

ISRAEL-PALESTINE TENSION Blinken backs 2-state solution

REUTERS, Jerusalem

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday he would urge Israelis and Palestinians to calm tensions as he visits the middle-east during the worst violence in years, and reaffirmed a long stalled peace vision as the "only path" forward.

"There is no question that this is a very difficult moment," Blinken told reporters in Cairo before departing for Tel Aviv. "We have seen, over many months, rising violence that is affecting so many."

Blinken described Washington as "a stalwart believer in the negotiated two-state solution - the only path to a lasting resolution for the conflict".

Meanwhile, Israeli troops killed a Palestinian man yesterday, Palestinian officials said, hours before US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrives on a visit dominated by a deadly shooting near a Jerusalem synagogue and growing violence in the West Bank.

The Palestinian health ministry said 26-year-old Nassim Nayef Salman Abu Fouda was shot in the head by soldiers in Hebron, a southern city in the occupied West Bank, early in the morning.

BBC DOCU ON MODI

India's top court to hear pleas challenging ban

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court will consider petitions next week against a government order blocking the sharing of clips of a BBC documentary that questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership during riots in 2002 in the western state of Gujarat.

The government has dismissed as a biased "propaganda piece" the film released last week, titled "India: The Modi Question", and blocked the sharing of any clips from it on social media.

The Supreme Court will take up the petitions next week. Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said in court yesterday.

A New Delhi-based lawyer, M L Sharma, opposed the government's move in one of the petitions to the Supreme Court.

A separate petition by lawyer Prashant Bhushan, journalist N. Ram and opposition politician Mahua Moitra focused on the order to take down social media links to the documentary.

In a Twitter comment on the second petition, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "This is how they waste the precious time of the Honourable Supreme Court, where thousands of common citizens are waiting and seeking dates for justice."



A local resident carries her baby outside of their residential building partially destroyed after a missile strike in Kharkiv yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

BATTLES IN EAST UKRAINE Russia claims incremental gains

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russian forces claimed incremental gains in eastern Ukraine yesterday adding up to their biggest advances in months, after relentless battles that Kyiv described as human wave attacks which showed Moscow had no regard for the lives of its own men.

The administrator of Russian-controlled parts of Donetsk province, Denis Pushilin, claimed troops had secured a foothold in Vuhledar, a coal mining town whose ruins have been a Ukrainian bastion since the outset of the war.

A day earlier, the head of Russia's Wagner mercenary force said his fighters had secured Blahodatne, a village just north of Bakhmut, a city that has been

the focus of sustained Russian attacks for months.

Kyiv said it had repelled assaults on Blahodatne and Vuhledar. But the locations of the reported fighting indicated clear, though gradual, Russian gains after around two months in which front lines had largely been frozen in place.

"The situation is very tough. Bakhmut, Vuhledar and other sectors in Donetsk region - there are constant Russian attacks," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address late on Sunday.

"The enemy does not count its people and, despite numerous casualties, maintains a high intensity of attacks."

Vuhledar sits south of Bakhmut, near where the eastern frontline protects Russian-controlled rail lines supplying

Moscow's forces in southern Ukraine. Mykola Salamakha, a Ukrainian colonel and military analyst, told Ukrainian Radio NV that Moscow's assault there was coming at huge cost.

"The town is on an upland and an extremely strong defensive hub has been created there," he said. "This is a repetition of the situation in Bakhmut - one wave of Russian troops after another crushed by the Ukrainian armed forces."

In recent weeks, Western countries have pledged hundreds of modern tanks and armoured vehicles to equip Ukrainian forces for a counter-offensive to recapture territory later in 2023. But delivery of those weapons is months away, leaving Kyiv to fight on through winter in what both sides have described as a meat grinder of relentless warfare.

'Very high' odds of war with China Top US Republican warns

REUTERS, Washington

A top Republican in the US Congress said on Sunday the odds of conflict with China over Taiwan "are very high" after a US general caused consternation with a memo that warned that the United States would fight China in the next two years. In a memo dated February 1 but released on Friday, General Mike Minihan, who heads the Air Mobility Command, wrote to the leadership of its roughly 110,000 members, saying, "My gut tells me we will fight in 2025." "I hope he is wrong... I think he is right, though," Mike McCaul, the new chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the US House of Representatives, told Fox News Sunday. The general's views do not represent the Pentagon but show concern at the highest levels of the US military over a possible attempt by China to exert control over Taiwan, which Beijing claims as a wayward province. Both the United States and Taiwan will hold presidential elections in 2024, potentially creating an opportunity for China to take military action, Minihan wrote. McCaul said that if China failed to take control of Taiwan bloodlessly then "they are going to look at a military invasion in my judgment. We have to be prepared for this". He accused the Democratic administration of projecting weakness after the bungled pullout from Afghanistan.

DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS China's Sichuan to scrap 3-child limit

AFP, Beijing

Southwest China's Sichuan province will lift its three-child birth limit and remove restrictions on single parents as the world's most populous nation faces a looming demographic crisis. China's population shrank last year for the first time in more than six decades, official data released this month showed, and the nation of 1.4 billion has seen birth rates plunge to record lows as its workforce ages. China ended its strict "one-child policy" in 2016 and began allowing couples to have three children in 2021. But that has failed to reverse the demographic decline. Faced with falling birth rates, authorities in Sichuan yesterday said they would remove the limit on the number of children a family can have and lift a ban on single women registering a birth.

"As we enter the fourth year of the pandemic, there is no doubt we are in a far better situation now than we were a year ago...since the beginning of December, weekly reported deaths have been rising. In the past eight weeks, more than 170,000 people have lost their lives to Covid-19."

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says as the global health agency maintains highest alert over Covid

Chattogram Fish Harbour Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation

Ref No:33.03.1561.008.07.001.21.224

Date: 29/01/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works are described below:

Ser.	Tender ID	Name of Goods	Tender Publication Date	Last Selling, Closing & Opening Date
1.	784207	Required Raw Materials For Fabrication Of Green House Mechanical Dryer.	30.01.2023	15.02.2023

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 e-tender document from the national e-gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches by 13:30 hours on 15.02.2023.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) contact No. BFDC, Ctg Fish Harbour (01716169062 and 01719319043)

General Manager

Bangladesh Development Bank Limited Head Office, Bdbl Bhaban 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000. Real Estate Department

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Tender is invited from the reputed manufacturers/suppliers for Operation & Maintenance of Sub-Station, Generator, Pump, Fire Fighting System etc. of BDBL Bhaban at 8, RAJUK Avenue, Dhaka-1000 in monthly payment basis for 03 (Three) years, Necessary information's are given below :

01. Procuring Entity	Real Estate Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
02. Procurement Method	Through Open Tendering Method (OTM) of Public Procurement Rules, 2008 and The Public Procurement Act, 2006.
03. Invitation for Tender No.	BDBL/RED/OTM/2023/04
04. Source of Funds	BDBL own Fund.
05. Brief Description of the Goods and Services	Operation & Maintenance of Sub-Station, Generator, Pump, Fire Fighting System etc. of BDBL Bhaban at 8, RAJUK Avenue, Dhaka-1000 in monthly payment basis for 03 (Three) years.
06. Name & Address of Receiving Tender Document	Real Estate Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL Bhaban (Level-09), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
07. Last Date and Time for Selling Tender Schedule	27-02-2023 up to Office Hour.
08. Last Date and Time for Submission	28-02-2023 up to 03:00 PM
09. Date, Time and Place for Tender Opening	All Tenders will be opened at Real Estate Department, Head Office, Dhaka on 28-02-2023 at 3:30 PM (Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening of Tender.
10. Eligibility of Tenderer	1. The Tenderer must have 10 (Ten) years of general experience in Supply of similar goods and related services in Bangladesh. 2. The Tenderer must have a minimum 08 (Eight) years of specific experience in Supply of similar goods & works and related services each with a value of at least 10.00 Lakh. 3. Minimum amount of liquid asset ie working capital or credit line would be 15.00 Lakh. 4. The Tenderer must have ABC Category Electrical & Supervisory License. 5. The Tenderer must submit attested photocopies of up to date Trade License, TIN Certificate, VAT Registration Certificate (BIN), Tax Return Acknowledgement, documentary evidence of their experience. 6. If the tenderer fails to submit the above mentioned documents Tender would be treated as 'Non-Responsive'.
11. Tender Security	Tender Security of an amount of Tk. 1,00,000.00 (One Lac Taka) only will be required in the form of Pay Order in favor of "Bangladesh Development Bank Limited".
12. Price of Tender Schedule	Tk. 1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred) Only. (Non Refundable).

BDBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender either in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Engr. Md. Asaduzzaman
Department Head
Real Estate Department
BDBL, Head Office
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka.
Phone : 02-223350689

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & Opening
01.	IMP/Machine/SEM/61/2022-2023 dated. 30/01/2023	Supply & Installation, Commissioning & Validation of Following Machine (Specification as per tender Schedule): For Bogura Plant (Double Envelope System) 01. Incinerator -01 (One)	Tk. 1250.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 12.00 Non-refundable	Closing: 28/02/2023 at 11.00 AM Opening: 28/02/2023 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order/Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website: www.edcl.gov.bd

General Manager
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.

(6 Inch. x 4 colum)