

FIGHTING IN MYANMAR

UN ‘alarmed’

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations expressed concern on Monday about “heavy fighting” between the army and an alliance of ethnic minority groups in northern Myanmar, which has left civilian casualties and displaced more than 30,000 people.

“We are alarmed by the heavy fighting, particularly in Shan State in the northern part of the country, with reports of... airstrikes that led to civilian casualties and tens of thousands being newly displaced internally,” said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general.

“Our humanitarian colleagues tell us that, since 26 October nearly 33,000 men, women and children have been displaced,” he added.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “reaffirms that civilians should be protected,” he said, also calling for “unimpeded” access to humanitarian aid.



A Palestinian child holds up a drawing as refugee children living in Lebanese camps take part in a sit-in protest in front of the International Red Cross in the capital Beirut denouncing the killing of children in Gaza yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Nobel laureate Mohammadi goes on hunger strike

REUTERS, Dubai

Imprisoned Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi began a hunger strike on Monday in protest against what she said was the jail's failure to give her access to medical care, the activist HRANA news agency reported.

HRANA said authorities had not let the 51-year-old go to hospital for heart and lung treatment last week because she had refused to wear a mandatory head scarf for the visit. The news agency did not name its sources.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee urged authorities to give Mohammadi the medical help. “The requirement that female inmates must wear a hijab in order to be hospitalized, is inhumane and morally unacceptable,” the committee said.

ISAREL-HAMAS WAR

Broad push, narrow achievements from US

AFP, United States

One month into the Israel-Hamas war, the achievements of US-led diplomacy have been small or subtle, but both supporters and critics say that is partly by design.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, completing his second whirlwind crisis tour, insisted that all leaders he spoke to wanted “American leadership.”

“Every country I talk to is looking for us to play a leading role with our diplomacy to try to make progress on all of these different aspects of the crisis,” Blinken told reporters Monday in Ankara.

But leaders in the Arab world, and many elsewhere, have called for a ceasefire, an idea not backed by the United States, which says Israel has the right to respond.

Blinken instead called on his latest trip for “humanitarian pauses” to let aid into the impoverished Gaza Strip, which is run by Hamas and has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not back Blinken's idea but the White House said that President Joe Biden again

raised “tactical pauses” in a telephone call Monday.

The United States has highlighted some progress in alleviating the plight of Gaza residents, including by persuading Israel partly to restore water and electricity.

US diplomats also negotiated the reopening of the Rafah crossing from Egypt, although the 476 trucks that have crossed are fewer than the number that went each day before October 7.

A primary goal for Blinken has also been to prevent the spread of the war to additional fronts – particularly Lebanon, where Iranian-backed Hezbollah is far better armed than Hamas.

While US officials have not claimed a win, some observers saw a long-awaited speech Friday by Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah as holding off on more direct confrontation.

James Jeffrey, a veteran US diplomat who led efforts against the Islamic State group under former president Donald Trump, said that Blinken set out with a mission foremost to prevent escalation by pro-Iranian forces and secondly to assuage outraged public opinion.

“So I would say that Blinken achieved his goal on this trip,” said Jeffrey, now chair of the Middle East programme at the Wilson Center.

He said that the ferocious Israeli response in Gaza in itself served as a deterrent to Hezbollah and Iran, telling them “we will do the same and worse to you” if there is escalation.

But he said Israel's tactics complicated the second US goal of addressing public opinion as Blinken was “trying to get the Israelis to let other things be in the news.”

Blinken wanted to “help Arab states with their own populations, and frankly to help Biden domestically, by emphasizing that America is all in on avoiding civilian casualties and taking the lead on humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza,” Jeffrey said.

“There it's a tough lift, because, frankly, the Israelis are not as helpful as they should be,” he said.

Diana Buttu, a former legal advisor to Palestinian negotiators with Israel, scoffed that Blinken could not even achieve humanitarian pauses, considering how much Israel relies on Washington.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Indian states vote in key test for Modi

REUTERS, New Delhi

Two of five Indian states due to elect new legislatures this month began voting yesterday, a big test of Narendra Modi's chances of winning a third term in a national election due by May. More than 160 million people - or about one-sixth of India's total electorate - are eligible to vote in the regional polls being held in four legs until November 30. Votes in all five states will be counted on December 3 and results expected the same day. The elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Mizoram states are mainly a contest between BJP and Congress. “We are confident of securing a majority in all states,” said Raman Singh, a senior BJP leader and former chief minister of the mineral-rich central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, which voted yesterday along with Mizoram in the northeast. Singh said Modi's weekend decision to extend a free food grains programme by five years will help win more votes. “BJP faces a challenge but results will prove that people are in no mood to experiment and they trust Modi's stable governance,” Singh told Reuters. Opinion polls suggest close fights, particularly in the heartland states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, two of which are ruled by Congress and one by BJP. “State elections' results before the 2024 polls will showcase the overall public mood” said Sachin Pilot, a senior Congress leader.

CIVIL FRAUD TRIAL

Trump clashes with judge

AFP, New York

A combative Donald Trump took the stand on Monday in the New York civil fraud case threatening his real estate empire, clashing repeatedly with the judge and denouncing the trial as a “disgrace.” Trump had a number of heated exchanges with Judge Arthur Engoron and lawyers for the New York attorney general's office during his daylong appearance in a Manhattan courtroom, prompting the judge to tell him at one point to “please, just answer the questions, no speeches.” “This is not a political rally,” the New York Supreme Court justice told the 2024 Republican presidential nomination front-runner. Trump accused the judge of being “very hostile” and denounced New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought the case against him, as a “political hack.” “I think this case is a disgrace,” he said. “It's election interference.” At one point, a visibly angry Engoron told Trump's lawyer, Christopher Kise, to “control your client.” Engoron slapped Trump with USD 15,000 in fines earlier in the trial for violating a partial gag order imposed after he insulted the judge's law clerk on social media.



Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Cumilla

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“শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি

গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি”

Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.002.2021-9353

Date: 07/11/2023

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 48/2023-2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

SL No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender/ Proposal ID No.	Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time	Method of Tender
1.	CCB/C/Cul-01	Re-Construction of 2x3.70x5.00m RCC Box Culvert on Monipur -Tek Markat Road at Ch. 10m (Road ID: 419904048) under Monohorganj Upazila, District: Cumilla.	898012	26-Nov-2023 16:00 BST	27-Nov-2023 12:30 BST	LTM
2.	CCB/C/V R/ W-114	a) (i) Improvement of Mella GPS (Habibulla Master's House) to Mella Ashirpar Road (Motaleb's House) Via Bari Sheikh Jame Masjid Road at Ch. 00-878m (Road ID No. 419725211) (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 84,777/-); a) (ii) Construction of 226m Protective Work on the same road; b) (i) Improvement of Laksam Manoharganj (Narayanpur Bridge) Road to Narayanpur Kazi Bari Road at Ch. 00-245m (Road ID No. 419725218); b) (ii) Construction of 77m Protective Work on the same road; b) (iii) Construction of 2x4.00x4.00m Ino. Culvert at Ch. 4m on the same road; c) (i) Improvement of Ichapur (Haji Maulana Mahamudul Haque's) to Ichapur Munsibari and Nashir Uddin Tutul Road at Ch. 00-532m (Road ID No. 419725201) (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 1,94,963/-); c) (ii) Construction of 299m Protective Work on the same road; c) (iii) Construction of 1x2.00x2.00m Ino. Culvert at Ch. 150m; d) (i) Improvement of Tarapaiya (Rezaul Haque's) to Dowla Pokur via Company House Road at Ch. 00-875m (Road ID No. 419725200) (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 35,391/-); d) (ii) Construction of 270m Protective Work on the same road; d) (iii) Construction of 1x2.00x2.00m Ino. Culvert at Ch. 466m on the same road; e) (i) Improvement of Laksham Manoharganj Road (Mohammedpur Dakshin Para Mail Bari Abul Kalam Member) - Tarapaiya Bari to Mustafa Mia Road at Ch. 00-1047m (Road ID No. 419724109); e) (ii) Construction of 70m Protective Work on the same road under Laksham Upazila, District: Cumilla.	898010	06-Dec-2023 16:00 BST	07-Dec-2023 12:30 BST	OTM

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To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any Branches of registered Bank.

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

The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd and www.lged.comilla.gov.bd

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আমরা অত্যন্ত আনন্দের সঙ্গে জানাচ্ছি যে, ৬-১১-২০২৩ তারিখে বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বিএসএমএমইউ) অ্যাকাডেমাই অ্যাসোসিয়েশন এবং পপুলার ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিমিটেড এর মধ্যে একটি চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরিত হয়। অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের পক্ষে স্বাক্ষর করেন অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ শারফুদ্দিন আহমেদ, উপাচার্য, বিএসএমএমইউ এবং পপুলার ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিমিটেড এর পক্ষে স্বাক্ষর করেন ডাঃ মোস্তাফিজুর রহমান, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, পপুলার গ্রুপ।

এই চুক্তির আওতায় আগামী দশ বছর (২০২৩ সাল থেকে ২০৩২ সাল পর্যন্ত) পপুলার ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিমিটেড হতে প্রতি বছর বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বিএসএমএমইউ) অ্যাকাডেমাই অ্যাসোসিয়েশন -কে স্বাস্থ্যখাতে গবেষণার জন্য অনুদান প্রদান করা হবে।

এই মহতী উদ্যোগে পপুলার ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিমিটেড বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বিএসএমএমইউ) অ্যাকাডেমাই অ্যাসোসিয়েশন এর পাশে থাকতে পেরে গর্বিত ও আনন্দিত।

সৌজন্যে :

পপুলার ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিমিটেড।