

RED SEA CRISIS UK and US sanction sr Houthis

REUTERS, Washington

Britain and the US yesterday said they had sanctioned four senior Houthi officials for their roles in supporting or directing attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

Those sanctioned were Houthi Defence Minister Mohamed Nasser al-Atifi, Commander of Houthi Naval Forces Muhammad Fadh Al-Nabi, coastal defence forces chief Muhammad Ali al-Qadiri and Muhammad Ahmad al-Talibi.

"The Houthis' persistent terrorist attacks on merchant vessels and their civilian crews ... threaten to disrupt international supply chains and the freedom of navigation, which is critical to global security, stability, and prosperity," the US Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, said in a statement.



Palestinians fleeing Khan Younis, due to the Israeli ground operation, move towards Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Israel pressed its blistering assault on the Gaza city of Khan Younis, with the Hamas saying dozens were killed in heavy bombardment and urban combat.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar armed group claims control of port town

AFP, Bangkok

Fighters from a Myanmar ethnic minority armed group have seized control of a port town after more than two months of intense clashes with junta troops, they said.

The Arakan Army (AA) said late Wednesday it "completely controlled" Pauktaw, a town of 20,000 people close to a deepwater port in the capital of western Rakhine state.

AA fighters briefly seized Pauktaw in November, shattering a fragile ceasefire that had largely held since the military's coup in 2021.

The junta has used artillery and naval ships to bombard the town almost daily since, and strafed it with gunfire from helicopters, residents have told AFP.

New Google Earth images of Pauktaw showed a block of the downtown area reduced almost entirely to rubble and damage to several buildings near its harbour.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Nearly all US Democrats back two-state solution

Qatar 'appalled' at alleged Netanyahu criticism of mediation in Gaza offensive

REUTERS, Washington

An overwhelming majority of President Joe Biden's fellow Democrats in the Senate on Wednesday backed a statement reiterating US support of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Forty-nine of the 51 members of the Senate Democratic caucus backed an amendment supporting a negotiated solution to the conflict that results in Israeli and Palestinian states living side by side, ensuring Israel's survival as a secure, democratic, Jewish state and fulfilling the Palestinians' "legitimate aspirations" for a state of their own.

Senator Brian Schatz introduced the measure as an amendment to an upcoming bill that would provide national security aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan.

"What will determine the future of Israel and Palestine is whether or not there's hope. And the two-state solution has to be that hope," Schatz told a news conference.



With Israeli offensive raging in Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a press conference this month that he objected to any Palestinian statehood that did not guarantee Israel's security.

The statement provoked international concern, including from Israel's biggest backer the United States. Washington maintains that the two-state solution is the only feasible way to

bring lasting peace to the region. Meanwhile, Qatar on Wednesday said Netanyahu was obstructing mediation efforts in Gaza offensive after a leaked recording allegedly captured him calling the Gulf state "problematic". "We are appalled by the alleged remarks attributed to the Israeli Prime Minister in various media reports about Qatar's mediation role," Qatar's foreign ministry spokesperson, Majed Al Ansari, said.

China slams US provocation in Taiwan Strait

Pledges more drills

REUTERS, Beijing

China yesterday criticised the United States for causing "trouble and provocation" after the US Navy sailed its first warship through the sensitive Taiwan Strait since presidential and parliamentary elections on the island.

China claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own and has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under its control.

"US warships and planes have caused trouble and provocation on China's doorstep, and carried out large-scale, high-frequency activities in waters and airspace around China," Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Colonel Wu Qian told reporters.

The US Navy said the destroyer USS John Finn transited through a corridor in the Taiwan Strait that was "beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state".

KILLING OF PAK CITIZENS Pakistan has 'evidence' to link Indian agents

REUTERS

Pakistan said yesterday it had "credible evidence" linking Indian agents to the killings of two Pakistani citizens on Pakistani soil. "These are killings-for hire cases involving a sophisticated international set-up spread over multiple jurisdictions," Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Qazi told reporters. India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Qazi said the method of assassination was similar to attempts in Canada and the United States. Pakistan's allegations come months after both Canada and the United States separately accused Indian agents of being linked to assassination attempts on their soil. India has rejected Ottawa's allegations and has launched an investigation into US allegations. Meanwhile, an independent commission probing alleged foreign interference in Canada asked the Trudeau government on Wednesday to share information about possible meddling in elections by India, a development that could aggravate already-tense Ottawa-New Delhi relations. The commission was set up by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government in September to conduct a public inquiry into foreign meddling in Canadian affairs after reports of alleged Chinese attempts to influence elections and mounting pressure for an inquiry. Beijing has repeatedly denied any interference.

India has not asked troops to pull out from Maldives Says navy chief

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's government has not told its defence personnel to pull out from Maldives following a request from Male, Indian Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar told broadcaster CNN-News 18 yesterday. India's ties with Maldives have come under strain after Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu's election win last year pledging to end his country's "India First" policy and later calling for withdrawal of Indian troops by March 15. Muizzu's decisions are seen as a pivot away from India to build stronger ties with China in a region where New Delhi and Beijing compete for influence. "We await instructions, whatever is the decision," Kumar said when asked about the return of defence personnel from Maldives, adding that New Delhi has "not really" issued any communication to the navy so far. A contingent of around 80 Indian soldiers are stationed on the Indian Ocean archipelago nation to provide support for military equipment given to Male by New Delhi and assist in humanitarian activities. The Maldivian foreign ministry said on Tuesday a Chinese research vessel on its way to the Maldives will not conduct any research while in the archipelago's waters in the Indian Ocean. The Chinese vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03, which is en route to the Maldives, will only make a port call "for rotation of personnel and replenishment" while in its waters, the ministry said in a statement. Such vessels are not officially military ships but India and other countries worry about the military use of their oceanographic research.

8.3kg cocaine seized at HSIA

FROM PAGE 1

a Tanzanian man in possession of 200 grams of cocaine.

At the briefing, Tanvir said Towera travelled to Dhaka pretending to be a ready-made garment trader. She was invited by a garment factory, and she received her visa on arrival, he added.

"Before arriving in Dhaka, Towera travelled to Ethiopia and had a stopover in Doha."

He said there was no market in Bangladesh for consumption of such a large amount of cocaine, and the stash was going to be smuggled to India.

Tanvir added that the DNC had information that a large stash of cocaine would be brought to Dhaka.

"We kept an eye on the arriving passengers. Seeing the suspect waiting at the visa desk for a long time, the DNC team interrogated her."

The cocaine wrapped in carbon paper was not detected by the scanner. "The luggage was then weighed. It was unusually heavy. The DNC team opened the luggage and found the cocaine."

DNC officials said Towera also visited Dhaka last year, claiming to be a ready-made garments trader.

"We suspect that Towera collected the cocaine from Ethiopia and worked as a carrier for the trafficking gang... A foreign national was supposed to receive the

cocaine." Towera, a nurse by profession, was supposed to return directly to her country Malawi on February 4, Momtaz said.

Another officer involved in the investigation said an Indian citizen might be involved in the racket. "Two to three Bangladeshis are working closely with the foreigners locally. We have some details and may take action against them soon," the officer said.

Last night, APBn and DNC officers raided Hotel Afford Inn and arrested Mohamedi Ali Mohamedi, 55, who had 200 grams of cocaine in his luggage, said Ziaul Haque Polash, an additional superintendent at the Airport APBn.

"Towera booked a room at the hotel. Then we found a booking for Ali. We conducted the raid with the APBn dog squad and searched his room. A dog alerted the handler about the presence of narcotics... The cocaine seized there is worth around Tk 25 lakh," Polash said.

Ali came to Dhaka from Addis Ababa on January 20, he said.

"We suspect Ali had already delivered some stashes of cocaine he probably had. We may be able to say more after further investigation," he said.

This is the first time the dog squad had detected cocaine in the country.

The APBn's dog squad

currently has 22 dogs capable of detecting marijuana, yaba, pentenyl, heroin, and cocaine.

In May 2015, customs agents seized 107 plastic barrels of sunflower oil in Chattogram port. Officials estimate that between 60kg and 100kg of cocaine was mixed with the oil.

That shipment was also headed to India, officers said.

Another stash of cocaine was seized at Dhaka airport in 2017.

The initiative to form a dog squad was taken after that, Polash said.


Gene therapy

FROM PAGE 12
trial in humans to administer gene therapy for treating this genetic condition, with the most patients treated and the longest follow-up to date.


"Not since cochlear implants were invented 60 years ago, has there been an effective treatment for deafness. This is a huge milestone that symbolizes a new era in the fight against all types of hearing loss," study co-author Zheng-Yi Chen, DPhil said.

Over 1.5 billion people worldwide suffer from hearing loss with about 26 million of those individuals inheriting the condition from birth.

Among children, more than 60 percent of cases of hearing loss stem from genetic reasons, scientists say.



এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা ঢাকা -১২০৮।



মুজিব
১০০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইউসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছে :-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আনুমানিক মনি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অক্ষেরযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইউসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয় / দরপত্র/২০২৪/৫৬ তারিখঃ ২৫/০১/২০২৪ ইং	০৪ (চার) প্রকার মাস্টার কার্টন { 04 (four) Kinds of Master Carton } ০২ (দুই) প্রকার করোপেটেড কার্টন {02 (two) Kinds of Corrugated Carton } (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	৬,৯৩৫ পিস ৪,১১৫ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১৩/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৩/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইউসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০২৪/৫৭ তারিখঃ ২৫/০১/২০২৪ ইং	০২ (দুই) প্রকার মাস্টার কার্টন {02 (two) Kinds of Master Carton } (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	৩২,২৩০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১৪/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৪/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০৩।	ইউসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০২৪/৫৮ তারিখঃ ২৫/০১/২০২৪ ইং	০৬ (ছয়) প্রকার মাস্টার কার্টন { 06 (six) Kinds of Master Carton } (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	৪৯,৩২৫ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১৫/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	১৫/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০৪।	ইউসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০২৪/৫৯ তারিখঃ ২৫/০১/২০২৪ ইং	০৬ (ছয়) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড ইনার বক্স {06 (six) Kinds of Printed Inner Box } (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	৭,৮৯,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতি সেট	০৭/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	০৭/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
০৫।	ইউসিএল / ক্রয়/স্থানীয় / দরপত্র/২০২৪/৬০ তারিখঃ ২৫/০১/২০২৪ ইং	০৯ (নয়) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড ব্লিস্টার বক্স {09 (nine) Kinds of Printed Blister Box } (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৫,৩৮,৫০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	০৭/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	০৭/০২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করা দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

(৭×৫ কলাম)

মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষে ৫ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।