

XINJIANG, TIBET China violating 'fundamental rights' Say UN rights chief

AFP, Geneva
UN human rights chief Volker Turk yesterday said China was violating fundamental rights in its Xinjiang and Tibet regions and called on Beijing to change course.

Turk, who has been criticised for not challenging China strongly enough over its human rights record, also asked Beijing to release rights defenders arrested under the "vague" offence of "picking quarrels and making trouble". Turk called on Beijing to implement recommendations made by his office and other human rights bodies "in relation to laws, policies and practices that violate fundamental human rights, including in the Xinjiang and Tibet regions," in his global update to the UN Human Rights Council.

"I am engaging with the Hong Kong authorities on continuing concerns about national security laws," he added.

In the northwestern Xinjiang region, China is accused of incarcerating more than a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. Beijing vehemently rejects the charges.

A report by Turk's predecessor Michelle Bachelet -- released just minutes before her term ended in 2022 -- cites possible "crimes against humanity" in Xinjiang. The report was flatly rejected by China.



The report detailed "credible" evidence of torture, forced medical treatment and sexual or gender-based violence -- as well as forced labour.

But it stopped short of labelling Beijing's actions in Xinjiang a "genocide", as the United States and some Western lawmakers have done.

Beijing denies allegations of abuse and insists its actions in Xinjiang have helped to combat extremism and enhance development.

Turk said his office was in talks with China on counter-terror policies, gender equality, minority protection, civic space, and economic, social and cultural rights.

"As we move forward, it is important that this dialogue yield concrete results," he said.

Turk recognised China's advances in development and in alleviating poverty, but urged that such policies be accompanied by reforms "to align relevant laws and policies with international human rights standards".

"I particularly encourage revision of the vague offence of 'picking quarrels and making trouble' in Article 293 of the Criminal Law, and I urge the release of human rights defenders, lawyers and others detained under such legislation," he said.



People mourn Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran polls turnout 41% Tehran says

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday announced a turnout of 41 percent in last week's elections for parliament and a key clerical body -- a record low since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, according to voting records.

Conservatives were reported to have secured the bulk of seats in Friday's elections for the national legislature and Assembly of Experts, the body which selects Iran's supreme leader.

"Around 25 million people participated, with a turnout of 41 percent," Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi told a press conference in Tehran.

The vote was the first since nationwide protests broke out following the September 2022 death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini.

Nepal PM ends alliance with Nepali Congress Forms new coalition

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal named three ministers, including one each from two opposition parties, in a new coalition yesterday, dumping the centrist Nepali Congress party which had dominated his previous government.

Dahal, a former Maoist guerrilla leader in the mountain nation lying between China and India, formed a coalition cabinet including the Nepali Congress and other smaller groups last year. But his Maoist Centre party, which is the third biggest group in the 275-member parliament, had criticised the Nepali Congress for not giving him free hand and putting "hurdles" to removing some ministers with whom he was not satisfied.

Dahal named a three-member cabinet including one minister each from the new coalition partners -- the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) and the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP). The third minister is from his own Maoist Centre party.

No portfolio was allocated to any

minister for now.

President Ram Chandra Paudel administered the oath of office to the new ministers, a presidential statement said.

"It is clear that the prime minister himself broke the coalition with us," said Bishwa Prakash Sharma, Nepali Congress general secretary.

But an aide to the prime minister blamed the Nepali Congress for not cooperating with him.

"There were mainly policy differences that made it difficult for the prime minister to continue to work with the Nepali Congress. So, he is bringing in the UML and RSP as new coalition partners," Govinda Acharya, Dahal's press secretary, told Reuters without elaborating.

Party official said Dahal, 69, wanted to remove some "non-performing" ministers including Finance Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat, who is from the Nepali Congress, saying he had not done enough to boost growth of the \$40 billion economy. Mahat has said the economic condition of the country was better now than last year.

COLORADO PRIMARY BALLOT Trump can stay US Supreme Court rules

AFP, Washington

The US Supreme Court yesterday removed a potential hurdle to Donald Trump's bid to recapture the White House, unanimously dismissing a state court ruling that could have barred him from the ballot for engaging in insurrection. The high-stakes ruling in favor of the former president came on the eve of the Super Tuesday primaries that are expected to cement Trump's march toward the Republican nomination to take on President Joe Biden in November. It was the most consequential election case heard by the court since it halted the Florida vote recount in 2000 with Republican George W Bush narrowly leading Democrat Al Gore. The question before the nine justices was whether Trump was ineligible to appear on the Republican presidential primary ballot in Colorado because he engaged in an insurrection -- the January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol by his supporters. In a 9-0 decision, the conservative-dominated court said "the judgment of the Colorado Supreme Court... cannot stand," meaning 77-year-old Trump, the Republican White House frontrunner, can appear on the state's primary ballot.

Shehbaz Sharif takes oath as Pakistan's PM

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Shehbaz Sharif took the oath yesterday to officially become prime minister for a second time, nearly four weeks after an uncertain national election caused delays in the formation of a coalition government. Sharif, 72, officially took up office at a swearing-in ceremony at the presidential office in the nation's capital, Islamabad, a day after parliament elected him prime minister despite protests from lawmakers aligned with jailed former premier Imran Khan. Sharif wore a black traditional overcoat, called a sherwani, in the ceremony, broadcast live on state TV and attended by civil, military, bureaucracy and other dignities. The February 8 election was marred by a mobile internet shutdown, arrests and violence in its build-up and the unusually delayed results triggered accusations that the vote was rigged. Candidates backed by Khan gained the most seats but the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) agreed to form a coalition government.



SPANISH TOURIST Indian police hunt more rape suspects

AFP, New Delhi

Three Indian men have appeared in court after the gang rape of a Spanish tourist on a motorbike trip with her husband, with police hunting four other suspects, reports said yesterday. The attack took place on Friday night in eastern India in Jharkhand state's Dumka district, where the couple were camping. A total of seven men are accused of carrying out the brutal assault. "We have formed a team to hunt the remaining suspects," police officer Pitamber Singh Kherwar said.

VIOLENCE, PRISON BREAK

Haiti declares state of emergency

AFP, Port-Au-Prince

Haiti's government declared on Sunday a state of emergency and nighttime curfew in a bid to regain control of the country after a deadly gang assault on the capital's main prison that allowed thousands of inmates to escape.

The curfew will be enforced from 6 pm to 5 am in the Ouest region, which includes the capital, through Wednesday, the government said in a statement, adding that both the curfew and the state of emergency can be extended.

About a dozen people died as gang members attacked the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince overnight Saturday into Sunday, an AFP reporter observed. The attack came as part of a new spate of extreme violence in the Haitian capital, where well-armed gangs who control much of the city have wreaked havoc since

Thursday.

The gangs say they want to oust Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who has led the crisis-racked Caribbean nation since the assassination of president Jovenel Moise in 2021.

Only around 100 of the National Penitentiary's estimated 3,800 inmates were still inside the facility Sunday after the gang assault, Pierre Esperance of the National Network for Defense of Human Rights said. "We counted many prisoners' bodies," he added.

An AFP reporter who visited the prison on Sunday observed around a dozen bodies outside it and hardly anyone inside. Some bodies had wounds from bullets or other projectiles.

In its statement late Sunday, the government said security forces had "received orders to use all legal means at their disposal to enforce the curfew and detain those who violate it."

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Memo No-58.04.0900.151.04.016.24-899 Date- 04-03-2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Jail Superintendent of Bhola District Jail for the Procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Invitation Reference No.	Description of works	Type Method	Publishing Date and Time	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
958041	58.04.0900.151.03.003.23-872, Date-03.03.204	Supply of Unnatamaner Mashur Dal- Mota For the period of April/2024 to September/ 2024.	NCT OTM	04-03-24 12:00 pm.	20-03-24 10:00 am.	20-03-24 12:00 pm.	20-03-24 12:00 pm
958042	58.04.0900.151.03.003.23-873, Date-03.03.204	Supply of Unnatamaner Mashur Dal Saru for the period of April/2024 to September/ 2024.	NCT OTM	04-03-24 12:00 pm.	20-03-24 10:00 am.	20-03-24 12:15 pm.	20-03-24 12:15pm
958043	58.04.0900.151.03.003.23-874, Date-03.03.204	Supply of Unnatamaner Cholar Dal for the period of April/2024 to September/ 2024.	NCT OTM	04.03.24 12:00 pm.	20-03-24 10:00 am.	20-03-24 12:30 pm.	20-03-24 12:30 pm

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender Registration in the (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to deposited online through any schedule bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from eGP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Didarul Alam
 Jail Superintendent
 Bhola District jail

GD-359

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Inspector General
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

Corrigendum of International Tender Notice

Memo No-44.01.0000.058.07.026.23/276 Date :04/03/2024

Invitation for International Tender Notice Published in different national dailies as per Invitation tender ref No-44.01.0000.058.07.026.23/09(2023-2024) Date: 15/02/2024 for procurement of Random Movement Tear Gas Grenade in FY 2023-2024 is hereby amended as follows:

Particular Information	Published	Revised
Tender last selling date	31 March 2024	17 April 2024
Tender closing date and time	01 April 2024 at 14.00 hrs	18 April 2024 at 14.00 hrs
Tender opening date and time (Technical offer only)	01 April 2024 at 14.30 hrs	18 April 2024 at 14.30 hrs

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GD-361