

India FM in 2-day Sri Lanka visit

REUTERS, Colombo

India's foreign minister arrives in Colombo yesterday following his country's backing of Sri Lanka for a \$2.9 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan.

India has told global lender IMF that it strongly supports Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan, with Colombo owing around \$1 billion to its nearest neighbour.

But Sri Lanka requires the backing of both China and India - its biggest bilateral lenders - to reach a final agreement with the IMF on the loan that is essential to help the country of nearly 22 million people emerge from its worst financial crisis in seven decades.

During his two-day visit, his third to Sri Lanka since 2021, minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar will look to strengthen India's ties with its debt-ridden neighbour and sign several key deals.



Women of the Miao ethnic minority prepare decorations ahead of the Lunar New Year of the Rabbit in Danzhai county, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, in China's southwestern Guizhou province, yesterday. The number of Covid patients needing critical care in China's hospitals has peaked, health authorities said yesterday, as millions travelled across the country for long-awaited reunions with families, raising fears of fresh outbreaks.

PHOTO: AFP

EU mulling terror label on Iran Guards

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday condemned a European Parliament call to blacklist the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group, which would pave the way for sanctions against the powerful military force. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian "strongly criticised the emotional approach of the European Parliament and labelled the move inappropriate and incorrect". The parliament had Wednesday urged "the EU and its member states to include the IRGC on the EU's terrorist list in the light of its terrorist activity, the repression of protesters and its supplying of drones to Russia."

Two killed in WB

AFP, Jenin

Two Palestinians were killed by gunfire early yesterday during an Israeli army raid in the flashpoint West Bank city of Jenin, the Palestinian health ministry said. The ministry said Jawad Farid Bawaqna was killed by a bullet to the chest, while Adham Mohammed Bassem Jabareen, 28, was hit in the upper abdomen by Israeli fire. The Israeli army said that during "counterterrorism activity in the Jenin (refugee) camp, armed Palestinian gunmen fired heavily at the security forces, who responded with live fire. Hits were identified". At least 17 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank this month, according to an AFP tally.

Spanish woman tipped to be 'world's oldest person' at 115

AFP, Barcelona



A Spanish great-grandmother who was born in the United States has likely become the world's oldest living person at 115, a Guinness World Records consultant said Wednesday. Maria Branyas Morera is believed to have assumed the title following the death on Tuesday of French nun

Lucile Randon aged 118. Guinness World Records must still make the official decision after carrying out document checks. Branyas Morera, who has lived through the 1918 flu, two world wars and Spain's civil war, was not available for interviews.



New Zealand PM Ardern to resign

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, a global figurehead of progressive politics, shocked the country yesterday by announcing she would resign from office.

The 42-year-old -- who steered the country through natural disasters, the Covid pandemic, and its worst-ever terror attack -- said she no longer had "enough in the tank".

"I am human. We give as much as we can for as long as we can and then it's time. And for me, it's time," she said at a meeting of members of her Labour Party.

Ardern said she would step down no later than February 7, less than three years after winning a landslide election to secure her second term in office.

Since that 2020 peak of "Jacindamania", Ardern's government has struggled -- its popularity hampered by soaring inflation, a looming recession and a resurgent conservative opposition.

New Zealand will choose its next prime minister in a general election held on October 14, Ardern announced.

Davos elite 'fuelling destruction of planet'

Says Greta Thunberg as business and political leaders attend the World Economic Forum

DAVOS, Switzerland

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg slammed business and political leaders attending the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday, saying it was "absurd" to listen to them while they fuelled "the destruction of the planet".

Two days after police briefly detained her at a protest against a coal mine in Germany, Thunberg and other young campaigners took part in a debate on the sidelines of the summit of global investors, CEOs and political leaders in the Swiss Alps.

"We are right now in Davos where (there are) basically the people who are mostly fuelling the destruction of the planet," the 20-year-old said, explaining that the world should not rely on them "for solving our problems".

She added that it was "absurd ... we seem to be listening to them rather than the people who are actually affected by the climate crisis".

"Without massive public pressure from the outside, these people are going to go as far as they possibly can... They will continue to throw people under the bus for their own gain," she said.

The Swede spoke on the sidelines of the WEF with fellow activists Helena Gualinga of Ecuador, Vanessa Nakate of Uganda and Luisa Neubauer of Germany at a CNBC panel that included International Energy Agency head Fatih Birol.

The Swede made a splash when she attended the forum as a teenager in January 2020, warning that "our house is still on fire" and complaining that her demands had been "completely ignored".

Then-US president Donald Trump used his speech at the same forum to bash "the perennial

prophets of doom" as Thunberg looked on stony-faced from the audience.

This week, she and Gualinga, Nakate and Neubauer launched an online petition demanding that energy firms stop any new oil, gas or coal extraction projects -- or face possible legal action.

More than 900,000 people had signed the petition by yesterday.

"It's completely insane that we are allowing this and we have people here in Davos that are enabling that, through government, through investing in fossil fuel and at some point there needs to be a stop. This is criminal behaviour," she said.

The IEA said in a report that the energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine was causing changes that could hasten the transition to a "more sustainable and secure energy system".

Climate change is a major topic at the World Economic Forum, where businesses and governments have come under pressure to do more to ensure that the world meets the increasingly elusive goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In a speech on Wednesday, UN chief Antonio Guterres drew a parallel between the actions of oil companies and those of tobacco firms, which were eventually hit by costly lawsuits over the harmful effects of cigarettes.

Guterres pointed to a study published in the journal Science last week that said ExxonMobil had dismissed the findings of its own scientists, who had accurately predicted global warming due to fossil fuels as far back as the late 1970s.

"Some in Big Oil peddled the big lie," he said. "And like the tobacco industry, those responsible must be held to account."



Demonstrators march with banners and flares during a rally called by French trade unions in Nantes, western France yesterday, as workers go on strike over the French President's plan to raise the legal retirement age from 62 to 64.

PHOTO: AFP

The defeat of a nuclear power in a conventional war may trigger a nuclear war. Nuclear powers have never lost major conflicts on which their fate depends.

Former Russian president
Dmitry Medvedev

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sadar, Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7587.000.07.002.22.49

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 02/2022-2023 (LTM)

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.	Package No.	Name of work	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)	Tender ID No.
01	ADP/NKL/ SAD/2022- 23/W-01	1. Construction of Post palisading Wall on Purbo Newazpur Monir Uddin Bari Graveyard side Under Newazpur Union, 2. Improvement of Hasan Ali Road - Faruq Driver Bari Near Zabaly Nur Jame Mosque Road by Brick Flat Soling Under Newazpur Union, 3. Improvement of Azizul Huj Bari Front- Subur Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Purbo Charmatus Union, 4. Construction of Post palisading Wall on South Jogalthpur-Udaysadurhat Road side Under Purbo Charmatus Union, 5. Construction of 1 No. Drainage (U Drain) Culvert at Char Bancharan - Abudogri GPS Road Under Purbo Charmatus Union Sadar Noakhali.	06-02-23 12:00	06-02-23 14:00	06-02-23 14:00	780502
02	ADP/NKL/ SAD/2022- 23/W-02	1. Improvement of Badarpur Rajob Ali Munshi Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Astwadia Union, 2. Improvement of Badarpur Basu Member Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Astwadia Union, 3. Improvement of Uttar Lakshampur Mukter Khan Pandeth Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Binodpur Union, 4. Construction of Post palisading Wall on South Lakshampur Bagari Bari Mosjed Pond side Under Binodpur Union, 5. Improvement of Seraz Uddinpur Sohed Muktejjudha Khorshed Alamer Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) & Construction of Post palisading Wall on Same Road side Under Kadirhanif Union, 6. Improvement of 1 No. Ward Mazi Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Kadirhanif Union, 7. Construction of Post palisading Wall on Purbo Razarampur Dapder Bari Pond side Under Kadirhanif Union, Sadar, Noakhali.	06-02-23 12:00	06-02-23 14:00	06-02-23 14:00	780503
03	ADP/NKL/ SAD/2022- 23/W-03	1. Improvement of Hakimpur Sarbojonin Sotho Narayan Monder Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Dadpur Union, 2. Improvement of Goripur Hugel Kali Monder Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Dadpur Union, 3. Improvement of Sibpur Salehpur Azizia Muslem Etemkhana Road by Cement Concrete (CC) Under Noanail Union, 4. Construction of Post palisading Wall on Santenhal High School Near Road side at Underchar Union, 5. Construction of Post palisading Wall on West Majchara Chowkidhat - South Khalpar Road at Underchar Union, 6. Construction of Galla at Islamia Saidia Madrasa Pond at Underchar Union, Sadar, Noakhali.	06-02-23 12:00	06-02-23 14:00	06-02-23 14:00	780505
04	ADP/NKL/ SAD/2022- 23/W-04	1. Construction of 1 No. Drainage (U Drain) Culvert at Major Monnan High School-Bhuyan Kandi Road Near of Kalu Mazir Bari Under Ewazabalia Union, 2. Construction of Post palisading Wall on Hazri Pozar Ali Painjegana Zame Mosjed Pond side Under Ewazabalia Union, 3. Improvement of Purbo Ewazabalia Primary School Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Ewazabalia Union, 4. Improvement of Muktejjudha Abul Hasem Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Kaladarap Union, 5. Construction of Public Toilet at Nuru Patawary Bazar Under Kaladarap Union, 6. Construction of Public Toilet at Noyar Hat Under Kaladarap Union, Sadar, Noakhali.	06-02-23 12:00	06-02-23 14:00	06-02-23 14:00	780506
05	ADP/NKL/ SAD/2022- 23/W-05	1. Improvement of Overampur Muktejjudha Samsul Kabir Chowdhury Ledu Mia Road by Cement Concrete (CC) at 3 No. Ward Under Charmatus Union, 2. Construction of Galla at Dharmapur Bangla Bazar Pond Under Dharmapur Union, 3. Improvement of Ismail Mia Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Dharmapur Union, 4. Improvement of Murtuja Huzurer Bari Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Dharmapur Union, 5. Improvement of Purbo Sullakia Jhangir Khalila Road by Brick Flat Soling (BFS) Under Dharmapur Union, 6. Construction of Galla at Purbo Sullakia Adarsha Somaz Mosque Pond Under Dharmapur Union, Sadar, Noakhali.	06-02-23 12:00	06-02-23 14:00	06-02-23 14:00	780507

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 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 banks branches up to 12.00pm on 06-Feb-2023. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or egp@lged.gov.bd.

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