

Russia’s annexation
plan in Ukraine
WHAT’S NEXT?

Russian-backed separatists and Russian-installed officials in four partially Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine declared that voters had chosen to join Russia, in hastily organised referendums that the West said were illegal. President Vladimir Putin could proclaim the annexation in a speech within days.

REFERENDUM RESULTS

- Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR): 99.23 percent for joining Russia, 0.62 percent against. A total of 2.13 million people voted in total, 97.5 of voters.
- Luhansk People’s Republic (LNR): 98.42 percent for joining Russia.
- Russian-controlled Kherson region: 87.05 percent for joining Russia.
- Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia: 93.11 percent for joining Russia.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Things were moving swiftly yesterday. A tribune with giant video screens had been set up on Moscow’s Red Square, with billboards proclaiming “Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson - Russia!” The Russian-backed separatist leader in Luhansk, Leonid Pasechnik, and the Russian-installed administrator in occupied Kherson, Vladimir Saldo, both said they had formally asked Putin to incorporate their territories into Russia. The separatist leaders of Luhansk and Donetsk were both due to travel to Moscow. To annex the territories some sort of treaty will be struck and ratified by the Russian parliament, which is controlled by Putin allies. The areas will then be seen as part of Russia and Moscow’s nuclear umbrella will extend to them. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has repeatedly said that “pseudo-referendums” on annexation by Russia would destroy any chance of peace talks.

WHAT WILL THE WEST DO?

The West and Ukraine say Russia is violating international law by taking 15 percent of Ukrainian territory, whose post-Soviet borders Moscow recognised shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union. The West could increase arms supplies to Kyiv, and tighten financial sanctions that are already the most severe imposed against a large economy in modern history. The areas that are being annexed are not all the under control of Russian forces. So, from a Kremlin perspective, once they do become part of Russia, then fighting and a front line will run through Russian sovereign territory. That could prompt some sort of ultimatum from Russia to Ukraine and the West.

SOURCE: REUTERS

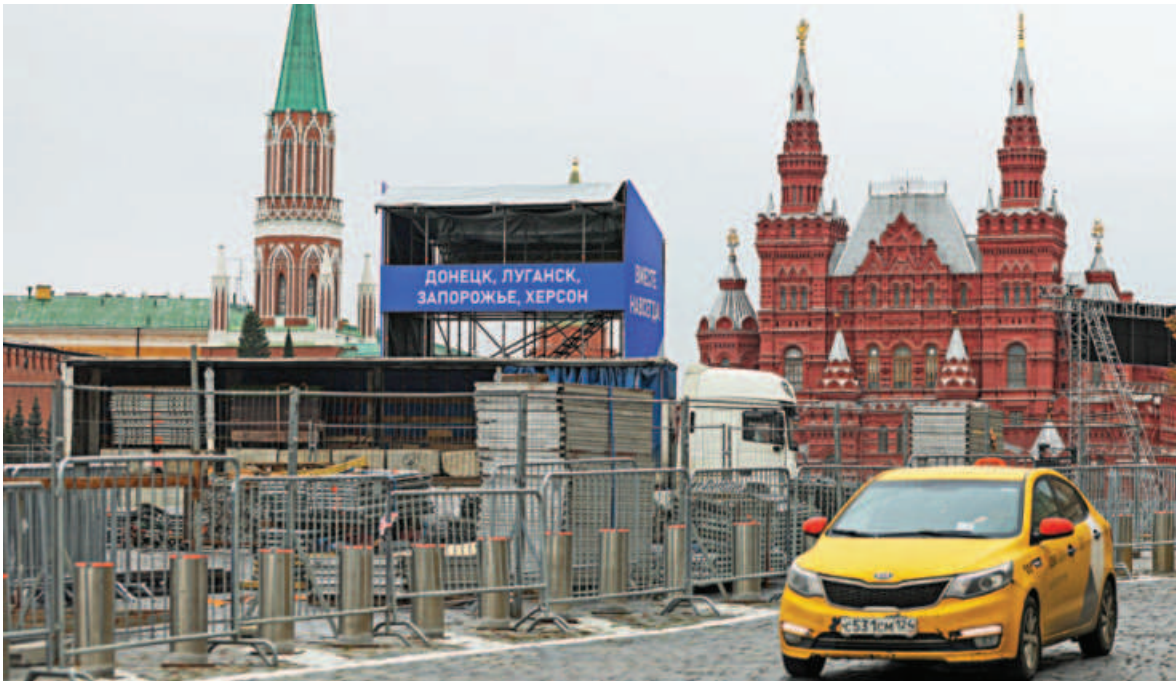


PHOTO: REUTERS

A view shows banners and constructions ahead of an expected event, dedicated to the results of referendums on the joining of four Ukrainian self-proclaimed regions to Russia, near the Kremlin Wall and the State Historical Museum in Red Square in central Moscow, Russia, yesterday. Banners read: “Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson. Together forever!”

ANTI-HIJAB PROTEST

Iran vows to use ‘all might’
9 killed as Revolutionary Guards target dissident sites in Iraq

AGENCIES

Iran’s police yesterday warned they will confront “with all their might” women-led protests that erupted nearly two weeks ago over the death of Mahsa Amini in custody, despite growing calls for restraint.

Dozens of people have been killed since demonstrations erupted when the 22-year-old Kurdish woman died after being arrested in Tehran for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic’s strict rules on hijab headscarves and modest clothing.

Widespread protests took place for a 12th straight night on Tuesday, according to opposition media

based outside Iran.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards yesterday said they fired missiles and drones at militant targets in the Kurdish region of neighbouring northern Iraq, where an official said nine people were killed. 32 people were also wounded in the attacks near Erbil and Sulaimaniya in Kurdistan, prompting Iraq to summon the Iranian ambassador.

Iranian authorities have accused armed Iranian Kurdish dissidents of involvement in the unrest.

On Tuesday, the UN said its chief Antonio Guterres had called on Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi not to use “disproportionate force”

against protesters.

Iran on Tuesday accused the United States of using the unrest to try to destabilise the country.

Fars news agency said Tuesday “around 60” people had been killed since Amini’s death on September 16. But the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights said the crackdown has killed at least 76 people. Officials said Monday they had made more than 1,200 arrests, including of activists, lawyers and journalists.

On Tuesday, authorities in Iran arrested the daughter of ex-president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for “inciting rioters”, the Tasnim news agency reported.

4 killed in Israeli
raid on Jenin

AFP, Jenin

An Israeli raid targeting alleged militants in a West Bank flashpoint killed four Palestinians yesterday, including the brother of a man blamed for a deadly attack in Tel Aviv. The violence was the latest to hit Jenin, in the north of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, an area that has seen near daily clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen since an escalation that began in March. Jenin deputy governor Kamal Abu al-Rub told AFP that yesterday’s raid was “the most violent that the occupation army has carried out since the start of the year”. The Palestinian health ministry recorded four dead and 44 wounded by live fire in the latest Israeli operation. The Israeli army confirmed two deaths during an operation it said targeted “two suspects involved in a number of recent shooting attacks”. The European Union, in a tweet, said it was “alarmed by the spike in violence today in Jenin following the (Israeli) incursions”. Since March, Israel has launched hundreds of operations in the northern West Bank in pursuit of alleged militants, including in Jenin and nearby Nablus. The raids have sparked clashes that have killed dozens of Palestinians.

S Arabia’s crown
prince named PM

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia’s powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has been named prime minister, a post traditionally held by the king, in a government shuffle announced Tuesday. The move effectively formalises power already wielded by Prince Mohammed, who has been the kingdom’s de facto ruler for several years, analysts said. The heads of other critical ministries, including interior, foreign and energy, remained in place, according to a royal decree from King Salman published by the official Saudi Press Agency. Prince Mohammed, who turned 37 last month, has been first in line to succeed his father as king since 2017. Prince Mohammed became defence minister in 2015, a key step in a swift consolidation of power.



Turkey bows to US pressure,
cuts Russian bank ties

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey’s booming wartime trade with Moscow took a giant step back yesterday with confirmation that the last three banks still processing Russian card payments were pulling out under pressure from Washington.

The decision follows weeks of increasingly blunt warnings from the United States for Nato member

Turkey to either limit its economic relations with Russia or face the threat of sanctions itself.

The US Treasury said last week that Turkish banks working with Russian Mir bank cards “risk supporting Russia’s efforts to evade US sanctions”.

The three Turkish state lenders that halted transactions are Halkbank, Vakifbank and Ziraatbank.

The Kremlin condemned Washington for forcing Turkish banks to cut their Russian ties.

The explosion of Turkish trade with Russia during the seven-month war in Ukraine has been a source of growing irritation for Washington.

The value of trade between the two rose by more than 50 percent. Turkey has also agreed to pay for a quarter of its Russian natural gas imports in rubles.

EC free to hold fair polls

FROM PAGE 1

relations with the ordinary people by going close to them; rather they are used to snatching votes and clinging on to power by force. “They might not like the democratic trends.”

Former UN high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet, during her visit to Bangladesh in April, encouraged the government to create an “independent, specialised mechanism” that works closely with the victims’ families and civil society to investigate the allegations of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Asked about it, Hasina said there is a human rights commission that always takes necessary steps. “If there is any allegation, they look into it.”

Hasina said whenever any injustice takes place, steps are taken immediately as per the law, and it’s something that didn’t happen in the past.

“We are not abusing human rights, we are rather protecting them,” she said, adding that her government has made people aware of their rights and has ensured that they can enjoy their rights.

The PM referred to the killings and disappearances of hundreds of army and air force members and Awami League leaders and activists during the tenure of Ziaur Rahman. She said their families didn’t even

get the bodies and had not been able to know what were the faults of their loved ones.

‘MEDIA FREE TO
CRITICISE GOVT’

Responding to a question on the Digital Security Act and its impact on media freedom, Hasina said Bangladesh’s growing media during the tenures of her successive governments has enjoyed freedom to say whatever it wishes.

“What would be the answer if someone says they are not allowed to speak after having spoken about all the issues? That’s my question.”

She said Bangladesh had only a few TV and radio stations before she took office in 1996 and those were controlled by the government.

Once she came to power, she made it possible for the private sector to run media outlets freely. She said that about 32 private TV channels out of 44 approved are now operating in the country.

Hasina said people are talking in talk shows without any restrictions, and they talk as they will – true or false – and keep criticising the government.

She said there was no freedom of speech or movement when there was a military dictator in power. ‘ROHINGYAS MUST GO BACK’

The premier said Bangladesh is not in a position to shelter any more people from Myanmar.

Stressing the need for repatriation of the Rohingyas, she said they must go back to their own country. “It’s not possible for us to take in any more people.”

Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char. Not a single Rohingya was repatriated over the last five years.

Hasina talked about how the prolonged stay of the Rohingyas is destroying the forests in Cox’s Bazar, causing sufferings to locals, and how they are getting involved in drug and arms smuggling and human trafficking.

She referred to Bangladesh’s repeated calls for the international community to work for the Rohingyas’ safe return.

The PM said Bangladesh is a densely populated country and a prolonged stay of the Rohingyas is becoming a burden.

She described how people from Bangladesh took shelter in India in 1971 amid Pakistan military’s brutality.

“We saw people’s sufferings [in 1971] with our own eyes,” Hasina said, referring to her conversation with her younger sister Sheikh Rehana before allowing in the Rohingyas amid the brutality against them in Myanmar.

Bangladesh has recently sought support and necessary steps from the international community

so that Myanmar stops violence in its territory and cannot try to avoid Rohingya repatriation on the pretext of unrest.

ASHRAYAN PROJECT

Hasina said she wants to make sure everyone in Bangladesh gets their own home, land and address, as her government continues its efforts towards inclusive development.

“My aim is to see that not a single person is homeless, landless and without an address in Bangladesh.”

She described how the idea of Ashrayan project came to her. One goal behind the idea was giving an equal ownership right to the husband and wife of a family.

Responding to a question, she said she has almost achieved her aim and 10 lakh families have been given homes. “... around 35 lakh people got shelters.”

The premier said the government was not just giving the homeless homes, it’s also providing them with cash support and necessary training to get involved in income generating activities.

She shared her experience of visiting St Martin’s Island after a cyclone in 1997, where she found 70 homeless families.

She said Awami League leaders came forward with their land when she wanted to build homes for them with the support of the Bangladesh Navy. “I designed the houses. That’s how it began.”



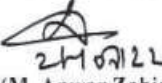
Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Police Telecommunication Organization
Police Telecom Bhabon, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
web: telecom.police.gov.bd



Invitation for International Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/Suppliers in their official pad for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DMR Trunking (Tier-3) System on Turnkey Basis for Bangladesh Police in FY 2022-2023.

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs		
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Police		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	SP (Logistics), Police Telecom Organization		
4.	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DMR Trunking (Tier-3) System on Turnkey Basis for Bangladesh Police.		
5.	Invitation Ref. No.	44.01.0000.057.11.022.22/536/Betar		
6.	Date	28/09/2022		
Key Information				
7.	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) - (International)		
Funding Information				
8.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB)		
Particular Information				
9.	Tender Publication date	29 September 2022.		
10.	Tender last selling date	09 November 2022.		
11.	Tender closing date and time	10 November 2022 at 11:30 hrs.		
12.	Tender opening date and time (Technical offer only)	10 November 2022 at 12:00 hrs.		
Name & address of the office				
13.	Name & address of the office	Bangladesh Police, Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
	Selling tender document	ASP (Procurement), Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
	Receiving tender document	Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
14.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	12 October 2022, at 12:00 hrs. at Police Telecom Conference Room (1 st Floor), Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
15.	Eligibility of Tenderer	1) Up to date Export license (2) Written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the tender in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Principal (3) Affidavit confirming the legal capacity and financial capability (4) Original full Brochure of products of the Principal (5) Other requirements described in the standard tender document (PG 5A).		
16.	Brief description of goods.			
Sl. No.	Description of Good	Price of tender document (Non-refundable)	Tender security	Completion time
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DMR Trunking (Tier-3) System on Turnkey Basis.	15,000/-	TK-71,50,000/- or US\$-67,850.00	120 days from the Date of Opening L/C.
Procuring Entity Details				
17.	Name of official inviting tender	M. Anwar Zahid		
18.	Designation of the official inviting tender	SP (Logistics), Bangladesh Police, Rajarbag, Dhaka-1217.		
19.	Address of official inviting tender	Police Telecom Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka-1217.		
20.	Contact details of official inviting the tender	Phone: +880 2-8301253 FAX: +880 2-8301404, Mobile: + 88 01320-020041 e-mail: splog.telecom@police.gov.bd		
21.	The tenderers shall submit their Technical and Financial offer in separate sealed envelope. Furthermore both envelopes shall be covered by an outer envelope which is sealed.			
Special instructions				
22.	a) No tender will be received after the deadline of submission time & date. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason. c) The Procuring entity also reserves the right to omit, increase and/or decrease the quantity of any item(s) of the tender. d) If not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue. e) Evaluation will be done by Lot basis. f) Date of financial offer opening will be duly informed to the Technically Responsive Tenderers and their local agents. g) The Tenderer must comply with all requirements as per the tender data sheet provided with the tender schedule. h) The Tender Security shall be in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee issued by an internationally reputable bank and shall require to be endorsed by its any correspondent bank located in Bangladesh. i) The Procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Regulation 2008.			



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