

Tackling China defines next century

Says US House panel

REUTERS, Washington

A new US congressional select committee on competition with China held its first hearing with a focus on human rights on Tuesday, amid tense bilateral ties weeks after a suspected spy balloon flying over North America was shot down.

"This is not a polite tennis match. This is an existential struggle over what life will look like in the 21st century - and the most fundamental freedoms are at stake," Representative Mike Gallagher, Republican chairman of the House of Representatives Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), said as he opened the hearing.

The committee's leaders saw the hearing, the first of what is expected to be many over the next two years, as part of an effort to convince Americans why they should care about competing with China, and to "selectively decouple" the US and Chinese economies.

BBC TAX RAIDS

Laws are for all

Says New Delhi after UK FM meets Indian counterpart

STAR REPORT

British Foreign Minister James Cleverly raised the issue of tax searches at the BBC's offices in India during a meeting with his counterpart in New Delhi yesterday, the minister told Reuters.

In response, Cleverly was "firmly told that all entities operating in India must comply fully with relevant laws and regulations", an Indian government source said.

Last month, India's tax authorities spent three days searching the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai, where they cloned data from the digital devices of some senior employees.

Cleverly did not share details about the conversation with India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar ahead of a G20 foreign ministers' meeting today.

The tax men surveyed the BBC offices in Delhi and Mumbai for three consecutive days in February after which the Income Tax department said it had detected "irregularities in the media outlet's transactions and also indicated the BBC had not paid some taxes."

The UK government had earlier defended the BBC's editorial freedom in that country's parliament and also told opposition lawmakers it would not comment on an ongoing investigation by Indian tax authorities, reports our New Delhi correspondent. The "survey" came after the BBC aired a documentary on the 2002 riots in Gujarat state when Narendra Modi was chief minister.



Tibetan exiles are detained by police during a protest against the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who is scheduled to participate in G20 foreign ministers' meeting, near the Chinese embassy in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

RUSSIAN ASSAULT ON BAKHMUT

Ukrainians mount 'furious resistance'

Zelensky describes battle as 'most difficult'; West calls for condemnation of war as G20 FMs meet in New Delhi

AGENCIES

Russian forces carried out relentless attacks on Bakhmut yesterday, trying to encircle the small eastern Ukrainian city and claim their first major prize for more than half a year after some of the bloodiest fighting of the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Moscow of throwing waves of men into battle in Bakhmut with no regard for their lives. The leader of Russia's Wagner mercenary group said the Ukrainians were putting up "furious resistance" trying to hold the city at all costs.

Russia also said it had repelled a massive drone attack on Crimea, the peninsula its forces seized and claimed to annex in 2014. That came a day after Moscow accused Kyiv of launching a series of drone strikes on targets in Russia itself.

Reuters was able to reach Bakhmut



from the west on Monday, proof that the city was not yet surrounded despite Russian forces pressing from north and south to close the last routes in.

Flames and smoke rose into the sky from blazing buildings. Constant gunfire and explosions rang out into the sky. Ukrainian armoured vehicles roared through the streets, while stray dogs wandered amid the mud and debris.

Thousands of residents remain inside the ruined city from a pre-war population of around 70,000.

"It is frightening indeed," said a middle-aged man bundled in a coat and woolly hat on the steps of his apartment block.

The area around Bakhmut has been the one part of the front where Moscow has made substantial gains during a winter offensive that has seen what both sides describe as the bloodiest fighting of the war.

"Russia in general takes no account of people and sends them in constant waves against our positions, the intensity of the fighting is only increasing," Zelensky said in an overnight address, describing the fighting in Bakhmut as "most difficult" but its defence as essential.

In an audio message on social media, Yevgeny Prigozhin, whose Wagner private army has led Russia's offensive there, said the Ukrainian military was throwing extra reserves into the battle, "trying to hold the town with all their strength".

The war loomed over a meeting of foreign ministers from the G20 group of big economies in New Delhi, attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as well as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Host India does not want Ukraine to dominate the event, but faces calls from Western countries for a clear stance.

"This war has to be condemned," Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, told reporters.



"The FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan."

FBI Director Christopher Wray on origins of Covid pandemic

OBITUARY



Inna lillahi wainnailayhiraji'un.

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing Director of Utah Group, Aziz Sattar, who returned to his Lord on March 1st, 2023. He was a devout Muslim, a loving father and a wonderful man. The Janaza will be held on Thursday, 2nd March, 2023 baad Maghrib at Gulshan Azad Masjid, Dhaka.

May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest level in Jannah and bless us with strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss. Ameen



-Sattar Family

Sri Lanka workers defy strike ban

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan workers went on strike yesterday in defiance of a government ban to protest a rescue plan for the bankrupt island nation, forcing the closure of hospitals, banks and ports.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe is facing a public backlash over steep tax hikes and spending cuts imposed to secure a sorely needed International Monetary Fund bailout.

Around 40 trade unions, including government hospital staff and bank employees, called work stoppages.

Doctors at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka in Colombo said only emergency cases were being treated, while appointments were cancelled at private clinics and hospitals.

Electricity workers and bank tellers were also on strike while dock workers staged lunchtime protests.

Gabtolli terminal

FROM PAGE 1

This means the authorities have to spend money twice for the same job -- initially for temporary work and later for permanent work.

Officials of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) and the DNCC are now looking for a suitable location to move the terminal, which is used by hundreds of long-haul buses every day.

About 1,500-1,600 buses travel from Gabtoli to 46 northern and south-western districts on an average day, according to a 2021 government study.

The 20km MRT Line-5 (northern route) will connect Hemayetpur and Bhatara via Gabtoli, Mirpur, and Gulshan. One of the 14 stations on the route will be built beside the Gabtoli terminal. A 13.5km section (from Aminbazar to Natunbazar) of the MRT Line-5 will be underground.

Physical work of the Tk 41,239 crore project will start with the development of its depot area at Hemayetpur by late July or early August, and the construction work in Gabtoli area is expected to begin within a year and a half, said Aftab Hossain Khan, project director of MRT-5 (northern route).

"Although the metro rail station at Gabtoli will be underground beside the bus terminal, we have to knock down a big part of the bus terminal for the work. Otherwise, movement of traffic on the roads adjacent to the terminal would be disrupted during the construction."

"In that case, the operation of the bus terminal will be disrupted. So, the terminal has to be relocated," Aftab told The Daily Star on Monday.

The two Dhaka city corporations decided to move the three inter-district bus terminals -- Gabtoli, Mohakhali and Sayedabad -- outside the city to ease congestion.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) carried out a feasibility study on the relocation of the terminals in 2021. It identified five locations at the periphery of the capital for relocation of the terminals.

Hemayetpur, an area beside the Dhaka-Aricha Highway, is one of the

proposed locations for relocating the Gabtoli terminal, said officials.

"They [DNCC] would take more time to move the terminal permanently. So, the terminal has to be moved temporarily for carrying out our work. We will bear the moving cost from the fund of our project," Aftab said.

He said the relocation may cost them about Tk 20 crore.

Replying to a question, the project director said they were yet to find the land to relocate to.

Built on 22 acres with three entries and two exits, Gabtoli Bus Terminal provides parking space for 800-900 buses, which is more than the capacity of the two other bus terminals combined, according to the DTCA study.

The project director said apart from MRT Line-5 (northern route), the Gabtoli terminal will be almost surrounded by two other metro rail lines, MRT Line-5 (southern route) and MRT Line-2, which would start from Gabtoli area.

Also, the DMTCL has a plan for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) centering Gabtoli which is expected to be implemented by more than one government agency.

Replying to a question, a top DNCC official said the Gabtoli terminal will be moved temporarily as their plan for permanent relocation was still at the preliminary level.

"A permanent relocation would be the best as it would save temporary relocation costs. But the reality is that permanent relocation will take time," the official told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Abu Raihan, general secretary of Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association, said they were not aware of the relocation move.

"If the government decides to move the terminal, it can do so. But this would cause sufferings to passengers," Raihan told this newspaper on Tuesday.

There is an open space to the south of the existing terminal and the authority can relocate it there, Raihan said, adding that they will oppose relocation of the terminal too far away from the city.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Rajbari, Sadar, Rajbari.

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8276.000.02.001.20- 225

Date : 01-03-2023

e-Tender Notice: 03/2022-23(NOTM)

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

S/ N	Package No	e-Tender Invitation Reference No	Tender ID No.	Description of Works	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)
01.	e-Tender/PEDP4/RAJ/SAD/2022-2023/W1.03766	APP ID :189199	792726	Construction of additional class room Syed Panchuria GPS under PEDP4 (2H+1V)/F3 at Sadar Upazila, District-Rajbari	27/03/23 16:00pm	28/03/23 12:00 noon	28/03/23 12:00 noon
02.	e-Tender/PEDP4/RAJ/SAD/2022-2023/W20.040	APP ID :189199	792727	Repair and renovation of Rajbari Sadar URC under Sadar Upazila, District- Rajbari	27/03/23 16:00pm	28/03/23 12:00 noon	28/03/23 12:00 noon

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 27-03-2023 at 16:00 PM.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Mohammad.Golam Rabbani)
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