

Ukraine grain deal extended for two months

Says Erdogan; UK, Germany say US must decide on jets for Kyiv

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday announced a two-month extension of a UN-backed deal under which Ukraine ships grain across the Black Sea to global markets.

"With the efforts of our country, the support of our Russian friends, the contribution of our Ukrainian friends, it was decided to prolong the Black Sea grain deal for two more months," Erdogan announced one day before the deal was due to expire.

Russia agreed not to block ships from leaving two Ukrainian harbours, Erdogan said, expressing his hope that the deal would be "beneficial for all the parties".

He thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for their roles in extending the agreement.

Ukraine was one of the world's major grain exporters before Russia invaded in February of last year.

Russian warships blockaded Ukraine's Black Sea ports, sending food prices skyrocketing on global markets and disproportionately hitting the world's poorest, reports AFP.

Turkey and the United Nations first brokered a deal between the warring parties in July 2022, which created safe corridors for the export of Ukrainian produce to assuage the crisis.

But the agreement has periodically come under threat since then as Russia and Ukraine struggled to agree on renewing it before expiration deadlines.

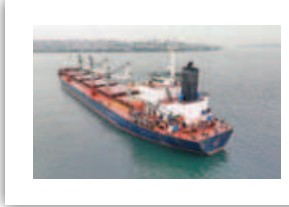
Meanwhile, any decision to send F16 fighter jets to Ukraine will fall on the White House, the UK and German defence ministers said yesterday despite a jet "coalition" announced by Britain and the Netherlands this week.

"This is up to the White House to decide whether it wants to release that technology," British Defence Minister Ben Wallace said after talks with his German counterpart Boris Pistorius in Berlin.

"It depends on the White House... to decide whether the F16 fighter planes can be delivered," Pistorius added.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte had agreed on the fighter jet club on the first day of a Council of Europe summit in Iceland this week.

They said they would build an "international coalition to provide Ukraine with combat air capabilities, supporting with everything from training to procuring F16 jets".



Anti-G7 protesters walk through the city, ahead of the G7 summit, in Hiroshima, Japan yesterday. Rich nations should boost financial and technical support to poorer countries to help them tackle climate change, a senior Japanese environment ministry official said ahead of the May 19-21 talks. PHOTO: REUTERS

MAJOR TRANSPORT NETWORK Iran, Russia ink deal to complete INSTC

AFP, Tehran

Iran and Russia yesterday agreed to collaborate on the construction of the final part of a commercial transport network linking to the Gulf and India while avoiding Western sea lanes.

Iranian Transport Minister Mehرداد Bazrpash, who signed the agreement with his Russian counterpart in Tehran, said the 164-kilometre (102-mile) railway in Iran's north would be completed within three years.

It is the only missing link in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) from northeast Russia via Azerbaijan to Iran's southern coastline and on to India by sea.

Russia and Iran are both under international sanctions that restrict trade.

The freight network of ship, rail

and road routes, which covers some 7,200 kilometres, avoids the Suez Canal between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea which would otherwise transport some Russian seaborne cargo.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who attended the signing ceremony, and Russia's Vladimir Putin, who spoke there via videoconference, both hailed the economic opportunities the agreement presents.

The planned railroad would connect Rasht, a city in northern Iran, and the Astara crossing on the border with Azerbaijan. Bazrpash said the "process of construction" of the Rasht-Astara railway "has started and we will finalise it within the next three years".

Raisi said that, once completed, the INSTC will boost regional trade and noted the "great potential" in ties with Russia.

SUDAN CONFLICT Aid needs surge as fighting rages on

REUTERS, Khartoum

The United Nations said yesterday more than half Sudan's population now needed aid and protection, as civilians sought shelter from air strikes and sporadic clashes between rival military factions in the Khartoum area.

Residents said power had been cut, food was in short supply, and drinking water scarce due to the violent power struggle, now in its second month despite international mediation efforts. In Geneva, the OCHA said 25 million people needed help - the highest number ever recorded in Sudan.

ADANI PROBE

India's top court grants 3 months extension to SEBI

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's Supreme Court yesterday granted the country's market regulator additional time till August 14 to complete its investigation into possible violation of securities law and regulatory disclosures by the Adani group. The court directed the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to complete its probe in three months and file a status report on its investigations against the group, whose shares plunged after being criticised by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research in January. In a petition filed on April 29, SEBI had sought another six months to complete its probe, following a court order on March 2 which had asked the regulator to submit a report by May 2. Hindenburg Research had raised several governance concerns around Adani group, leading to a loss of more than \$100 billion in the market capitalisation of companies in the group founded by billionaire Gautam Adani. Following this, the SC asked SEBI to probe the allegations and submit a report to a court-appointed panel.

Harry, Meghan in 'near catastrophic' car chase

AFP, New York

Prince Harry and wife Meghan Markle were involved in a "near catastrophic car chase" involving paparazzi in New York, a spokesperson for the couple said yesterday. The incident happened on Tuesday night after Harry, 38, and Meghan, 41, attended an awards ceremony in America's financial capital. Meghan's mother Doria Ragland was with them in the vehicle, the spokesperson said in a statement emailed to AFP. "Last night, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex and Ms. Ragland were involved in a near catastrophic car chase at the hands of a ring of highly aggressive paparazzi. This relentless pursuit, lasting over two hours, resulted in multiple near collisions involving other drivers on the road, pedestrians and two NYPD officers," the spokesperson said. A source close to the couple said Meghan and Harry were pursued by half a dozen blacked out vehicles with "unidentified people driving recklessly and endangering the convoy and everyone around them."



A speleological alpine rescuer looks in a car for missing persons near a supermarket in a flooded area in Cesena, Italy yesterday. Heavy rains have caused major floodings in central Italy, where trains were stopped and schools were closed in many towns while people were asked to leave the ground floors of their homes and to avoid going out. PHOTO: AFP

ACCESS TO CYCLONE-HIT STATE Aid groups seek green light from Myanmar junta

REUTERS

Relief organisations were awaiting clearance from Myanmar's military rulers yesterday to access areas of Rakhine State devastated by a deadly cyclone three days ago, and deliver food and medicine to communities in urgent need.

Hundreds of people are estimated to have been killed in the impoverished region after cyclone Mocha on Sunday tore down houses, communication towers and bridges with winds of up to 210 kph (130 mph) and triggered a storm surge that inundated the state capital Sittwe.

Residents contacted by Reuters said no help had arrived even days after the storm and volunteers were digging through debris to search for the missing.

One resident who declined to be identified for safety reasons said about 400 people had died and more were at risk of dying "for not having food, purified water and emergency treatment. There are no ... search and

rescue teams."

Rakhine State, with a population of more than three million, is particularly vulnerable, and is home to the persecuted Rohingya Muslims minority that successive governments in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar have refused to recognise.

Some 600,000 Rohingyas still live in the state, while more than a million live in sprawling camps in neighbouring Bangladesh, having fled military crackdowns in recent years. Some still embark on perilous boat journeys to Malaysia and Indonesia.

UN agencies said they were still awaiting a green light from authorities to assess and distribute supplies in affected areas, some of which were inaccessible due to extensive damage.

"We have established communications channels with all authorities in Myanmar. We have asked for unrestricted access to affected communities," said Pierre Peron, a spokesperson for the UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Quad summit cancelled

REUTERS, Sydney

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said yesterday a Quad summit would not proceed in Sydney next week without US President Joe Biden, who postponed his trip because of debt ceiling negotiations in Washington.

Albanese said the leaders of Australia, the United States, India and Japan would instead meet at the G7 in Japan this weekend, after Biden cancelled a trip to Sydney on the second leg of his upcoming Asia trip, which was also to have included a visit to Papua New Guinea.

"The Quad leaders meeting will not be going ahead in Sydney next week. We, though will be having that discussion between Quad leaders in Japan," Albanese told a news conference.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD)				
Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka				
Re-Tender for Goods				
Ref No. CMSD/HSM-2202(R)/ICT/Re-Tender/2022-2023/Proc-1/60				Date: 17/05/2023
KEY INFORMATION				
1	Procurement method/document	ICT Open		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
2	Source of funds	Development Budget (Aid Grant/Credit)		
3	Development partner			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
4	Project/programme code			
5	Project/programme name	4th Health Population & Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP)		
6	Tender Package No.	HSM-2202 (R)		
7	Tender package name	Procurement of "CT Scan Machine"		
8	Tender publication date	18/05/2023		
9	Tender last selling date	14/06/2023		
10	Tender closing date and time	15/06/2023 11:00am		
11	Tender opening date and time	15/06/2023 11:30am		
12	Name and address of the office(s)			
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Taj Uddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. Tender document will be delivered from the counter of CMSD to the tenderers or their local agents.		
	- Selling tender document (others)	CMSD		
	- Receiving tender document	Do		
	- Opening tender document	Do		
13	Place/date/time for pre-tender meeting	Conference Room, Room No. 115, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), 25/05/2023 11:30am		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
14	Eligibility of tenderer	As mentioned in the tender document		
15	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of "CT Scan Machine"		
16	Brief description of related services	As per Technical Specification		
17	Tender document price	BDT 4,000/- (Bangladesh Taka four thousand) or USD 50.00 (United State Dollar Fifty) only. The method of payment will be in Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.		
17	Lot No.	Identification	Location	Tender security amount in Taka
	Single Lot	Procurement of "CT Scan Machine"	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Taj Uddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.	BDT 80,00,000.00 or USD 76,200.00 or equivalent amount in freely convertible currency.
				To be delivered on or before 20 weeks following the date of contract signature, or the date of opening L/C, or the date of confirmation of the L/C. Tenderers offering delivery schedule beyond 20 weeks will be treated as non-responsive.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
18	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Tauhid Ahmed		
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director (CMSD), Director In-charge		
20	Address of official inviting tender	30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.		
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 88-2-48115486 E-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				