teen was able to obtain the murder weapon, the Texas governor repeatedly brushed aside suggestions that tougher gun laws were needed in his state.

Abbott's stance was echoed by the powerful National Rifle Association gun lobby, which issued a statement labeling the shooter as “a lone, deranged criminal.”

According to a recent government report, US firearms makers produced over 139 million guns for the commercial market over the two decades from 2000, including 11.3 million in 2020 alone. Another 71 million firearms were imported in the same period, it added.



People queue up to buy kerosene for domestic use at a supply station in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka, an island nation of 22 million people, is reeling under its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948, with a severe shortage of foreign exchange severely curtailing imports, including essentials such as fuel and medicines.

PHOTO: AFP

‘Not a new Cold War’

Blinken says US's China strategy is about rules-based order

REUTERS, Washington

The United States does not seek to sever China from the global economy, but wants Beijing to adhere to international rules, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected to say in a long-awaited speech yesterday.

“This is not about a new Cold War. This is not about dividing the world into rigid ideological blocks,” a senior US administration official told reporters in a briefing call in advance of the speech outlining the US strategy to deal with China's rise as a great power.

“It is about upholding and, just as importantly, revitalizing international order in a way that protects core principles that have enabled peace and prosperity for decades,” the official said.

US-China relations sank to their lowest level in decades under the Trump administration and have soured

further under President Joe Biden, who has so far kept up his predecessor's sweeping tariffs on Chinese goods, but also has pursued closer ties with allies in the Indo-Pacific and beyond to push back on Beijing's growing influence.

Nonetheless, seventeen months into his administration, Biden has faced criticism from Republicans and some foreign policy watchers for not announcing a formal strategy on China, the world's second-largest economy and Washington's main strategic rival.

Foreign crises, including the messy US withdrawal from Afghanistan last year and Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, have created distractions for Biden, who has vowed not to let China surpass the United States as global

leader on his watch.

Blinken will make it clear that Washington's “unwavering focus” remains on the Indo-Pacific and China, officials said, while laying out the contours of the strategy,

which is to invest in US competitiveness and align with allies and partners to compete with China.

“The Secretary will make it clear that the United States is not looking to sever China's economy from ours or from the global economy... We simply seek to ensure that China plays by the same rules as everybody else,” a second official said.

Blinken will also underscore that the United States “will not trade cooperation in these areas for compromise on our principles,” the official said.



BDP 2100: Seed of change Last-minute hike puts

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barriers, dykes, barrages, and sluice gates which all work together to protect the country that has achieved economic prosperity by implementing their Delta Plan. Now, the country's yearly export of farming products is around 105 billion euros. The Netherlands is hugely supporting Bangladesh to implement the 100-year Delta Plan.

I went to see the Maeslant Barrier at the Hook of Holland. There is no such barrier in the world as huge as Maeslant, which is a fully automated and capable of withstanding a storm tide of 5 metre above Normaal Amsterdams Peil (NAP), a vertical datum. On an average, whole of the Netherlands is three metres below the sea level and it means if they could not rule the seas and the rivers water would have flooded the whole country. The barrier was established to save Rotterdam from storm surges and floods. You know many regions of our country remain inundated for long when floods or flash floods occur and we can't even protect ourselves.

I talked to Jouke Heringa, senior lecturer & researcher at HZ University of Applied Sciences, about their research and development on the blue economy, specially oyster farming. The Yerseke region is famous for oyster cultivation. It is a big commercial area as tourists love to eat the quite costly oysters. “After meeting the local demands, we now export oysters to the United States, China and many other countries,” Professor Jouke said. Bangladesh can also work like this and take our blue economy quite far.

Dear readers, one of world's ranked agricultural universities Wageningen University of the Netherlands is also adding contribution to Bangladesh's Delta Plan with their unique research and advocacy support.

When I went there, I was amazed to see their extensive research on farming and water-related works. There are around 600 Bangladeshi students in the Netherlands who will contribute to our farming sector in near future.

Senior Researcher, Water Management in Deltas at Wageningen University Catharien Terwisscha said, “Bangladesh is moving quite well towards development. We'll always work together with Bangladesh as we have been instrumental in the development of many deltaic regions.

Senior Policy Advisor, Food and Nutrition Security of the Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka, Osman Haruni said, “The Netherlands is ready for all kinds of cooperation, starting from business relationship to exchange of knowledge between academic institutes.”

With the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the inter-ministerial relationship has to be strengthened to execute the 100-year Delta Plan in Bangladesh. Netherlands have overcome the loss, caused by the devastating flood, only by executing their Delta Plan. At this stage of climate change, if we work closely on Delta Plan and water management, we'll definitely see a better farming future. We need to have a safe, climate-resilient and prosperous delta.

Coordination among implementing institutions and grassroots level projects has to move further so that we can see the development in the next five years. Besides, sectoral policies and strategies should work efficiently to implement BDP 2100. The conference is going to end in a few hours and I firmly believe this is a great start. I am pretty sure that we will give 100 percent to materialize the 100-year Delta Plan of Bangladesh.

FROM PAGE 1

Tk 1,68,150 from 2020. On May 12, Haab, a platform of around 1,500 agencies, said the cheapest hajj package would cost Tk 4,63,744 this year.

A day before, the ministry said pilgrims under government management would have to pay between Tk 4,62,150 (package-2) and Tk 5,27,340 (package-1) depending on the location of their hotels in Makkah. The amounts are at least 1 lakh more than that of 2020.

The expensive government package allows a hajj to stay within a kilometre of Masjid ul Haram. The state minister yesterday said package-1 would now cost Tk 5,86,340 and package-2 Tk 5,21,150.

The costs do not include the Tk 19,683 one must pay for a qurbani (sacrificing animals) coupon from the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia.

Talking to this paper, several aspirant hajjis have said they were finding it difficult to manage the additional money with the clock ticking.

“I am not sure whether my relatives will be able to lend me the money within this short period of time,” said Rezaul Islam Jewel, employee of a company.

A Haab leader said they expect that many would fail to come up with the money. The state minister yesterday said they have asked the Bangladesh Bank to keep designated banks open today – even though it is the weekend – so that people could deposit the money.

Faridul said although the actual cost of performing hajj was higher, they decided to add only the increased expenditure in Saudi Arabia keeping in mind the socio-economic condition of Bangladeshi pilgrims.

Asked if the government was subsidising the pilgrimage, the junior minister did not give a direct answer.

He said his ministry had

hurriedly announced the provisional hajj packages earlier without finalising the costs due to media criticism about delaying the announcement.

“That's why we had announced the hajj packages on condition that the price of the hajj packages might increase or decrease subject to the Saudi government's decision,” he said

According to the bilateral agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, 57,585 Bangladeshis will be able to perform hajj this year. About 4,000 of them will be under government management.

Hajj, a pilgrimage must for able-bodied Muslims at least once in their lifetime, is likely to be on July 8, depending on the sighting of the moon. Hajj flights begin on June 5.

In 2019, around 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform hajj. However, due to the pandemic, the largest annual Muslim congregation was held on a limited scale in the last two years.

UN Council to vote on tougher N Korea sanctions

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations Security Council was to vote later yesterday, at the request of the United States, on a resolution aimed at toughening sanctions on North Korea after it fired an intercontinental ballistic missile, diplomats said.

The United States, which holds the rotating Security Council presidency for May, has scheduled the vote for the late afternoon, two diplomats told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Earlier, a senior US official said the resolution would notably look at curbing oil imports, although diplomats say Russia and China could exercise their veto power.

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২২ মে, ২০২২

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন বাংলাদেশ ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প করপোরেশন (বিসিক) কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত ‘চামড়া শিল্পনগরী, ঢাকা’ প্রকল্পের সিইটিপি ও এর অঙ্গসমূহ পরিচালনার জন্য গঠিত ‘Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Limited’ শীর্ষক কোম্পানিতে নিম্নোক্ত পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন/ভাতা	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (এমডি) (বেতন ও ভাতাদি আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে)	১ জন	৫০-৬০ বছর	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> স্বীকৃত দেশি/বিদেশি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতকোত্তর /চার বছর মেয়াদী বি.এস. সি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রি; রসায়ন, ফসিল রসায়ন ও কেমিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অগ্রাধিকার পাবে। সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বায়তশাসিত/আন্তর্জাতিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে ন্যূনতম চাকুরীর মেয়াদ ২০ (বিশ) বছর; প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপনা/প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নে অভিজ্ঞতা; ইংরেজি ও আইটি বিষয়ে দক্ষতা; লেদার টেকনোলজী/এনভায়রনমেন্টাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান/বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় একাডেমিক ডিগ্রি ও অভিজ্ঞতা অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

২। শর্তাবলী:
(ক) প্রার্থীকে চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প করপোরেশন (বিসিক), ৩৯৮, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮, বরার আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতার নাম, মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা (পেরীক্ষার নাম, পাসের সন, বোর্ড/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বিভাগ/জিপিএসস) এবং অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখ করতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রে অবশ্যই ই-মেইল, মোবাইল/ফোন নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ই-মেইল (chairman@bscic.gov.bd) এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন করা যাবে।
(খ) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, জাতীয়তা/নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি) ও সদ্য তোলা ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবি দাখিল করতে হবে। (মৌখিক সাক্ষাৎকারের সময় সকল প্রকার শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার মূল সনদ অবশ্যই সাথে নিয়ে আসতে হবে)।
(গ) প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ১৫ জুন, ২০২২খ্রি. তারিখে ৫০-৬০ বছর হতে হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রকার এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
(ঘ) আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ: ১৫ জুন, ২০২২ খ্রি. বিকাল ৫ টা। উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
(ঙ) প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই শারিরিক ও মানসিকভাবে পরিশ্রমী ও সুস্থ হতে হবে।
(চ) ০১ (এক) বছরের জন্য চুক্তি ভিত্তিক নিয়োগ করা হবে এবং চাকরিকাল সম্মোচনক হলে চুক্তির মেয়াদ ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছর পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করা হবে।
(ছ) চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
(জ) অসম্পূর্ণ/ব্লট পূর্ণ বা শর্তাবলী অপূর্ণ থাকলে আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন আবেদনপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
(ঝ) সাক্ষাৎকার/পেরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
(ঞ) নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

(সুহৃৎ মাহবুবুল-এরশাদ)
চেয়ারম্যান
DTIEWTPCL ও
বাংলাদেশ ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প করপোরেশন (বিসিক), ঢাকা

GD- 1076

Call polls in 6 days: Ex-Pak PM

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan disbanding a protest march by supporters yesterday after clashes with police outside parliament, but threatened that they would return unless an election was called within six days. Khan had rallied thousands of supporters to Islamabad, with plans to occupy sensitive parts of the capital until Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif gave in to his demand for new polls, but Khan told his followers yesterday morning to step back, while delivering a fresh ultimatum. “I'm giving you six days. You announce elections in six days,” Khan said warning the government that he will lead a march on the capital again if it didn't meet his demands.

J&K sees upsurge in violence; 8 killed

REUTERS, Srinagar

Indian security forces have killed six militants in Kashmir in the past 24 hours while militants shot dead a female TV performer and a police officer, officials said yesterday, following the conviction of the region's best-known separatist. A New Delhi court on Wednesday ordered life in jail for Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik for funding “terrorist” activities and for many other crimes. The sentencing prompted warnings from politicians that it would promote alienation and separatism in India's only Muslim-majority region. Shops and businesses in Kashmir remained closed for a second day of protesting against the verdict.

Four bombs kill 16 in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

The death toll from four bombs that ripped through minibuses and a mosque in Afghanistan has risen to at least 16, officials said yesterday, with some of the attacks claimed by the Islamic State group. On Wednesday, at least 10 people were killed when three bombs placed on separate minibuses exploded in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, a health official and police said. Late on Wednesday a bomb exploded inside a mosque in the capital Kabul, killing six and wounding 18.