

US almost ready with KSA rewards for Israel normalisation

Says US Secretary of State Blinken

AFP, Riyadh

The United States is nearly ready with a security package to offer Saudi Arabia if it normalises relations with Israel, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday, as he seeks incentives for Israel to support a Palestinian state.

Blinken was visiting the kingdom on his seventh trip to the region since Israel's October 7 offensive in Gaza.

President Joe Biden's administration, while supporting Israel, has sought moderation from its government by dangling the prospect of formal relations with Saudi Arabia -- a potential game-changer, because the Gulf state is guardian of Islam's two holiest sites.

As part of any deal, Riyadh is expected to insist on a path to statehood for the Palestinians as well as alliance-style security guarantees from Washington, which has repeatedly tried -- with limited success -- to shift its focus out of the Middle East.

"The work that Saudi Arabia, the United States have been doing together in terms of our own agreements, I think, is potentially very close to completion," Blinken said.

"But then in order to move forward with normalisation, two things will be required -- calm in Gaza and a credible pathway to a Palestinian state," he told a meeting of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh.



Smoke billows following Israeli bombardment in a position northwest of Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. The Israeli attacks come amid renewed international efforts to broker a ceasefire in the nearly seven-month-old offensive.

PHOTO: AFP

'We're living in hell'

Displaced Palestinians in Gaza's Rafah city struggle with heat, garbage, insect swarms

AFP, Rafah

As garbage piles up and the heat rises in Gaza, flies and mosquitoes proliferate in crowded Rafah city and life becomes even more grim for displaced people living in tents.

Last week, temperatures already topped 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), turning the makeshift shelters made from plastic tarps and sheets into sweltering ovens.

On a sliver of land on the outskirts of

the far-southern city on the Egyptian border, about 20 of these tents have been erected, all shaded by a large sheet stretched above them.

But the thin, dark cloth is no match for the blazing sun that has sent temperatures rising fast in late April, making it harder to preserve scarce potable water and food.

"The water we drink is warm," Ranine Aouni al-Arian, a Palestinian woman displaced from the devastated nearby city of Khan

Yunis, told AFP. "The children can't bear the heat and the mosquito and fly bites anymore," she told AFP.

She was holding a baby whose face was covered in insect bites and said that she struggles to find "a treatment or a solution".

Around her, swarms of flies and other insects were buzzing incessantly.

"We're living in hell," said Hanane Saber, a 41-year-old displaced Palestinian whose children can no longer bear the steamy tent.

"I'm exhausted from the heat, on top of mosquitoes and flies everywhere that bother us day and night," she said, her voice barely audible above the sound of Israeli drones and planes.

Container ship targeted with missiles near Yemen's Mokha

REUTERS, Dubai

A Malta-flagged container ship was reportedly targeted with three missiles while on route from Djibouti to the Saudi city of Jeddah, British maritime security firm Ambrey said yesterday.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said it was informed by the Company Security Officer of an explosion in close proximity to a merchant vessel.

UKMTO added that the vessel and its crew were safe and authorities are investigating the incident.

Iran-backed Houthis militants have repeatedly launched drones and missiles against international commercial shipping in the Red Sea region since mid-November, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians.

Ambrey assessed that the vessel was targeted due to its listed operator's ongoing trade with Israel, it said in an advisory note.

DAM BURSTS

Floods kill 42 in central Kenya

REUTERS, Maimahiu

At least 42 people have been killed in floods in central Kenya's Mai Mahiu area after a dam burst early yesterday, and the number of deaths could rise, police said. Pictures posted on the X accounts of Kenyan media, Kenya Red Cross and the highway authorities showed scenes of the aftermath of the flooding, with broken trees and at least one car stuck among logs and mud. "We have so far recovered 42 bodies, which include 17 minors, following the early morning incident where a dam burst its banks in Kijabe area," Naivasha police commander Stephen Kirui told reporters.

Khalistan slogans at event attended by Trudeau

India summons Canada envoy

REUTERS, New Delhi

India summoned the Canadian Deputy High Commissioner yesterday and expressed "deep concern and strong protest" after separatist slogans in support of a Sikh homeland were raised at an event addressed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Bilateral diplomatic relations soured last year after Trudeau said Canada was "actively pursuing credible allegations" that Indian agents were potentially linked to the June 2023 murder of a Canadian citizen. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, was shot dead outside a Sikh temple on June 18 in Surrey. Nijjar supported a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent Khalistani state and was designated by India as a "terrorist" in July 2020.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Laksham, Cumilla.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.1972.902.14.138.23.1190 Date: 28.04.2024

e-Tender Notice No: 19/2023-24

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

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Name of the Works | Date & Time of closing |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 01 | 970383 (3 rd Call) | Construction of additional class room at Noshrotpur Government Primary School under PEDP4, Laksham, Cumilla. | 13 May, 2024 BST 11:00:00 |
| 02 | 970385 (3 rd Call) | Construction of additional class room at Dharmochha Government Primary School under PEDP4, Laksham, Cumilla. | 13 May, 2024 BST 11:00:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies are allowed. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Any other conditions for this tender is stated in TDS. Interested Tenderers may communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

(Misuk Kumer Datta)
Upazila Engineer
Laksham, Cumilla.
Phone: +880 2334407367
ue.laksham@lged.gov.bd

GD-683

CNN-SRSS SURVEY

Biden's tenure has been a failure

CNN ONLINE

The majority of American voters feel that President Joe Biden's tenure has been a failure, according to the latest CNN-SRSS survey.

The survey found that 61 percent of registered voters believe Biden's term has been a failure, with just 39 percent terming it a success.

In the run-up to the US presidential election, the survey found that Trump has continued to maintain lead over Biden. It also found that the support for Trump among the Republicans is much stronger than the support for Biden among his Democrat constituents.

Overall, Trump has support of 49 percent registered voters whereas 43 percent voters support Biden, according to the survey.

While Trump's support has remained steady since the January's figures, the support for Biden has since further waned from 45 percent.

Dhaka South City Corporation
Engineering Department
Electrical Circle

Re-Tender Notice

Memo No. 46.207.007.09.22.46.2024 Date: 29/04/2024

Re-Tender Notice is invited through e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Electrical Circle, Dhaka South Corporation for the Procurement of following packages:

| SI No. | Tender ID | Description of work | Last selling (date & time) | Closing (date & time) |
|--------|-----------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 973036 | Supply & Installation of HT Switchgears, Transformer, ACB, LT Switchgear, PFI Plant and related Electrical works at Dolaykhal Storm Water Drainage Pump Station under DSCC. | 15-May-2024 12.00pm | 15-May-2024 02.00pm |
| 2. | 975037 | Supply Fitting Fixing of different types Spare Parts for Repair & Maintenance of Air Coolers, Generator, Sub-Station along with necessary Electrical works at Bashabo Community Center under Zone-2 of DSCC. | 19-May-2024 04.00pm | 20-May-2024 12.30pm |

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and hard copies/offline will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

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

If necessary, information please contact to the PE's Support Desk (02-223386009).

Nur Mohammad
Executive Engineer
Electrical Circle
Dhaka South City Corporation
Phone: 02-223386009

GD-691

Burkina Faso suspends more foreign news media

AFP, Ouagadougou

Burkina Faso has suspended a swathe of international news organisations, some indefinitely, for airing accusations of an army massacre of civilians, with the communications regulator CSC adding more outlets over the weekend.

Among those named are French newspaper Le Monde, British publication The Guardian, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) and French broadcaster TV5 Monde.

They were suspended for reporting on a Human Rights Watch statement accusing soldiers of killing at least 223 people in revenge attacks on two villages on February 25.

Other news media named by the CSC in an order dated Saturday were Ouest-France, APAnews and the Swiss-based Agence Ecofin.

Janata Bank PLC
Divisional Office Dhaka North, Dhaka
D.K. Tower (3rd floor) 94, Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta Road, Dhaka-1205.
Tel: 9670871, 9613648, 9615114
E-mail: dhakanorth@janatabank-bd.com. Website: jb.com.bd.

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1 | Ministry/Division | Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. | |
| 2 | Agency | Autonomous Bodies & Other Institutions | |
| 3 | Procuring Entity Name | Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office, Dhaka North, Dhaka. | |
| 4 | Procuring Entity Code | 7002 | |
| 5 | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka | |
| 6 | Invitation for | Tender | Goods (Multiple Lots) |
| 7 | Invitation Ref No | JBL/DOBNT/ITMSC/OTM-01/24/WS_MO_UPS_PR_SC_RO/2024 | |
| 8 | Date | 30/04/2024 | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | |
| 9 | Procurement Method | Open Tender Method (OTM) | NCT |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | | |
| 10 | Budget and Source of Funds | Own Funds | |
| 11 | Development Partners | N/A | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | |
| 12 | Project/Programme Code | N/A | |
| 13 | Project/Programme Name | N/A | |
| 14 | Tender Package No. | JBL/DOBNT/ITMSC/OTM-01/24/WS_MO_UPS_PR_SC_RO/2024 | |
| 15 | Tender Package Name | Supply of computer, electrical equipments and network devices for divisional office, area office and different computerized branches operation under control of Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office Dhaka-North, Dhaka. | |
| 16 | Tender Publication Date | 30/04/2024 | |
| 17 | Tender Last Selling Date | 13/05/2024 (During office hour) | |
| 18 | Tender Closing Date and Time | 14/05/2024 up to 3:00 PM | |
| 19 | Tender Opening Date and Time | 14/05/2024 at 3:15 PM | |
| Name & Address of the Office(s) | | | |
| -Selling Tender Document(Principal) Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office, Dhaka North, Dhaka, D.K. Tower (3 rd Floor), 94, Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta Road (Sonargoon Road), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205 between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days. Interested Tenderers may view IFT at the website of the Bank. (Website: https://www.jb.com.bd) | | | |
| -Selling Tender Document(Others) N/A | | | |
| -Receiving Tender Document Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office, Dhaka-North, Dhaka, D.K. Tower (3 rd Floor), 94, Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta Road (Sonargoon Road), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 9613647, 9613648. Between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days. | | | |
| -Opening Tender Document Conference Room, Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office Dhaka North Dhaka, D.K. Tower (3 rd Floor), 94, Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta Road (Sonargoon Road), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205. Tenderer's authorized representative(s) are allowed to attend, if any. | | | |
| 21 | Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting | N/A | |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | | |
| 22.1 The Tenderer shall be the developer/manufacturer/authorized dealer/distributor/reseller/ bonafide supplier having valid Trade License, TIN & VAT registration from concerned authority, experience and other requirements are described in Tender Document (STD). | | | |
| 22.2 Must have strong presence and support offices in Dhaka with well equipped service cell manned by adequately qualified technical personnel for maintenance and support for the proposed Goods and Services. Floating or home address shall not be considered as established offices. | | | |
| 22.3 The participating company may offer proposals for the items in any or all lots and must quote all the items in that/those lot(s). Evaluation will be done Lot by Lot basis and contract will also be awarded Lot by Lot basis. Partial offer for any lot will not be accepted. | | | |
| 22.4 The offers should have validity for at least 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from the date of opening the tender. | | | |
| 23 Supply of Desktop(PC), Monitor, Line-interactive UPS 650 VA, Online UPS(2.0KVA), Laser Printer, Scanner(A4) and Router. The items shall be internationally renowned while the UPS with BSI/ISO certification will be given preference. No close/Assembled items will be accepted and others requirement clearly mentioned in tender documents. | | | |
| 24 Brief Description of Related Services N/A | | | |
| 25 Tender Document Price Tk. 1,000/= Only (non refundable) in cash for a single lot. Interested tenderers have to purchase different tender documents for different lots. | | | |
| Lot No | Identification of Lot | Location | Tender Security Amount (Tk) |
| Lot-1 | Desktop (PC) and Monitor. | Respective Branches/Offices Under Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office Dhaka North Dhaka. | BDT 34,240/- (Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty) Only. |
| Lot-2 | Line-interactive UPS 650VA and Online UPS (2.0KVA). | | BDT 7,536/- (Seven Thousand five Hundred Thirty Six) Only. |
| Lot-3 | Laser Printer & Scanner (A4). | | BDT 9,210/- (Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ten) Only. |
| Lot-4 | Router. | | BDT 6,800/- (Six Thousand Eight Hundred) Only. |
| Completion Time in Weeks/Months 4 (Four) weeks from the date of contract signature. | | | |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | | |
| 27 | Name of Official Inviting Tender | Nargis Sultana | |
| 28 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender | Deputy General Manager | |
| 29 | Address & Contact details of Official Inviting Tender | Janata Bank PLC., Divisional Office Dhaka North Dhaka, D.K. Tower (3 rd Floor), 94, Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta Road (Sonargoon Road), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 9613647, 9613648. Email: dhakanorth@janatabank-bd.com . Website: jb.com.bd | |
| a. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings without showing any reason. | | | |
| b. The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation. | | | |
| c. If any force majeure situation arises in the specified date mentioned in the tender data sheet or/and invitation for tender, the event will take on the next working date. | | | |

(Nargis Sultana)
Deputy General Manager
Janata Bank PLC.
Divisional Office Dhaka-North, Dhaka.

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