

MINE COLLAPSE

2 dead, over 50 missing in China

AFP, Beijing

At least two people were killed and more than 50 are missing, Chinese state media reported, after an apparent collapse at a coal mine in northern China's Inner Mongolia region yesterday.

State broadcaster CCTV said a collapse occurred at a mine in the western part of the Alxa League region at around 1:00 pm (0500 GMT). Other outlets and government agencies described it as a "landslide".

"Currently, the incident has caused the deaths of two people and injured six, with 53 missing," CCTV said.

A social media video appeared to show loose rocks cascading down a slope, kicking up clouds of brown dust that engulfed several vehicles. CCTV reported earlier yesterday that the incident had affected a "wide area" of the open-pit mine.



Palestinians try to help a wounded woman during a raid by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, yesterday. At least 10 Palestinians were killed in the raid, the Palestinian health ministry said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

FX RESERVES
China lends Pak further \$700m

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan will this week receive a new \$700 million loan from China to help shore up its foreign exchange reserves, the country's finance minister said yesterday, in another step to help the South Asian nation recover from an economic crisis.

The credit facility, made through the state-owned China Development Bank will boost Pakistan's forex reserves by about 20 percent and comes as the country is thrashing out a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to unlock funds from a \$6.5 billion bailout.

"This amount is expected to be received this week by State Bank of Pakistan which will shore up its forex reserves," Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Twitter.

Asia-Pacific 'peace' needs to be upheld
Say China's top diplomat, Russia's security chief

REUTERS, Beijing

China said yesterday its top diplomat, Wang Yi, met Russia's security chief and both sides agreed that peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region should be resolutely upheld, and opposed the introduction of a Cold War "mentality".

Wang met with leaders of the China-Russia Strategic Security Consultation Mechanism and Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of Russia's Security Council, and both sides discussed ways to improve global governance, according to a statement from the Chinese foreign ministry.

The two sides exchanged views on the Ukraine situation, the statement said, without elaborating.

It added the two sides expressed their willingness to jointly practice "true multilateralism, oppose all forms of unilateral bullying, and



promote the democratisation of international relations and the multi-polarisation of the world".

"Chinese-Russian relations are mature in character: they are rock solid and will withstand any test in a changing international situation," Wang told "Comrade" Patrushev through a Russian interpreter in remarks aired on state television.

Patrushev, who is close to Putin, told "Comrade" Wang that Beijing was a top priority for Russian foreign policy and that the two countries must stick together

against the West.

"In the context of a campaign that is being waged by the collective West to contain both Russia and China, the further deepening of Russian-Chinese cooperation and interaction in the international arena is of particular importance," RIA cited Patrushev.

Wang also met Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday as part of a visit to Moscow.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is preparing to visit Moscow for a summit with Putin in the coming months, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the plan.

Preparations for the trip are at an early stage and the timing has not been finalised, the WSJ said, adding that Xi could visit in April or early May, when Russia celebrates its World War Two victory over Germany.

Iran slaps sanctions on EU, Britain

AFP, Tehran

Iran imposed sanctions Tuesday on 36 individuals and entities from the European Union and Britain in reaction to similar measures against Tehran over its response to months-long protests.

Tehran placed the names on its "sanction list for supporting terrorism and terrorist groups" as well as for "interference in domestic affairs... fomenting violence and unrest", the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement.

Sanctions were imposed on several military companies as well as ministers and lawmakers from various European countries, both at a national level and in the European Parliament.

They include Isabelle Rome, French minister for equality and diversity.

EARTHQUAKE ZONE
Turkey bans layoffs, offers salary support

REUTERS, Antalya

Turkey has launched a temporary wage support scheme and banned layoffs in 10 cities yesterday to protect workers and businesses from the financial impact of the massive earthquakes that hit the south of the country earlier this month. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake on February 6 killed more than 47,000 people, damaged or destroyed hundreds of thousands of buildings in Turkey and Syria and left millions homeless. In Turkey, 865,000 people are living in tents and 23,500 in containers, while 376,000 are in student dormitories and public guesthouses outside the earthquake zone, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday. Under Ankara's new economic relief plan, employers whose workplaces were "heavily or moderately damaged" would benefit from support to partially cover wages of workers whose hours had been cut, the country's Official Gazette said yesterday. A ban on layoffs was also introduced in 10 earthquake-hit provinces covered by a state of emergency. Business groups and economists have said the earthquake could cost Ankara up to \$100 billion to rebuild housing and infrastructure, and shave one to two percentage points off economic growth this year. Erdogan has promised swift reconstruction, although experts say it could be a recipe for another disaster if safety steps are sacrificed.



Seattle becomes 1st US city to ban caste discrimination

AFP, Washington

Seattle has become the first city in the United States to ban discrimination based on caste, following a city council vote on Tuesday. "It's official: our movement has won a historic, first-in-the-nation ban on caste discrimination in Seattle!" tweeted Indian American council member Kshama Sawant, who introduced the legislation. "Now we need to build a movement to spread this victory around the country." The city council of Seattle, in the northwest state of Washington, voted 6-1 in favor of the ban, which applies to employment, housing, public transport and retail establishments. India's Hindu caste system, which dates back thousands of years, divides society into a rigid hereditary hierarchy based on a belief in so-called upper-caste purity, with Dalits on the lowest rung facing discrimination and even violence. Activists say caste-based discrimination has followed the South Asian diaspora to the United States. "Caste discrimination doesn't only take place in other countries. It is faced by South Asian American and other immigrant working people in their workplaces, including in the tech sector, in Seattle and in cities around the country," said Sawant, when her office introduced the legislation in January. Dalit rights groups have lauded the ban.



Trade union members shout slogans during a protest against major hikes in taxes and electricity rates, in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Antarctic sea ice hit record lows again

CNN ONLINE

Antarctic sea ice has reached record low levels for the second time in two years, with some scientists alarmed that dramatic drops are a signal the climate crisis may now be more clearly influencing this vast, complex and isolated region.

The sea ice that fringes Antarctica dropped to just 737,000 square miles (1.91 million square kilometers) on February 13, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center, or NSIDC, below the previous record of 741,000 square miles (1.92 million square kilometers) set on February 25 last year.

Sea ice could still shrink further; the lowest level of the southern summer may not be reached for more than a week.

The last two years mark the only



time that sea ice levels have dipped below 2 million square kilometers since satellites began monitoring it in 1978.

It's "not just 'barely a record low,'" Ted Scambos, a glaciologist at the University of Colorado Boulder, told CNN. "It's on a very steep downward trend."

Unlike the Arctic, where the rate of sea ice loss has followed a fairly consistent downward trajectory as climate change accelerates, Antarctic sea ice extent has swung up and down, making it harder to figure out how the

continent and its surrounding ocean are responding to global heating.

The two polar regions are very different. While the Arctic is an ocean surrounded by continents, Antarctica is a continent surrounded by the ocean – this means its sea ice can grow outward, unconstrained by land. Antarctic ice tends to be thinner than Arctic ice, with greater highs in the winter and steeper declines in the summer.

Climate models projected declines in Antarctic sea ice that were similar to the Arctic, but until recently the region was behaving completely differently than those models predicted.

It hit a record high for winter sea ice extent in 2014 when it reached 7.76 million square miles, which seemed to support the idea that the Antarctic may be relatively insulated from global warming.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Environment Protection Through
Social Forestry in the Rajshahi Barind Tract
Region Project
Bangladesh Forest Department, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Office of the Project Director
Social Forest Division, Rajshahi

e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 692

Date: 22-02-2023

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

SL No.	ID, Reference No., tender/proposal status	Name of works	Type, method	Publishing date and time	Last selling date and time	Opening date and time
1	790266, WD-01/SFD/RAJ/2022-23	Construction of 2 Storied Dormitory Building with 2 Storied Foundation for Security Staff of National Park	NCT, OTM	22-Feb-2023, 15:00	12-Mar-2023, 15:00	13-Mar-2023, 15:00
2	793670, WD-02/SFD/RAJ/2022 23	Construction of 3 Storied (3 Storied Foundation) Rest House Cum Office Building	NCT, OTM	22-Feb-2023, 15:00	20-Mar-2023, 17:00	21-Mar-2023, 15:00
3	790902, WD-03/SFD/RAJ/2022-23	Construction of 1 Storied Souvenir Shop (With 1 Storied Foundation)	NCT, OTM	22-Feb-2023, 15:00	12-Mar-2023, 15:00	13-Mar-2023, 15:00
4	791054, WD-04/SFD/RAJ/2022-23	Construction of RCC Tower (Height 30 meter) and Two Landing Station (12 meter and 20 meter)	NCT, OTM	22-Feb-2023, 15:00	12-Mar-2023, 15:00	13-Mar-2023, 15:00

This is online tender, where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)/Contact Number (01762625528-31).

22-02-2023

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GD-327