

## No normal Israel ties without path to Palestinian state: Saudi FM

REUTERS, Washington

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said there can be no normalisation of ties with Israel without resolving the Palestinian issue, he told CNN in an interview that aired on Sunday.

Asked if there could be no normal ties without a path to a credible and irreversible Palestinian state, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud told CNN's Fareed Zakaria: "That's the only way we're going to get the benefit. So, yes, because we need stability and only stability will come through the resolving the Palestinian issue."

The foreign minister's remarks were part of an interview originally taped on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum held last week in Davos, Switzerland, and aired Sunday on CNN.

De-escalation of the conflict in Gaza and halting civilian deaths is a key focus of Saudi Arabia, the minister said.

"What we are seeing is the Israelis are crushing Gaza, the civilian population of Gaza," he said.



A woman mourns for her relative while people bury bodies of Palestinians, killed in an Israeli strike, at the Nasser hospital premises in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Three Pakistan univs shut over security threats

AFP, Islamabad

Three universities affiliated with Pakistan's military were shut over security threats in the capital Islamabad yesterday, police said.

Pakistan is due to vote in general elections in two weeks amid overlapping political, economic and security crises — with a spike in militant attacks targeting police and soldiers.

An Islamabad police official told AFP on condition of anonymity that the National Defence University, Bahria University and Air University in Islamabad were "shut down because of potential threats".

The institutions are tied to Pakistan's army, navy and air force, respectively.

"Due to security reasons... all faculty and staff, except security and necessary admin staff, will work from home," said a text sent to Bahria University students and seen by AFP.

Pakistan goes to the polls on February 8 and thousands of auxiliary security forces are set to saturate the nation's capital and northwestern region abutting Afghanistan.

The South Asian nation of 240 million has seen an uptick in attacks along its border regions since the Taliban surged back to power there in 2021, and has consistently claimed Kabul is giving safe haven to militants.

## Israeli plan to destroy Hamas not working

Says EU's Borrell, presses Israel on 2-state solution as EU ministers meet in Brussels with ME in focus

REUTERS, Brussels

Israel's plan to destroy Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza is not working and the European Union must pursue efforts to create a "two state solution" despite Israeli opposition, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said yesterday.

Israeli Prime Minister had on Sunday reaffirmed a hard line against any Palestinian state as it would pose "an existential danger" to Israel. He said Israel would keep insisting on full security control over all territory west of the Jordan River, which would include Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Borrell spoke at the monthly gathering of EU foreign ministers, attended this time by counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan and the Arab League secretary-general. The talks will focus mainly on the consequences of Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al Maliki were making separate appearances at the meeting, which was also taking stock of the war in Ukraine.

Alluding to Israel's stated objective of annihilating Hamas in its devastating three-month-old war in the Gaza Strip, Borrell told

reporters: "What are the other solutions they have in mind. Make all the Palestinians leave? Kill all of them?...The way they are destroying alongside Israel. The last talks to that end collapsed a decade ago amid mutual mistrust and intransigence."

Borrell said he wanted to press ahead with international efforts to create a process that would lead to a Palestinian state co-existing alongside Israel. The last talks to that end collapsed a decade ago amid mutual mistrust and intransigence.

Israel's massive aerial and ground offensive in small, densely populated Gaza has killed more than 25,000 Palestinians, according to Hamas run enclave's health authorities, flattened built-up areas and left most of its 2.3 million people homeless.

Israel has said war could go on for "many months" and it would not rest until Hamas was eradicated, Israeli hostages freed and Gaza posed no more security threat.

"We have engaged in over 30 years of process and look where that has got us," Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told reporters, referring to intermittent Israeli-Palestinian peace talks since the 1990s. Ahead of the Brussels meeting, the EU's diplomatic service sent a discussion paper to its 27-member countries, suggesting a roadmap to peace in the conflict.

## Ukraine downs eight Russian drones

AFP, Kyiv

Kyiv said yesterday that Russian forces had attacked Ukraine with eight Iranian-designed attack drones but that its air defence systems had repelled the barrage.

Officials in Kyiv have said that gaining control of the country's airspace is a priority for this year, and urged the West to supply more air defence systems.

"The enemy attacked with eight attack UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) of the Shahed-136/131 type from the Primorsko-Akhtarsk region of the Russian Federation," the air force said in a statement.

It added the drones had been downed by defence systems in southern and central regions of Ukraine. There were no immediate reports of damage caused by falling debris.

The attack comes in the wake of several aerial assaults on the border regions of Russia.

## Pandemic accord hangs in the balance: WHO

AFP, Geneva

The head of the World Health Organization yesterday voiced fears that countries will fail to strike a pandemic preparedness agreement by May, saying "future generations may not forgive us". Shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic, the WHO's 194 member states are negotiating an international accord aimed at ensuring countries are better equipped to deal with the next health catastrophe, or to prevent it altogether. The plan was to seal the agreement at the 2024 annual meeting of the World Health Assembly, the WHO's decision-making body, which convenes on May 27. But WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said time was running out — and if nobody is prepared to budge, the whole project risks going nowhere. At the opening of the WHO's executive board meeting in Geneva, Tedros reminded countries that world leaders at the UNGA had agreed a commitment to resolve negotiations on the pandemic accord, and amendments to the IHR, by May this year. "I must say I'm concerned that member states may not meet that commitment. Time is very short. And there are several outstanding issues that remain to be resolved," Tedros said. Failure to deliver the agreement would be "a missed opportunity for which future generations may not forgive us," he said.

## US PRESIDENTIAL RACE DeSantis ends 2024 campaign Endorses Trump over Haley as New Hampshire vote looms

REUTERS, Seabrook



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis ended his fading presidential campaign on Sunday and endorsed Donald Trump just two days before the pivotal New Hampshire primary, leaving former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley as Trump's last long-shot challenger for the Republican nomination. DeSantis' decision, less than a week after his deflating loss to Trump in Iowa despite an enormous investment there, caps a stunning fall from grace after DeSantis had been widely seen as Republicans' most promising alternative to Trump ahead of the general election in November. His departure sets up the one-on-one battle that Haley has coveted against Trump, the former president who has maintained an iron grip on the Republican electorate despite facing four criminal prosecutions. Trump has pleaded not guilty in all the cases.



Chinese military personnel and rescue workers search for missing victims following a landslide in Liangshui village at Zhaotong, in southwestern China's Yunnan province yesterday. Dozens of people were buried and eight confirmed killed when the landslide struck the remote part of China.

PHOTO: AFP

## SUDAN WAR

## EU adopts sanctions against six entities

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Council yesterday adopted sanctions against six entities involved in the war in Sudan, where the regular army (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been fighting since last April.

The Council said in a statement the six entities were responsible for "supporting activities undermining the stability and political transition of Sudan".

Among those listed are two companies involved in the manufacture of weapons and vehicles for the SAF (Defense Industries System and SMI Engineering); the SAF-controlled Zadna International Company for Investment Limited and three companies involved in procuring military equipment for the RSF (Al Jumaid Multi Activities Co Ltd, Tradive General Trading and GSK Advance Company Ltd).

"The entities listed are subject to asset freezes. The provision of funds or economic resources, directly or indirectly, to them or for their benefit is prohibited," the Council said.

The EU is mirroring steps taken by the US which in June imposed sanctions against those perpetuating violence in Sudan.

## US 'all in' for Africa Says Blinken opening coastal tour

AFP, Abidjan

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday the United States was committed to deeper relations with Africa despite global crises as he opened a trip in the shadow of coups and the rising influence of Russia and China on the continent.

Blinken is touring four democracies on the Atlantic Coast — Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Angola — as security deteriorates in the Sahel and doubts grow about a key US base in coup-hit Niger.

President Joe Biden welcomed African leaders in 2022 in a show of newfound US attention to the continent.

But Biden failed to live up to a promise to visit last year and Blinken's trip is his first to sub-Saharan Africa in 10 months

as he has been consumed since October with the Israel-Hamas war.

Blinken nonetheless quoted Biden as he vowed "We are all in when it comes to Africa."

"Our futures are linked, our prosperity is linked, and African voices increasingly are shaping, animating and leading the global conversation," Blinken said as he opened talks in Cape Verde.

"The United States is committed to deepening, strengthening and broadening partnerships across Africa," Blinken said.

He called Cape Verde, a Portuguese-speaking archipelago of some half million people that has cooperated with the United States on law enforcement and naval stops, a "beacon of stability" and a "strong, principled voice".



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,  
Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Division, Chattogram  
Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project.

Memo No: 22.01.1500.122.29.001.2023.130

Date: 22/01/2023

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of following goods:

Tender ID & Package No.	Name of the package	Online Notice Publication Date and Time:	Online Tender last selling Date and Time:	Online Tender Closing Date and Time:
939064, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/01	Supply of poly- propylene Bags for Nursery Raising.	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 12:00:00
939071, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/02	Supply of Decomposed Cow dung for Plantation	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 12:30:00
939076, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/03	Supply of Decomposed Cow dung & loamy soil for Nursery Raising.	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 13:00:00
939087, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/04	Supply of Stakes for Plantation and Maintenance.	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 13:30:00
939607, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/05	Supply of Chemical Fertilizer (Urea, TSP, MOP & NPK) for Plantation, Nursery Raising and Maintenance.	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 14:00:00
939611, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/06	Supply of Bariala Bamboo, Bamboo Chati, Sungrass & Temporary shed Materials for Nursery Raising.	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 14:30:00
939612, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/07	Supply of Nursery equipment & Water supply Materials for Nursery Raising.	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 15:00:00
939614, SUFAL/WDC/2023-2024/GD/08	Supply of Planting Equipment & Materials for RCC Sign Board.	23-Jan-2024 10:00:00	11-Feb-2024 16:00:00	12-Feb-2024 15:30:00

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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).)

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