

## PAKISTAN'S GWADAR PORT

# Convoy of Chinese engineers attacked

Two militants killed by security forces; Balochistan separatists claim responsibility

AFP, Quetta

Two separatist militants were killed yesterday when they attacked a convoy carrying Chinese workers to a Beijing-financed port project in Pakistan's Balochistan province, officials said.

A spokesman for China's consulate in Karachi said none of its nationals were killed or wounded in the attack, and urged Chinese citizens to heighten their vigilance.

Various Baloch separatist groups have claimed attacks on projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project in the past, with thousands of security personnel deployed to counter threats against Beijing's interests.

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) said yesterday two of its fighters died in a "self-sacrificing" attack on a convoy going to Gwadar port in Pakistan's southwest.

"The operation has concluded with the elimination of two assailants," a senior police official told AFP, adding that three Pakistani soldiers were wounded.

China's consulate in Karachi said it had asked Pakistan to "severely punish the perpetrators and take concrete and

effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions and projects".

"A Chinese convoy from the Gwadar port project was hit by roadside bombs and gunfire on its way back to the port area from the Gwadar Airport," it said in a statement. "No Chinese citizens were killed or injured."

The BLA, which frequently exaggerates its successes, claimed in a statement that four Chinese workers and nine Pakistani soldiers had died in the attack.

The CPEC project is the cornerstone of Beijing's massive Belt and Road Initiative and seeks to link China's western Xinjiang province to Gwadar port in Balochistan - Pakistan's least populous province but rich in mineral resources.

Baloch people have long complained they do not get a fair share of the province's profits, giving rise to more than a dozen separatist groups.

Three Chinese academics and their Pakistani driver were killed when a woman suicide bomber detonated her device as they were driving into the University of Karachi's Confucius Institute in April 2022.



Lyubov Tolchina, 63, reacts next to the damaged house of her son Vitaly, 40, who was killed the day before by shelling in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict in Donetsk, Russian-controlled Ukraine, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Avoid Iranian waters to avoid seizure

### US-led naval group warns ships

AFP, Manama

Western naval forces operating in the Gulf warned ships sailing in the strategic Strait of Hormuz against approaching Iranian waters to avoid the risk of seizure, according to statements issued over the weekend.

"Vessels are being advised to transit as far away from Iranian territorial waters as possible" to minimise the risk of seizure, US Fifth Fleet spokesperson Commander Tim Hawkins told AFP.

The International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC), led by Washington, is "notifying regional mariners of appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of seizure based on current regional tensions, which we seek to de-escalate," he added.

The alliance, established in 2019, is made up of 11 countries, including the United States, Great Britain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Its mission, according to its website, is to "provide reassurance to merchant shipping in the Middle East region".

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said late Saturday in a statement that it had been "made aware of an increased threat within the vicinity of Strait Of Hormuz", through which one-third of the world's oil transported by sea passes. The agency advised all vessels to "exercise caution and report suspicious activity to UKMTO".

## JERUSALEM

# Israel rules out base for Saudi envoy to Palestinians

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday ruled out a diplomatic base in Jerusalem for the new Saudi envoy to the Palestinians, whose appointment comes as Washington tries to forge formal Israeli relations with Riyadh.

Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Nayef Al-Sudairi on Saturday expanded his credentials to include non-resident envoy to the Palestinians. A social media post by his embassy in Amman said "consul-general in Jerusalem" was now among Al-Sudairi's duties.

That appeared to correspond with the Palestinians' long-standing and so far fruitless goal of founding a state in territories occupied by Israel in a 1967 war, with East Jerusalem as capital.

Israel deems Jerusalem its own capital, a status recognised by the United States under then-President Donald Trump in 2017 but not by other world powers. Israeli authorities bar Palestinian diplomatic activity in the city.

Saudi Arabia, Islam's birthplace, has championed the Palestinian cause and shunned official ties with Israel but the US is seeking to promote what could be a historic Middle East deal that would include normalising Israeli-Saudi relations.

"This (Al-Sudairi) could be a delegate who will meet with representatives in the Palestinian Authority," Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen told Tel Aviv radio station 103 FM.

"We will not allow the opening of any kind of diplomatic mission" in Jerusalem, Cohen added. "Will there be an official physically sitting in Jerusalem? This we

will not allow." Israel's hard-right government has played down any prospect of it giving significant ground to the Palestinians as part of a normalisation deal with Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh has previously conditioned recognition of Israel on Palestinians' statehood goal being addressed. Among challenges to that goal is the schism between the internationally backed Palestinian administration and its armed Islamist rival Hamas.

Bassam Al-Agha, the Palestinian ambassador to Riyadh, cast Al-Sudairi's appointment as Saudi affirmation of Palestinian statehood and "rejection of what had been announced by former US President Trump".

"This means a continuation of Saudi Arabia's positions," Al-Agha told Voice of Palestine radio.

While Cohen said Al-Sudairi's appointment had not been coordinated with Israel, he saw a possible link to the normalisation prospects.

"What is behind this development is that, against the backdrop of progress in the US talks with Saudi Arabia and Israel, the Saudis want to relay a message to the Palestinians that they have not forgotten them," Cohen said.

As Israel continues to expand settlements that most countries deem illegal, settler violence has risen.

The expansion has strained US-Israeli relations, as has a judicial overhaul drafted by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's religious-nationalist coalition that has sparked nationwide protests.

The United Nations recorded 591 settler-related incidents that led to Palestinian casualties, property damage or both in the first six months of 2023, the highest daily average since 2006.

Israel cites biblical and historical ties to the West Bank, which ministers in Netanyahu's coalition have said they want to annex.

Last Friday, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian man and wounded at least eight others during an operation in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian officials said.

The Israeli military said soldiers operating in the city of Tulkarm fired at suspects who shot at them, hurled explosives and rock sand blocked roads, and that "hits were identified".

Some 40,700 Palestinians are registered with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees in two camps in the Tulkarm area, descendants of people were forced out or fled their homes during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.



## HEAVY RAINS, LANDSLIDE

# North China death toll rises to 21

AFP, Beijing

The death toll from a landslide triggered by heavy rains in northern China has risen to at least 21, authorities said yesterday, with six others missing. "Twenty-one people were found dead so far, and six others are still missing," the Xi'an emergency management bureau said in an online statement. State media had put the toll at four earlier. A mountain flash flood in the village of Weiziping, south of Xi'an in Shaanxi province, caused a landslide on Friday that swept away two houses and damaged roads, bridges, electricity supply and other infrastructure, CNR reported earlier.

## CAMBODIA SCHOOL

# Thousands of war-era ordnance found

AFP, Phnom Penh

Thousands of pieces of unexploded ordnance left over from Cambodia's civil war have been unearthed inside a school in the country's northeast, authorities said yesterday. Decades after the brutal conflict and a US bombing campaign starting in the 1960s, the country remains among the most heavily bombed and mined in the world. Deminers discovered more than 2,000 explosives, including more than 1,000 M79 grenades, inside the grounds of a high school in Kratie province over three days, said Heng Ratana, director general of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre. He told AFP the explosive remnants were found after the school cleared land to expand a garden. "The school has been closed temporarily," Heng Ratana said. Images showed some of the masses of dug-up explosives, rusted over and stacked in rows.



A Mercy Worldwide volunteer makes damage assessment of charred apartment complex in the aftermath of a wildfire in Lahaina, western Maui, Hawaii on Saturday. Inset, volunteers sort out donations for those affected by the wildfire, at a parking lot in Lahaina. The death toll from the wildfires reached 93, according to the Maui County website, making it the deadliest US wildfire in more than a century. PHOTO: AFP

## MALAYSIA POLLS

# PM Anwar thwarts opposition challenge

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's ruling coalition thwarted a challenge by an opposition alliance in state elections, official results showed yesterday, with analysts saying the win would buy him time to consolidate power in the Southeast Asian nation.

Saturday's vote in six states had been the toughest political challenge yet to Anwar, who was appointed prime minister in November last year to head a unity government after an indecisive general election.

The election of state assembly members does not affect Anwar's current two-thirds majority in parliament.

It was, however, widely seen as a barometer of support for Anwar, including his push for a more inclusive society in which minority ethnicities could be allowed greater participation in the largely Malay Muslim nation.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ০২৩০-২৪/০১		তারিখঃ ১৪/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	সৌ-পরিবেশ মন্ত্রণালয়, গণস্বাস্থ্যবিধি বাংলাদেশ সরকার
২.	ক্রমিক/প্রতি	বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম
৩.	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	বিভিন্ন সূত্রে নির্ধারিত সামগ্রী ক্রয়
৪.	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার আকারে টাকা ৬০,০০০/- (ষাট হাজার টাকা মাত্র) (সেরভিসেড) জমা দিতে হবে
৫.	দরপত্র জমাদানের শেষ সময়	০১/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
৬.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.১০ ঘটিকা
৭.	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	টাকা ১৫০০/- (এক হাজার পঁচিশ টাকা মাত্র) অফেরতযোগ্য
৮.	দরপত্র তফসিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	হিসাব শাখা, বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, সন্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম, (০১/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বিকাল ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)
৯.	সি-টেন্ডারিং মিটিং	২৪/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকায় (বিএসসি প্রধান কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম)
১০.	দরপত্র নাথিলের স্থান	মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন), সন্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম এর অফিস কক্ষের সম্মুখে রক্ষিত বাক্সে ফেলতে হবে
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন) এর অফিস কক্ষ, বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম
১২.	দরপত্রাদায়া যোগ্যতা	০১। ডিজাইনসহ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ পণ্য সরবরাহে কাজে ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান। ০২। গত ০২ বছরে ০৩টি করে ন্যূনতম ৩০ লক্ষ টাকার সূত্রে নির্ধারিত সামগ্রী সরবরাহের কাজ করার বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ০৩। দরপত্রের সূত্রে নির্ধারিত এর বিভিন্ন আইটেমের স্পেসিফিকেশন ও ডিজাইন এর ছবি সংস্কৃত করতে হবে, অন্যথায় প্রস্তাবটি নন-রেসপন্সিভ বলে বিবেচিত হবে। ০৪। প্রস্তাবিত আইটেম সমূহের স্পেসিফিকেশন, ডিজাইন ও তথ্যগতমান সংস্থার চাহিদা মোতাবেক না হলে দরপত্রটি নন-রেসপন্সিভ বলে গণ্য হবে। ০৫। সূত্রে নির্ধারিত সামগ্রীগুলো সংস্থার অনুমোদিত ডিজাইন ও স্পেসিফিকেশন অনুযায়ী সরবরাহ করতে হবে।
১৩.	প্যারামিটার/পারফরম্যান্স সিকিউরিটি	দরপত্র তফসিলের পূর্ণ মতে যথসময়ে প্রয়োজনীয় প্যারামিটার/পারফরম্যান্স সিকিউরিটি জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।
১৪.	দরপত্র বহালের সময়কাল	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ষাট (৬০) (ষাট) দিন।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও যোগাযোগের বিস্তারিত তথ্য	মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম। ফোন নং ০২৩০৩০২৪৮০২ ই-মেইলঃ gpm-admin@bsc.gov.bd
১৬.	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখে সরকার ঘোষিত কোন ছুটি বা জরুরী অবস্থা থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।	