



A Taliban helicopter takes off after bringing aid to the site of an earthquake in Gayan, Afghanistan yesterday. Inset, an Afghan woman is helped to reach another evacuation helicopter after she lost some of her relatives in the earthquake in Gayan. Desperate rescuers battled against the clock and heavy rain yesterday to reach cut-off areas in eastern Afghanistan after the earthquake killed at least 1,000 people and left thousands more homeless.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Suu Kyi sent to solitary confinement

UN expert says Asean should rethink its approach on Myanmar

AGENCIES

Ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi remained in strong spirits after being transferred from house arrest to prison, a source with knowledge of the case said yesterday, and would "calmly" face her new solitary confinement.

Since being deposed in a coup last year, Suu Kyi had been under house arrest at an undisclosed location in Naypyidaw, accompanied by several domestic staff and her dog, according to sources with knowledge of the matter.

The Nobel laureate, 77, left those premises only to attend hearings for her numerous trials in a junta court that could see her handed a prison sentence of more than 150 years.

On Wednesday, she was transferred from house arrest to "solitary confinement in prison", junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said in a statement.

Her future trial hearings would take place inside a courtroom within the prison compound, he added.

Suu Kyi was in "strong spirits" after the transfer, a source with knowledge of the case told AFP yesterday.

Suu Kyi will be provided with three female staff from inside the prison to look after her, said another source.

Meanwhile, a United Nations expert said yesterday the Southeast Asian bloc Asean should rethink its approach to engaging with Myanmar and demand specific actions and timetables to end hostilities in the military-ruled country.

Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, Tom Andrews, also called on UN member states to engage formally or informally with Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government (NUG) to help the humanitarian situation, reports Reuters.

China's Xi criticises sanctions 'abuse'

Putin scolds the West at BRICS virtual summit

REUTERS, London

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday criticised "the abuse" of international sanctions, while Russian President Vladimir Putin scolded the West for fomenting global crisis, with both leaders calling for greater BRICS cooperation.

Xi called on Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) to take up the responsibility conferred by their economic clout, and said they should stand up for a truly multinational international system based on the United Nations.

"We must abandon Cold War mentality and block confrontation and oppose unilateral sanctions - and the abuse of sanctions," Xi told the BRICS summit through a translator.

"Our meeting today comes at a crucial moment of choice for the future of humanity: as key emerging markets and developing countries, BRICS countries must rise to our responsibility," Xi said.

China has by far the largest economy in the BRICS grouping, accounting for more than 70% of the group's collective \$27.5 trillion economic might.

Putin called for stronger BRICS cooperation and took a swipe at the West which he accused of fomenting a crisis.

"Only on the basis of honest and mutually beneficial cooperation can we look for ways out of the crisis situation that has developed in the global economy due to the ill-considered and selfish actions of individual states," Putin said.

He accused the West of "using financial mechanisms" to "shunt their own mistakes in macroeconomic policy on to the whole world."

Putin has said relations with China are the best they have ever been and touts a strategic partnership with China aimed at countering US influence.



US President Joe Biden has said the West is locked in a battle with autocratic governments such as China and Russia.

The United States and European powers blame Putin's decision to invade Ukraine as the reason relations with the West have sunk to the lowest level since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis - including the severest sanctions in modern history.

But Putin says the West wants to destroy Russia, that the economic sanctions are akin to a declaration of economic war and that Russia will build ties with other powers such as China and India.

Putin, who casts the Ukraine war as a "special military operation", blames the United States for humiliating Russia in the aftermath of the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union and threatening Moscow by enlarging the Nato military alliance.

Russia sent troops into Ukraine on February 24 to degrade its southern neighbour's military capabilities, root out people it called dangerous nationalists and defend the Russian speakers of two eastern Ukrainian regions.

Johnson resolute as UK by-election losses loom

AFP, Wakefield

Britain's beleaguered Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday he will not resign even if his ruling Conservatives lose two closely watched by-elections, including in a once-safe seat held by the party for more than a century. The Tories are tipped to lose the contests for the Westminster seats of Tiverton and Honiton in southwest England - a true blue heartland which has voted Conservative in every general election since the 1880s - and Wakefield in the north. The votes are being held after the constituencies' former Tory MPs both resigned in disgrace. Tiverton and Honiton's ex-lawmaker Neil Parish quit after admitting watching pornography on his phone in the House of Commons, while Wakefield's Imran Ahmad Khan was jailed for sexually assaulting a teenage boy. The by-elections also follow months of scandals and setbacks that have severely dented the popularity of Johnson and his party, and come just weeks after he narrowly survived an attempt by his own lawmakers to oust him as Tory leader and prime minister. The June 6 vote among Conservative MPs saw more than 40 percent of the parliamentary party desert Johnson, leaving him severely weakened and struggling to

reset his turbulent tenure. As voters head to the polls the embattled UK leader is thousands of miles away attending a Commonwealth summit, from where he again insisted quitting was not on his mind.



France enters a political deadlock

Macron 'compromise' call meets opposition resistance

AFP, Paris

France risked prolonged political deadlock yesterday after opposition parties gave a frosty reception to President Emmanuel Macron's call for "compromises" to keep France governable after an indecisive parliamentary election.

Macron made his plea in an address to the nation late Wednesday days after failing to retain a majority in parliament, a setback that threatens to cripple his ability to carry out his planned reforms. His centrist alliance finished Sunday's parliamentary elections 44 seats short of a majority in the National Assembly, as a new left-wing coalition and the far right made major gains. The main opposition parliamentary groups, feeling triumphant after upsetting the president's party, seemed in no mood, however, to help out Macron whom they accused of putting them on the spot. "He's the one with his back to the wall, not us," said Socialist deputy Valerie Rabault, whose party is part of the new leftist NUPES alliance that enjoyed a surprise surge in the vote. "If he tries to push through his programme without an absolute majority he will be stuck," she said. "He will be responsible for paralysing France."

India will support Lanka's recovery

Says top diplomat

REUTERS, Colombo

India's top diplomat yesterday held talks with Sri Lanka's president and prime minister as India signalled its willingness to go beyond the \$4 billion in loans, swaps and aid that it has already provided its cash-strapped neighbour. "Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra has said that the Government of India will extend its fullest support to Sri Lanka in overcoming the current difficult situation as a close friend," the president's office said in a statement. "The Indian delegation stated that the Government of India and the political authorities are committed to provide continued support to Sri Lanka," it added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Barishal

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Dated: 22/06/2022

e-Tender Notice-396-397/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of

e-Tender No.	Package No.	Name of work	Last receiving date & time
396/2021-22	IRIDP-3BRS/DW-44	(a) Improvement of Faimshiddi Bazar - Somaddar Par GPS Road from Ch. 720m-3020m under Gourmadi Upazila, District: Barishal, [Road ID 5063250151], (b) Construction of 01 No. 3.60m x 3.60m Culvert at Ch. 1060m on the same Road, (c) Construction of 02 Nos. 4.30m x 4.30m Culvert at Ch. 1715m & 2678m on the same Road. [Salvage Cost Tk. 58,137.00], e-ID No. 702976	21-07-2022 Time: 12:00pm
397/2021-22	IRIDP-3BRS/DW-45	(a) Improvement of Barhi Bazar (NH)-Tutalata Bazar via Bagh Mana Road from Ch. 00m-744m & 1200m-1920m under Gourmadi Upazila, District: Barishal, [Road ID-506324045], (b) Construction of 03 Nos. 0.625m x 0.60m Culvert at Ch. 311m, 565m & 1355m on the same Road. [Salvage Cost Tk. 5,96,775.00], e-ID No. 702977	14-07-2022 Time: 12:00pm

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 up to 17.00 on previous day of receiving tender. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer
LGED, Barishal

GD-1292

Rice import duty slashed

FROM PAGE 1
inclement weather. Illegal hoarding has also been blamed for high prices.

Prices of all sorts of rice shot up over one month.

Retailers sold fine rice for Tk 64-80 a kg yesterday, up 14 percent from a month ago. Prices of coarse rice edged up 8.6 percent to Tk 48-53 a kg during the same period, according to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Until June 22 of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh imported 9.89 lakh tonnes of rice, including the 6.83 lakh tonnes the government imported itself, says food ministry data.

In the first two crop seasons - Aush and Aman - of this fiscal year, rice production grew one percent year-on-year to 1.79 crore tonnes, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Agricultural officials earlier said Boro production would be over 2 crore tonnes this year

and the total production of the grain was expected to be around 3.8 crore tonnes.

Bangladesh had allowed rice import at reduced

customs duty and taxes between August 12 and October 30 last year.

Rice import was 13.59 lakh tonnes in fiscal 2020-21.

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা) SREDA
বিন্যস্ত বিভাগ

জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপনে সহজ শর্তে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন

জ্বালানি শাস্ত্রের মাধ্যমে নিজে লাভবান হোন এবং সমৃদ্ধ দেশ গঠনে গর্বিত অংশীদার হোন

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