INTERNATIONAL

PACIFIC SUMMIT US, PNG sign defence deal Modi pledges support for Pacific

Islands REUTERS

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed a defence cooperation agreement with Papua New Guinea yesterday, which he said would expand the Pacific island nation's capabilities and make it easier for the US military to train with its forces.

Blinken was also set to meet 14 other Pacific island India's Prime leaders. Minister Narendra Modi had earlier pledged support for the Pacific Islands at a summit in Port Moresby.

The United States and its allies are seeking to deter



Pacific island nations from forming security ties with China, a rising concern amid tension over Taiwan.

Leaders of the Pacific islands have said rising sea levels caused by climate change are their most pressing security priority.

Meeting PNG Prime Minister James Marape, Blinken said the United States would deepen its partnership across the board with PNG. They discussed economic development,

climate crisis, and the importance of continuing US engagement with the Pacific.

"The defence cooperation was drafted by the United States and Papua New Guinea as equals and sovereign partners," Blinken said at a signing ceremony.



Firefighters douse a fire at the Post Office building in Manila, Philippines yesterday. Nahum B. Tarroza, director of the National Capital Region's Bureau of Fire Protection, told reporters that the internal wooden structure of the building was burned all the way from the basement to the third floor. PHOTO: AFP

Greece eyes new vote as PM seeks majority

REUTERS, Athens

Greece's conservatives were set to be offered an opportunity to form a coalition after winning the weekend's election, but without enough seats to deliver on their pledge to rule on their own, a second vote in June looks all but certain.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' New Democracy party won 40.8 percent of the vote on Sunday versus 20.1 percent for the leftist Syriza, with his commanding victory suggesting he would not join forces with any other party.

It was a stunning boost for Mitsotakis, whose administration had to deal with a wiretapping scandal, the Covid pandemic, a cost of living crisis and a deadly rail crash in February which triggered public outrage.

He said his sights were set on the second ballot which will take place under a semi-proportional representation, with a sliding scale seat bonus, increasing the chances of an outright win for his party.

"The dynamics of the result were more than clear: citizens want a strong government, with a four-year term, (to carry out) bolder reforms," Mitsotakis said on Sunday after his win, which he said gave his party backing for "autonomous" rule.

SUDAN CONFLICT

Air strikes hit capital as 7-day truce approaches

REUTERS, Khartoum

Sudan's army conducted air strikes in the capital Khartoum yesterday, residents said, seeking to win ground against its paramilitary rivals hours before a weeklong ceasefire aimed at allowing delivery of aid was due to take effect.

The army also carried out air strikes into the evening on Sunday, witnesses said, targeting vehicles from mobile units of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that have been operating across residential areas in the capital since the conflict between the two military factions erupted on April 15.

Both sides have said they will abide by a ceasefire starting at 21:45 local time (19:45 GMT). Though fighting has continued through previous ceasefires, this is the first truce to be formally agreed following negotiations.

The ceasefire deal includes a

monitoring mechanism the army and the RSF as well as representatives from Saudi Arabia and the United States, which brokered the agreement after talks in Jeddah.

The deal has raised hopes of a pause in a war that has driven nearly 1.1 million people from their homes, including more 250,000 who have fled into neighbouring countries, threatening to destabilise a volatile region.

Yesterday, residents reported air strikes in Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri, the three cities that make up the greater capital, separated by the confluence of the Blue Nile and White Nile. They also said clashes could be heard in central Khartoum.

"The situation is horrible. The planes are bombing us on every side and from the strength of the vibration of the house doors, we feel like we'll die today," said Salma Abdallah, a resident of Khartoum.

FRESH MANIPUR FLARE-UP

Ex-MLA, two others arrested with guns: CM

NDTV ONLINE

A former Manipur MLA and two others were arrested with guns yesterday after violence flared up in state capital Imphal's Chekon neighbourhood. Security forces were rushed to the area again yesterday afternoon after days of fragile peace. The three armed men including the MLA threatened shopkeepers to shut down in New Chekon, Chief Minister N Biren Singh told reporters. The Assam Rifles rushed in and caught the three men and handed them over to the state police. The situation has been brought under control, Singh said, adding three shotguns have been recovered. Curfew, which had earlier been relaxed till 4:00 pm in Imphal, was re-imposed after 1:00 pm. Manipur has been witness to ethnic clashes connected to multiple issues for almost a month. Early this month, clashes had broken out in the hill state after Kuki tribals organised a solidarity march on May 3 to protest against the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribe status. More than 70 people died in the violence that had simmered for over a week. Property worth crores was torched and thousands were forced to leave their homes to seek safety in governmentorganised camps.

DORMITORY FIRE At least 20 dead in Guyana school

AFP, Georgetown

At least 20 people were killed and several injured Sunday in a school dormitory fire in Guyana, the government said in a statement, with the nation's president calling it a "major disaster." "This is a major disaster. It is horrible, it is painful," the South American

nation's President Irfaan Ali said Sunday night. The death toll had risen to 20 and several people were injured in the fire at the Mahdia Secondary School in central Guyana, the government statement said. "We have lost many beautiful souls in that fire," it added. Ali said he had ordered arrangements be made in the capital Georgetown's two major hospitals "so that every single child who requires attention be given the

best possible opportunity to get that attention."



Workers, employees and trade union members march during a protest over social dumping and for the right to strike, in Brussels, Belgium yesterday.

WEST BANK RAID

Israeli forces kill 3 Palestinians

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli forces killed three Palestinian fighters yesterday in a raid on a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, in what the army described as an operation targeting "terrorist" suspects.

In a statement, the Palestinian health ministry identified the three men killed in Balata camp in Nablus as Muhammad Abu Zaytoun, 32, Fathi Abu Rizk, 30, and Abdullah Abu Hamdan, 24.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party, said in a statement that the three were among the group's "fighters".

The group's emblem was wrapped around the foreheads of the men in a morgue, while their bodies were shrouded in the Palestinian flag.

The Israeli army said it had



"counterterrorism" operation.

During the operation, "armed suspects fired at the soldiers, who responded with live fire. Hits were identified." it said.

The army added in a statement that it "apprehended three wanted individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activity", and that weapons and ammunition were seized.

Palestinian presidency spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh described the killings as a "veritable massacre" and shot several fighters when a charged that repeated Israeli raids gun battle erupted during a and attacks by settlers constituted

a "major war crime and a collective punishment".

He said "silence" from the United States had emboldened Israelis to escalate attacks, calling on Washington to "immediately intervene to stop the Israeli madness that will drag the region toward explosion".

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the 1967 Six-Day War and its forces regularly launch incursions into Palestinian cities, which are nominally under the control of Abbas's Palestinian Authority.

Deadly military operations have surged in recent months across the Palestinian territory.

Escalating violence -/Witnesses told AFP that Israeli forces raided several houses in the camp overnight in search of people wanted by the

Gunfire and loud explosions rocked the camp, the witnesses said, adding that a house was demolished.



PGCB Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd (PGCB), entrusted with the responsibility of operation, maintenance and development of National Power Grid, invites applications from Bangladeshi citizen for appointment against the position of Executive Director (Operation & Maintenance) and Executive Director (Planning & Development).

Name of Post, Salary and allowances per month

Executive Director (O&M)

Basic Pay Tk. 1,45,000/-House rent allowance 50% of

basic pay, Medical (as per company's rules). Transport (as per company's rules).

Executive Director (P&D)

basic pay, Medical (as per

company's rules). Transport (as

Income Tax payable by the

candidature/appointment of that applicant.

Basic Pay Tk. 1,45,000/-

per company's rules).

employee.

employee.

Income Tax payable by the

a CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and passed in the conventional system (class/division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. (c) At least 05 years experience in senior managerial position in the relevant field (SE or equivalent). (d) At least 20 years work experience in the relevant field of which 5 years in generation/transmission/

Qualification & Experience

(a) At least graduate in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering from any university recognized by Govt. & UGC.

(b) No third Division/Class or equivalent at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a CGPA 3.5 on scale of 5.0 and

(e) Must demonstrate experience in operation & maintenance of Power system and experience in public procurement etc.

(f) Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability. (g) Able to demonstrate knowledge in TPM, TQM, Preventive Maintenance, Corporate Governance.,

Strategic Management etc. will get preference. (h) Should have strong communication skill in Bengali & English (written & oral) including working

experience using computer. (a) At least graduate in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering from any university recognized by Govt. & UGC.

(b) No third Division/Class or equivalent at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a CGPA 3.5 on scale of 5.0 and a CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and passed in the conventional system (class/division) must possess House rent allowance 50% of at least 2nd class/division.

> (c) At least 05 years experience in senior managerial position in the relevant field (SE or equivalent). (d) At least 20 years work experience of which at least 5 years experience in planning or project management/ relevant field of generation/transmission /distribution utilities.

(e) Able to demonstrate skill in the analysis & preparation of DPP, PPP and Projects Management.

(f) Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability.

(g) Able to demonstrate knowledge in TPM, TQM, Preventive Maintenance, Corporate Governance, Strategic Management etc. will get preference.

(h) Must have strong communication skill in Bengali & English (written & oral) including working experience using computer.

For the above positions the basic salary, house rent, medical and other allowances will be provided as per PGCB Pay Scale-2016. In addition to the above company pays two festival bonus and Bengali new year allowance (20% of basic) in a year, provides contributory provident fund, group insurance, leave encashment, annual increment, gratuity etc. will be provided as per service rules of PGCB.

Terms & Conditions: The appointment will be made as permanent post for contractual basis initially for a maximum period of five years. Provided that maximum

2. After satisfactory completion of 01 (One) year probation period the service will be confirmed. The service contract will be renewable up

to the age of 62 years subject to the satisfactory performance as per service rule of PGCB. Applications accompanying Bio-Data, three passport size photographs, attested photocopies of all educational and experience

certificates, NID, citizenship certificate and pay order Tk. 2000/- (Two thousand only) in favour of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. should be reached to the General Manager (P&A), PGCB Bhaban (3rd Floor), Avenue-3, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 on or before 08.06.2023. To apply for the position of Executive Director (O&M) and Executive Director (P&D), PGCB, the maximum age limit will be 60 (sixty)

years. Age would be calculated as on 08.06.2023.

Candidates employed in Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous organizations or Power Sector utilities have to apply through proper channel. 6. The authority of PGCB reserves the right to accept or reject any application and no explanation for such action will be provided to the

If any fake declaration is found in any level of screening & after appointment the authority has reserves the right to cancel the

General Manager (P&A)