

“There’s already a governmental decision about obligatory evacuation from Donetsk region. Please, follow evacuation. At this phase of the war, terror is a main weapon of Russia.... The more people who leave Donetsk region now, the fewer people the Russian army will kill.”

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky



Russian warships sail during a parade marking Navy Day in Baltiysk in the Kaliningrad region, Russia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

CRISIS IN SRI LANKA
President seeks unity government

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka’s new president Ranil Wickremesinghe has formally invited MPs to join an all-party unity government to revive the bankrupt economy by undertaking painful reforms, his office said yesterday.

Wickremesinghe took office earlier this month after public anger over the island nation’s worst economic crisis forced his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and quit.

“I would like to get all the parties together and go on that journey as well as to form an all-party government,” Wickremesinghe was quoted as telling in a meeting Saturday with the influential monks of the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy.

He has written to all lawmakers asking them to join a unity



government.

A former opposition MP, Wickremesinghe, 73, took up the premiership for the sixth time in May after Rajapaksa’s elder brother Mahinda resigned.

Wickremesinghe went onto become the president after Gotabaya escaped on July 9 when tens of thousands of protesters angry at the economic crisis stormed the presidential palace.

Sri Lanka’s 22 million people have endured months of lengthy blackouts, record inflation and shortages of food, fuel and medicines. Since late last year, the country has run out of foreign exchange to finance even the most essential imports. In April, Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt and opened bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund.

Wickremesinghe told monks that the economy would decline further this year with a contraction of 7.0 percent, but expected a recovery next year.

1 killed as police, BNP activists clash in Bhola

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special intelligence unit observed that the protesters fired from shotguns at the police, prompting them to retaliate.

“I don’t know how the man died, but doctors said he died from a head injury ... maybe being struck by brickbats,” he said. Ten police personnel suffered injuries, including one who was hit by shotgun pellets fired by demonstrators, he said.

Police said they fired 165 rounds from shotguns and 30 teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

Alamgir refuted the SP’s claims of BNP activists firing from shotguns. He claimed that police fired from shotguns, leaving Rahim dead.

“Our plan was to leave the rally venue in a procession. When police charged baton and fired from shotguns and lobbed teargas shells, we did not bring out any procession,” he said, adding that police attacked without any provocation.

Nirupam Sarkar, resident physician of Bhola General Hospital,

said the deceased had injuries in the head, ear and also shotgun pellet wounds under his eyes and several other parts of the body.

“It appeared to us that blows to his head from brick chips might have caused his death,” Nirupam told this paper, adding that Rahim was brought dead.

Thirty-four others, including nine police personnel, were admitted to the hospital.

Of them, 19 were sent to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal, and five were referred to Dhaka for better treatment, said Saiful Islam, director of the hospital.

This correspondent found that an eighth-grader, Raihan, was wounded after getting caught up in the violence while going to a private tutor. The shopkeeper of a nearby store, Rafiq Mistri, was also wounded. Both were being treated at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said BNP supporters threw brick chips at the law enforcers

when police fired from shotguns and lobbed teargas shells, leading to a fierce clash.

Claiming that at least 100 of their leaders and activists were injured, Alamgir demanded punishment to the police personnel responsible for the attack.

Meanwhile, BNP announced a two-day programme protesting “police attack and firing” on the party’s rally in Bhola.

The party will hold gayebanajanaza today in all district headquarters and stage demonstrations across the country on August 2.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir made the announcement at a press briefing at the party’s Nayapaltan headquarters.

“Police suddenly attacked and opened fire on our rally in Bhola. Abdur Rahim, member secretary of Swachhchasebak Dal’s South Dighaldi union unit, was killed and many others were injured. We condemn such attack and have announced programmes,” he said.

29 June, 2022 was the shortest day on record

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Earth has set a new record for the shortest day.

The planet completed a full spin on 29 June 2022, in a time that was 1.59 milliseconds – little over one thousandth of a second – shorter than its standard 24-hour rotation.

It nearly broke the barrier again this month, with 26 July being 1.50 milliseconds shorter than 24 hours.

Recently, the Earth has been increasing in speed. In 2020, the Earth saw its shortest month that has ever been measured, since the 1960s. The shortest day of all time was measured that year: 1.47 milliseconds under 24 hours, on 19 July.

But when looked at over much longer periods, Earth’s spin is slowing. Every century, the Earth takes a couple of milliseconds longer to complete one rotation.



The causes of this are uncertain, but scientists speculate that it could be due to processes in the inner or outer layers of the core, oceans, tides, or even changes in climate.

Some scientists have suggested that the decreased days could be related to the Chandler wobble, a small deviation in the Earth’s axis of rotation. This is similar to the quiver one sees when a spinning top starts gaining momentum or slows down, according to scientists Leonid Zotov, Christian Bizouard, and Nikolay Sidorenkov who will present at the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society next week.

If the Earth continues to spin at an increasing rate it could lead to the introduction of the negative leap second, in order to keep the rate that the Earth orbits the Sun consistent with the measurement from atomic clocks.

Pelosi begins Asia tour

No mention of Taiwan in her tour schedule amid China’s repeated warnings

REUTERS, Beijing

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi starts a tour of four Asian countries yesterday, her office said, without mentioning Taiwan amid intense speculation she might visit the self-ruled island claimed by China.

“Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading a Congressional delegation to the Indo-Pacific region, including visits to Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan,” her office said in a press release.

The release said the visit would include those countries, but did not specify whether Pelosi, who is number 3 in the line of presidential succession, might make other stops.

Gregory Meeks, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was among the delegation listed.

China views visits by US officials to Taiwan as sending an encouraging signal to the pro-independence camp in the island. Washington does not have official



diplomatic ties with Taiwan but is bound by law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

A visit by Pelosi would be a dramatic, though not unprecedented, show of US support for Taiwan. Republican Newt Gingrich was the last House speaker to visit Taiwan in 1997.

President Xi Jinping warned his US counterpart Joe Biden on Thursday that Washington should abide by the one-China principle and “those who play with fire will perish by it”.

Chinese air force spokesman Shen

Jinke was quoted by state media yesterday as saying that Beijing would “resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity”.

Shen said at a military airshow that the air force has many types of fighter jets capable of circling “the precious island of our motherland”, referring to Taiwan.

A comment by a People’s Liberation Army unit on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like social media, on Friday – “Prepare for war!” – received 1.87 million thumbs-ups.

As a US aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its strike group returned to the South China Sea by Thursday, Chinese military ramped up exercises in the vicinity.

On Saturday, Chinese military held live-firing drills in the waters off Fujian province, over a 100 kilometres away from Taiwan, according to local authorities.

Chinese coast guard will hold an exercise in the South China Sea off Guangzhou province today, according to another notice by the Maritime Safety Administration.

NEW RUSSIAN NAVAL DOCTRINE
US dominance, Nato’s expansion ‘main threats’

AFP, Saint Petersburg

The United States’ quest to dominate the oceans and Nato’s expansion are the biggest threats facing Russia, according to a new Russian naval doctrine signed by President Vladimir Putin yesterday. The 55-page document said the “main challenges and threats” to national security and development were Washington’s “strategic objective to dominate the world’s oceans” and Nato military infrastructure moving towards Russia’s borders. The doctrine said Moscow will seek to strengthen its leading position in exploring the Arctic and its mineral resources and maintain “strategic stability” there by bolstering the potential of the northern and Pacific fleets. It also mentioned Russia’s desire to develop a “safe and competitive” sea route from Europe to Asia, known as the Northeast Passage, via the country’s Arctic coastline and ensure it worked throughout the year. “Today’s Russia cannot exist without a strong fleet... and will defend its interests in the world’s oceans firmly and with resolution,” the doctrine added.

Biden again tests positive for Covid

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden tested positive for Covid-19 again on Saturday in what the White House doctor described as a “rebound” case seen in a small percentage of patients who take the antiviral drug Paxlovid. Biden, 79, who emerged from Covid isolation on Wednesday after testing positive on July 21, said he was feeling fine. He will now return to strict isolation and will cancel planned trips to his home in Wilmington and work trip in Michigan, the White House said. Biden held public events on Wednesday and Thursday, but none on Friday. Biden’s positive test is believed to be a “rebound” experienced by some Covid patients who take the anti-viral drug Paxlovid, according to White House physician Dr. Kevin O’Connor. Paxlovid is an antiviral medication from Pfizer Inc PFE.N that is used to treat high-risk patients, such as older patients.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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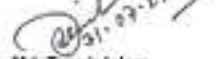
Memo No. EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022-23/01

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2022-23
(Open Tendering Method)

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work	Document last selling (Date & time)	Tender closing (Date & time)
01	719292	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-03	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Chamuguria College, Sadar, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
02	719293	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-04	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at ABCK Syed Abul Hossain College, Sadar, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
03	719294	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-05	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Kalkini Syed Abul Hossain College, Kalkini, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
04	719295	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-06	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Shaheed Smit College, Shashikar, Kalkini, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
05	719296	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-07	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at D.K. Ideal Syed Atahar Ali College, Kalkini, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
06	719297	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-08	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Sahetrampur Kabi Nazrul Islam College, Kalkini, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
07	719298	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-09	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Kadambari Union College, Rajoir, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
08	719299	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-10	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Government Rajoir Degree College, Rajoir, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
09	719300	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-11	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Shaheed Sardar Shahjahan Girls School and College, Rajoir, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
10	719301	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-12	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Kabinipur Chaituddin Degree College, Rajoir, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
11	719302	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-13	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Sheikh Rasel Degree College, Rajoir, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
12	719303	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-14	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Tekerhat Popular School and College, Rajoir, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
13	719304	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-15	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Elias Ahmed Chowdhury College, Shibchar, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
14	719305	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-16	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Riza Begum Mohila College, Shibchar, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
15	719306	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-17	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Nurul Amin Degree College, Shibchar, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00
16	719307	EED/MadICT/NGC/Road/2022/WD-18	Construction of RCC Internal Approach Road of Selected Non-Government Colleges at Baharada Adarsh College, Shibchar, Madaripur.	16-Aug-2022 17:00	17-Aug-2022 13:00

The interested persons/firms may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details of the tender. 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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from BGP helpline: (helpline@eprocure.gov.bd).


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