

Blinken to meet Asia 'Quad'

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet next week with his counterparts from India, Japan and Australia, on the heels of a flare-up in tensions with China.

Blinken will hold the talks with the so-called Quad on March 3 on the sidelines of a Group of 20 meeting in New Delhi, said Donald Lu, the top State Department official on South Asia.

The four will hold an hour-long public discussion as part of the Raisina Dialogue, a major Indian conference on geopolitics, he said.

The latest meeting comes weeks after Blinken scrapped a trip to Beijing after an alleged Chinese spy balloon flew over the US. He later held a meeting with China's foreign policy chief Wang Yi at the Munich Security Conference.



People hold banners as they gather to mark one year since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Times Square, New York City. The photo was taken on Friday night.

PHOTO: AFP

Macron to visit China

REUTERS, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday he will visit China in early April, in part to seek Chinese help with ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "The fact that China engages in peace efforts is a good thing," Macron told reporters at an agricultural fair in Paris. "China must help us put pressure on Russia so that it never uses chemical or nuclear weapons, (an effort) which China has already made, and that it stops its aggression as a precondition for talks," he added.

Brazil storm death toll rises to 57

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

The death toll from heavy rains that devastated coastal areas of Brazil's southeastern Sao Paulo state have reached 57 people, official figures showed. Massive downpours have caused landslides and flooding in coastal towns of Brazil's richest state since last weekend. The city of Sao Sebastiao bore the brunt of the human toll, with 56 of the reported deaths. The Sao Paulo state government said in a statement on Friday that more rains were expected while search and rescue efforts continued with dozens still missing. More than 4,000 people were forced from their homes, it added.

'Tehran still seeking to kill Trump'

AFP, Tehran



An Iranian general warned his country is still seeking to kill former US president Donald Trump and his secretary of state Mike Pompeo in revenge for assassinating top commander Qasem Soleimani. Tehran has repeatedly vowed to avenge the killing of Soleimani, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' foreign operations, in a US drone strike on Baghdad airport in January 2020. "We hope we can kill Trump, Pompeo, (former US general Kenneth) McKenzie and the military commanders who gave the order" to kill Soleimani, General Amirali Hajizadeh, the Guards' aerospace unit commander, said on television late Friday.

WHAT'S IN CHINA'S UKRAINE PLAN

China has released its position paper on the Russia-Ukraine war, in which it calls for a ceasefire and talks between the two parties. Conflict and war "benefit no one", China said on Friday in the 12-point paper.

WHAT IS IN THE PLAN?

Released by the foreign ministry, the plan urges an end to Western sanctions against Russia, the establishment of humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians and steps to ensure the export of grain after disruptions caused global food prices to spike last year. The proposal mainly elaborates on long-held Chinese positions, including that all countries' "sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity be effectively guaranteed". It said nuclear power

plants must be kept safe and the threat or use of nuclear weapons should be opposed. The plan also called for an end to the "Cold War mentality".

HOW HAS UKRAINE REACTED?

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv needed to cooperate with China to put an end to the war. "It seems to me that there is respect for our territorial integrity, security issues."

HOW THE WEST REACTED?

Western diplomats and experts reacted with scepticism and disappointment, noting that China is not neutral and has not condemned Russia's invasion. Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Beijing was not well-placed to negotiate an end to the war.

SOURCE: AGENCIES

Nepal ruling coalition in fresh turmoil

Deputy PM and 3 other ministers quit

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's ruling coalition was in turmoil yesterday after the prime minister said he planned to support a presidential candidate from an opposition party, a decision that prompted the deputy prime minister and three other ministers to resign.

Political analysts said the moves did not suggest the fledgling government of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, a former Maoist rebel who goes by his nom de guerre Prachanda, was in immediate trouble as it still enjoys majority support in parliament. But they said the turmoil could lead a new coalition being formed.

Prachanda said on Friday he would support

Ram Chandra Paudel from the opposition Nepali Congress party in next month's presidential election, instead of the candidate of his coalition partner, the Communist Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) party.

Yesterday, Rajendra Lingden, the deputy prime minister who was also minister for energy, water resources and irrigation, resigned in protest, along with the ministers for urban development and legal matters, while a junior minister assisting Lingden also quit.

Prachanda's office confirmed the four ministers had resigned but did not say whether the resignations had been accepted.

Nepal is set to elect its third president on March 9, a ceremonial position which assumed a key role during past political crises.



Filipino activists carry an effigy depicting Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio during a protest commemorating the 37th anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution that overthrew the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, near the EDSA People Power monument, in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, February 25, 2023.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PHILIPPINES' 'PEOPLE POWER' REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

Marcos, son of ex-dictator, seeks unity, reconciliation

REUTERS, Manila

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr called for reconciliation and unity yesterday as the Southeast Asian nation marked the 37th anniversary of the "people power" revolution that toppled his dictator father.

Marcos, who was 28 years old when a helicopter whisked his family from the presidential palace in 1986, said he was one with the nation "in remembering those times of tribulation and how we came out of them united and stronger as a nation."

Marcos (65) clinched a landslide

victory in last year's presidential election on a simple message of unity. Despite its fall from grace, his family returned from exile in the 1990s and has remained a powerful force in local politics.

"I once again offer my hand of reconciliation to those with different political persuasions to come together as one in forging a better society - one that will pursue progress and peace and a better life for all Filipinos," he said in a social media post.

Marcos sent a wreath of flowers to the People Power Monument along a major highway in the capital Manila,

where millions of protesters had gathered demanding the ouster of his father amid allegations of plunder and human rights violations. The elder Marcos died in 1989.

The family has denied siphoning off billions of dollars of state wealth during the dictatorship, and has waged a decades-long campaign to resurrect its reputation.

The younger Marcos's "presidency is an insult to the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom and democracy", human rights advocacy group Karapatan said in a statement.

The family of late former President Corazon Aquino, who assumed power after the elder Marcos's ouster, issued a statement saying the spirit of the 1986 uprising "guards and protects our democracy, confronting those who attempt to deceive us and undermine our rights and liberties".

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES DEPOT
30 SHAHEED TAJUDDIN AHMED SHARANI
TEJGAON, DHAKA-1208
www.cmsd.gov.bd

Invitation for Bid

IFB No. CMSD/JICA-2206/ICB/2022-23/Proc.D-2/39

Date: 22-02-2023 AD

Purchaser: Director (CMSD) & Line Director, Procurement, Storage & Supplies Management of Health Services (PSSM-HS)
Country : Bangladesh
JICA Loan No.: Loan No. JICA ODA Loan-P104
Project Name : Health Services Strengthening Project
Contract Name: Procurement of CR Machine under Package No. JICA-2206

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Health Services Strengthening Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Procurement of CR Machine under Package No. JICA-2206.
2. The Director, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of Procurement of CR Machine: CR Machine Quantity- 02 Nos. under Package No. JICA-2206.
3. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Bidding Document.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents from 9:00 to 17:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) at the Office of the Director, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD). Address: 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, email: cmsdstore@dhaka.net. & Fax No. 880-2-912647
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of BDT, 4,000.00 (Taka four thousand) or US\$ 50.00 (US Dollar Fifty) only. The method of payment will be through Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. For overseas delivery, the bidder may obtain the Bidding Documents by instructing any international courier service to collect the same from the above mention address.
6. Bids must be delivered to the above address at or before 11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/04/2023 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Bangladeshi Taka 2,80,000.00 or US\$ 2616.00. The bid security must be submitted through a scheduled bank in Bangladesh.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/04/2023 at the office of the Director, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD). Address: 30, shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
8. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 07/03/2023 at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.). All Bidders (preferably having product knowledge) are requested to attend the meeting on time.

Md. Tofael Islam
Director (Joint Secretary)
Central Medical Stores Depot
Health Services Division
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
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e-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net

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