

No sign Russia mulling nuclear use

Biden tells ABC News after Moscow suspends START arms treaty

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday offered fresh criticism of Russia's suspension of a key nuclear treaty, but stressed there was no indication Moscow was moving closer to actually using an atomic weapon.

"It's a big mistake to do that, not very responsible," Biden told ABC News in Poland on the sidelines of a meeting with Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg and eastern European leaders in Warsaw.

"But I don't read into that that he's thinking of using nuclear weapons or anything like that," the US president added, noting that he had seen "no evidence" of any change in posture on nuclear arms use by Moscow.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday announced the suspension of Moscow's participation in the New START arms treaty during a state of the nation address -- a decision that was approved by Russian lawmakers on Wednesday.

The 2010 deal, the last remaining nuclear arms control treaty between the two rival nuclear powers, commits them to limiting their stockpile of nuclear warheads.

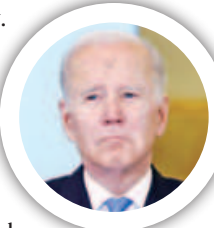
Putin's treaty announcement was met with widespread international condemnation, though Russia's foreign ministry later said Moscow would continue to comply with the treaty's restrictions in a "responsible" way until it expires in February 2026.

Biden told ABC News he was "confident that we'll be able to work it out," without elaborating, reports AFP.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Russia's decision "deeply unfortunate and irresponsible" but said Washington was still willing to talk about the issue.

Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said it made the world more dangerous, urging Putin to reconsider, reports Reuters.

Moscow has demanded that British and French nuclear weapons targeted against Russia be included in the arms control framework, a position seen as a non-starter for Washington after over half a century of bilateral nuclear treaties with Russia.



In this handout image released by La Moncloa yesterday, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Mayor of Bucha Anatoliy Fedoruk leave floral tributes to the fallen, during his visit to the town of Bucha, 30km from Kyiv, in Ukraine. Pedro Sanchez arrived in Kyiv early yesterday in a show of support ahead of the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

UN chief condemns Russian 'affront' in Ukraine

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine Wednesday as the General Assembly met in a special session two days before the anniversary of Moscow's attack.

"That invasion is an affront to our collective conscience," Guterres said, calling the anniversary "a grim milestone for the people of Ukraine and for the international community."

As fighting raged on in Ukraine, the General Assembly began debating a motion backed by Kyiv and its allies calling for a "just and lasting peace."

While the measure is not as tough



as Ukraine would like, it is hoping that a large majority of UN states will back the non-binding resolution to demonstrate Kyiv has the support of the global community.

Dozens of countries have sponsored the resolution, which stresses "the need to reach, as soon as possible, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line

with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

It reaffirms the UN's "commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine" and calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

It also demands Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine."

In his opening remarks, Guterres highlighted the impact on the world of Russia's invasion of its neighbour. He noted that it has generated eight million refugees, and hurt global food and energy supplies in countries.

Violence flares around Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Israel launched air strikes on Gaza in return for rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave yesterday, a day after the deadliest Israeli army raid in the occupied West Bank in nearly 20 years. Eleven Palestinians, including a 16-year-old, were killed and more than 80 wounded by gunfire on Wednesday, the Palestinian health ministry said, when Israeli troops raided the flashpoint West Bank city of Nablus, drawing international appeals for calm.

The death toll was the highest since the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, ended in 2005. It was described as a "massacre" by top Palestinian official Hussein Al Sheikh, who called for "international protection for our people". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who heads a new coalition government regarded as the most right-wing in Israel's history, praised Israeli forces and vowed to "hit terrorism hard" after the army said it targeted suspected militants in Nablus. The United States said it was "extremely concerned by the levels of violence" and called for a de-escalation. UN Middle East envoy Tor Wennesland travelled to the Gaza Strip yesterday, his spokesman told AFP.



Adani invests in crisis-hit Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka yesterday announced its first major foreign investment since it declared bankruptcy, approving a \$442 million wind power project by India's scandal-hit Adani group. Sri Lanka's Board of Investment said Adani Green Energy, part of the business empire of controversial Indian tycoon Gautam Adani, will set up two wind farms in the island's north. The total investment will reach \$442 million and the two plants will be supplying power to the national grid "by 2025", the BOI said. The project comes after Sri Lanka awarded Adani a \$700m strategic port terminal project in Colombo in 2021. That concession was widely seen as a bid to address Delhi's growing concern over China's expanding influence in the region -- Adani had been nominated as the contractor by the Indian government.

Both AL, BNP wooing Islami Andolon

FROM PAGE 1

as its experience over the past caretaker rules was not pleasant.

At the same time, IAB leaders think no credible election is possible under the present system and they want an election-time government comprising representatives from all political parties, said IAB sources.

Contacted, BNP central media cell chief Zahir Uddin Swapan told The Daily Star that they proposed that

Islami Andolon leaders join the BNP's ongoing movement as the party has some demands similar to the 10 points.

"Islami Andolon leaders, however, told us they want an all-party election-time government," he added.

The AL, on the other hand, is trying to expand the grand alliance by taking some leftist and Islamist parties on board.

With this goal, the ruling party communicated

with Islami Andolon and expressed its interest to get the party into its fold, according to the sources in the two parties.

The AL, however, did not hold any formal meeting with the Islamist party. Neither did it participate in its annual Mahfil.

The ruling party wants to bring more political parties to its camp for two reasons -- if the BNP participates in the polls, votes of the allies and like-minded parties will help

grand alliance candidates win, and if the BNP boycotts the polls, partners of the AL will separately run to make the election look participatory, said sources.

According to the IAB sources, the party can field candidates for all 300 constituencies, and through the last national election and local body polls, it proved its organisational abilities.

The IAB ran for 299 out of 300 constituencies in the last national polls, held in 2018 --

the highest by a single party -- in the election whereas the AL contested in 262 seats, the BNP in 258 and the JP 45.

Contacted, KM Shariatullah, organising secretary of Dhaka city (north) of Islami Andolon, told The Daily Star that many political parties were keeping in touch with them, but they are yet to give a "positive response" to anyone.

"Rather, we are trying to form a greater unity with the other Islamists parties, and for this, we are having meetings with them," he said.

The IAB individually participated in national elections for the first time in 2008. It contested for 160 seats and secured 7,33,969 votes, which was 1.05 percent of the total vote cast.

In the last national polls in 2018, IAB contested for 299 seats and got 12.55 lakh votes, which was 1.52 percent of the vote.

Currently, the party has 10 union parishad chairmen and a word councillor under Dhaka City (South).

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"বেশী বেশী চা পান করান,
স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন।"

"বেশী বেশী লিকার চা পানে
ক্যাসার, হৃদরোগ হার মানে"

বিটিআরআই-এর বাসা-বাড়ির মেরামত ও সংস্কার (প্যাকেজ-২ ও ৩) কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়	
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড	
৩	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই)	
৪	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থার অবস্থান	বিটিআরআই, থানা ও উপজেলা- শ্রীমঙ্গল, জেলা- মৌলভীবাজার।	
৫	আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	বিটিআরআই-এর বাসা-বাড়ির মেরামত ও সংস্কার (প্যাকেজ-২ ও ৩) কাজ।	
৬	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)	
৭	দরপত্র নং	বিটিআরআই/ ২/দরপত্র/০৮(৯)- ৩০৪; তারিখ ৪ ২২ /০২/২০২৩ ইং	
৮	অর্থের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট এর সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ রাজস্ব খাত।	
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	২৮/০২/২০২৩ ইং হতে ১৩/০৩/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থান- ১. বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।	
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪/০৩/২০২৩ ইং সময়- দুপুর ১১-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, স্থান- বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।	
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪/০৩/২০২৩ ইং দুপুর ১১-১০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।	
১২	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণক, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট এবং টেন্ডার সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি, এ্যাম্বুয়াল টার্নওভার ও লিকুইড এসেট এর তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।	
১৩	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরযোগ্য)।	
১৪	কাজের পরিচিতি-	কাজের অবস্থান	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়
	বিটিআরআই-এর বাসা-বাড়ির মেরামত ও সংস্কার (প্যাকেজ-২ ও ৩) কাজ।	বিটিআরআই, শ্রীমঙ্গল-৩২১০, জেলা- মৌলভীবাজার।	০২ মাস ১৫ দিন
১৫	কাজের স্থান পরিদর্শনের সময়		
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(ড. মো: ইসমাইল হোসেন)
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