

PRE-RAMADAN TALKS Palestinian, Israeli officials meet in Egypt

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli and Palestinian officials were meeting in Egypt yesterday for talks aimed at calming surging violence that has stoked fears of further escalation once the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins later this week.

Also backed by the United States and Jordan, the meeting follows a Feb 26 U.S.-brokered conference in Aqaba, the first of its kind in years that secured Israeli and Palestinian pledges to de-escalate but was challenged by factions on both sides and failed to halt violence on the ground.

The meeting in the resort city of Sharm el Sheikh "aims to support dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to work to stop unilateral actions and escalation, and break the existing cycle of violence and achieve calm", a statement from Egypt's foreign ministry said.

This could "facilitate the creation of a climate suitable for the resumption of the peace process", it added.

In previous years, clashes have erupted between Israeli police and Palestinians around Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque during Ramadan, which coincides this year with Judaism's Passover and Christian Easter.

Over the past year, Israeli forces have made thousands of arrests in the West Bank and killed more than 200 Palestinians, including fighters and civilians.

More than 40 Israelis and three Ukrainians have died in Palestinian attacks in the same period.

Israel pledged in Aqaba to halt discussions on new settlement units in the West Bank for four months and stop authorisation of outposts for six months.

But Israeli Prime Minister quickly appeared to downplay any commitment, saying there would be no freeze in an apparent nod to hardline members of his coalition government.

Last month, Netanyahu's government authorised nine Jewish settler outposts in the West Bank and announced mass construction of new homes in established settlements. The move drew deep dismay from the United States.

The Palestinians aim to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital - territories Israel captured in a 1967 war.



US soldiers take a position as a US Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter prepares to land during a field artillery battalion gun raid drill at a military training field in Pocheon yesterday, as part of the Freedom Shield joint military exercise. South Korea and the United States kicked off their largest drills in five years on March 13. The drills will last for 10 days.

PHOTO: AFP

KREMLIN ON WAR IN UKRAINE Black Sea drones show US's direct role

REUTERS

US drone flights over the Baltic Sea are a sign of direct US involvement in conflict with Russia, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying yesterday.

Last week, a US drone crashed into the sea after being intercepted by Russian Su 27 fighter planes in the first known direct military encounter between the two sides since Russia launched its war in Ukraine last year.

"It is quite obvious what these drones are doing, and their mission is not at all a peaceful mission to ensure the safety of shipping in international waters," Interfax news agency quoted Peskov as saying in a TV interview.

"And in fact, we are talking about the direct involvement of the operators of these drones

in the conflict, and against us."

The US said the Russian planes harassed the drone in Tuesday's incident and sprayed fuel on it before one of them clipped its propeller and caused it to crash while on a reconnaissance mission in international airspace.

Russia said the drone had violated airspace restrictions.

Russia's defence minister has presented awards to the airmen involved in a pointed rejoinder to US accusations that the incident showed recklessness and possible incompetence on the part of the pilots.

Moscow says the US and its allies are using Ukraine to wage war on it and inflict a "strategic defeat" on Russia. Washington says it is helping Ukraine to defend itself against an unprovoked Russian invasion.

N Korea fires short-range ballistic missile

AFP, Seoul

North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile yesterday, Seoul's military said, the fourth show of force in a week as South Korea and the US stage major military drills.

"Our military detected one short-range ballistic missile fired from ... North Pyongan province at 11:05am towards the East Sea," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said. The missile flew 800 kilometres, the JCS said in a statement, calling the launch "a serious provocation" that violated UN sanctions.

RUSSIA VISIT Xi eyes to play peacemaker's role

AFP, Beijing

President Xi Jinping heads to Russia today hoping to deliver a breakthrough on Ukraine as China seeks to position itself as a peacemaker.

Freshly reappointed for a third term in power, Xi is pushing a greater role for China on the global stage, and was crucial in mediating a surprise rapprochement between Middle Eastern rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia this month.

Rumours that he may soon hold his first call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky since the outbreak of war have raised hopes in Western capitals that Xi may lean on his "old friend" Putin to stop his bloody invasion during the three-day state visit.

Announcing the trip Friday, foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China would "play a constructive role in promoting peace talks".

"Stopping the war is everyone's wish, given Europe stands to lose such a lot and the United States may not be able to support Ukraine for as long as it thinks it can," said Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at Beijing's Renmin University of China.

"China can put forth its views on both sides -- it can say it is a trusted friend of both Ukraine and Russia. I think this is very significant."

Beijing, a major Russian ally, has long sought to depict itself as a neutral party to the conflict.

Beijing's efforts to show itself to be an international mediator were front and centre this month when it oversaw a deal that restored diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

It later emerged that Xi himself offered for China to serve as a "bridge" between the rivals, challenging Washington's long-standing role as the main external power broker in the Middle East.

"Brokering the (Saudi-Iran) deal feeds into the Chinese government's narrative of being a positive-sum global player promoting peace and cooperation that contrasts with Washington's purportedly destabilising actions," said University of Southern California assistant professor Audrey Wong.

But stilling the gunfire in Ukraine would be "somewhat harder" than the Saudi-Iran deal, he said, citing China's "limited" influence over Moscow and US backing for Kyiv.

Beijing, he suggested, could help usher in "an armistice similar to the one formed from the Korean War" that stops the fighting but kicks questions of territorial sovereignty further down the road.

But other analysts say Ukraine is unlikely to accept China as a mediator.

Xi may be eager for diplomatic successes, but they say it's unlikely that he will make any solid ground.



A Palestinian protester holds a national flag as others burn tyres during a protest called for by Hamas east of Gaza City by the border with Israel yesterday against a meeting in Egypt between Israeli and Palestinian representatives along with officials from Jordan and the United States "to restore calm".

PHOTO: AFP

Iraq, Iran sign deal to tighten border security

REUTERS, Baghdad

Iraq and Iran signed a border security agreement yesterday, a move Iraqi officials said aimed primarily at tightening the frontier with Iraq's Kurdish region, where Tehran says armed Kurdish dissidents pose a threat to its security.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council secretary Ali Shamkhani signed the deal with Iraq's National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji, in the presence of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani, the prime minister office said.

"Under the signed security deal, Iraq pledges it would not allow armed groups to use its territory in the Iraqi Kurdish region to launch any border-crossing attacks on neighbour Iran," said an Iraqi security official who attended the signing.

The frontier came into renewed focus last year when Iran's Revolutionary Guards launched missile and drone attacks against Iranian Kurdish groups based in northern Iraq, accusing them of fomenting protests that were sparked by the death of an Iranian Kurdish woman while she was being held in police custody.

6.8 quake shakes Ecuador; 14 killed

REUTERS, Quito

At least 14 people were killed in a strong earthquake that shook a coastal region of Ecuador and northern Peru on Saturday, causing structural damage to multiple homes, schools and medical centers.

The quake, which the US Geological Survey (USGS) measured at magnitude 6.8, struck at a depth of 66.4 km (41.3 miles) about 10 km (6.2 miles) from the city of Balao in the province of Guayas.

The earthquake did not appear likely to generate a tsunami, authorities said.

"We remain in the territory verifying the damage caused by the earthquake this morning. I want to confirm that I am with you and express my solidarity and commitment to the victims," Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso said in a tweet.

The presidency's communication agency said the quake left 14 people dead, and more than 380 people were injured, largely in the El Oro province.

The agency said at least 44 homes were destroyed, while 90 more were damaged. Around 50 educational buildings and more than 30 health centers were also affected, while multiple roadways were blocked by landslides caused by the earthquake. The Santa Rosa airport suffered minor damage, but remained in operation.

Ecuador's Secretariat of Risk Management said in an earlier statement that one death in Azuay province occurred when a wall collapsed on to a vehicle. In other provinces, structural damage included a collapsed wharf and a fallen wall in a supermarket.

The initial quake was followed by two weaker aftershocks in the following hour, according to the Geophysics Institute of Ecuador.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Gaibandha
http://www.lged.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice No: 28/2022-23

Memo No: 46.02.3200.000.07.001.22-721
Date: 19-03-2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of

Sl No	Name of Scheme	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time	Tender ID No
01	GSID-2/GAI/DW-52 Improvement of Rangamati Mohasashan under Pourashava [Latitude: 25.3007, Longitude: 89.3425] under Palashbari upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800427, (LTM)
02	GSID-2/GAI/DW-53 Improvement of Vaki para (Uttor para near Abu Talub House) Jame -E- Mosque Under Kishorgari union Latitude: 25.2859, Longitude: 89.5429] under Palashbari upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800428, (LTM)
03	GSID-2/GAI/DW-54 Improvement of One Storey Jamalpur Prodhana para Jam-E- Mosque under pourashava Union [Latitude: 25.2799, Longitude: 89.3613] under Palashbari upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800429, (LTM)
04	GSID-2/GAI/DW-55 Improvement of Pogil Baitul Mamun Jam-E- Mosque under Mohodipur Union [Latitude: 25.2633, Longitude: 89.3945] under Palashbari upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800430, (LTM)
05	GSID-2/GAI/DW-56 Improvement of One Storey Arji Torof kamal Boter Tol Jam-E- Mosque Under Rosulpur union [Latitude: 25.451543, Longitude: 89.416683] under Sadullapur upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800431, (LTM)
06	GSID-2/GAI/DW-57 Improvement of Nurpur Shoshan ghat under Kamarpara Union [Latitude: 25.410448, Longitude: 89.487628] under Sadullapur upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800432, (LTM)
07	GSID-2/GAI/DW-58 Improvement of Jagannathpur Central Jame-E- Mosque under Kochashohor Union [Latitude: 25.082484, Longitude: 89.406040] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800433, (LTM)
08	GSID-2/GAI/DW-59 Improvement of TNT Jame-E- Mosque under Pourashava, [Latitude: 25.135251, Longitude: 89.389860] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800434, (LTM)
09	GSID-2/GAI/DW-60 Improvement of Horipur Jame-E- Mosque under Kochashohor union, [Latitude: 25.100828, Longitude: 89.424128] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800435, (LTM)
10	GSID-2/GAI/DW-61 Improvement of Prodhana para Jame-E- Mosque under Pourashava union, [Latitude: 25.137354, Longitude: 89.388144] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800436, (LTM)
11	GSID-2/GAI/DW-62 Improvement of Shrimukh Jame-E- Mosque under Shibpur union, [Latitude: 25.11554, Longitude: 89.4799] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800437, (LTM)
12	GSID-2/GAI/DW-63 Improvement of Hamidpur Purbo para Jame-E- Mosque under Katabari union, [Latitude: 25.22279, Longitude: 89.2919] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800438, (LTM)
13	GSID-2/GAI/DW-64 Improvement of Dumurgasa Jame-E- Mosque under Nakai union, [Latitude: 25.22755, Longitude: 89.46002] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800439, (LTM)
14	GSID-2/GAI/DW-65 Improvement of Shrimukh-Keshobpur Baitul Falah Jame-E- Mosque under Shibpur union, [Latitude: 25.082484, Longitude: 89.406040] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800440, (LTM)
15	GSID-2/GAI/DW-66 Improvement of Chashakpara Baitus salam Jame-E- Mosque under pourashava union, [Latitude: 25.082484, Longitude: 89.406040] under Gobindaganj upazila District : Gaibandha	04-04-2023 upto 17.00	05-04-2023 13.00	05-04-2023 13.00	800441, (LTM)

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 (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.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk.

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GD-505