

## India to buy 31 armed drones from US

REUTERS, New Delhi

India yesterday signed a deal with the US State Department to buy 31 armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) drones, the South Asian nation's defence ministry said.

The deal follows talks that began in 2018. It is expected to significantly increase India's surveillance and intelligence capabilities and is in line with US efforts to coax India away from buying Russian military equipment and counter China's growing dominance.

India's apex defence body approved the procurement last year just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington, while the Pentagon approved it in February.

The drones will be predominantly used by the navy in the Indian Ocean Region, Reuters reported last year.



People gather outside a collapsed building as they attempt to extricate a man from underneath the rubble following Israeli bombardment in the Saftawi district of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## SCO SUMMIT

### Indian FM in Pakistan on rare visit

REUTERS, Islamabad

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar arrived in Pakistan yesterday in the first such visit in almost a decade for a meeting of governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), with the capital city under tight lockdown.

Jaishankar was among nearly a dozen leaders participating in the gathering in Islamabad, culminating with the main event today.

It has been nearly a decade since a foreign minister from Pakistan's arch-rival India has visited amid frosty relations between the two nuclear powers.

Both sides have said no bilateral meeting is planned. The meeting of the SCO, a Eurasian security and political group formed in 2001 by Russia and China, is the highest-profile event hosted by the troubled South Asian nation in years.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang is already in Pakistan, while seven more prime ministers of other member and observer states, including Russia's Mikhail Mishustin, were also due to participate in person.

## Hezbollah aims to inflict pain on Israel

Says its deputy chief, calls for ceasefire; the Iran-backed group, Israel trade rocket fire

REUTERS, Beirut

Hezbollah's deputy secretary general Naim Qassem said yesterday his group has adopted "a new calculation" to inflict pain on Israel, even as he called for a ceasefire.

"The solution is a ceasefire, we are not speaking from a position of weakness," Qassem said. "If the Israelis do not want that, we will continue," he added in a broadcast speech.

Qassem said that residents of northern Israel would be able to return home after a ceasefire deal is reached through an indirect agreement.

But he threatened that more Israelis will be displaced if the war continues, saying that "the number of uninhabited settlements will increase, and hundreds of thousands, even more than two million, will be in danger at any time, at any hour, on any day".

He added that since Israel has attacked all over Lebanon, the group has the right to attack anywhere in Israel. "We will focus on targeting the Israeli military and its centres and barracks," he said.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah launched a barrage

of rockets towards the northern Israeli city of Haifa yesterday, as the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) bombed south and east Lebanon. It also downed an Israeli drone, without saying where.

Israel expanded its targets in its war with Hezbollah and ordered residents of 25 villages in southern Lebanon to evacuate to areas north of the Awali River, which flows some 60 km north of the Israeli frontier.

The Israeli military said about 115 projectiles fired by Hezbollah crossed from Lebanon into Israel on Monday. At least 21 people killed in an Israeli airstrike in the north, Lebanese health officials said, while millions of Israelis took shelter from projectiles fired back across the border.

As five UN peacekeepers suffered injuries from Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon, UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix said on Monday that the peacekeepers will stay in all positions in Lebanon despite Israeli calls for them to move.

The Middle East remains on high alert for Israel to retaliate against Iran for an October 1 barrage of missiles launched in response to Israel's assaults on Lebanon.

## Cash-strapped Maldives slashes govt appointees

AFP, Male

The Maldives president has sacked more than 225 political appointees, including ministers, in a bid to reduce the cash-strapped Indian Ocean nation's expenditure, his office said yesterday.

Mohamed Muizzu ordered the removal of those he appointed after coming to power last year as the small but strategically located nation struggles to stave off a debt crisis.

"This significant reduction in political appointments aligns with the president's broader efforts to streamline government operations and ensure more efficient use of public funds," a statement from Muizzu's office said.

Among those sacked were seven state ministers, 43 deputy ministers and 178 political directors. It was not clear what functions they performed in the tiny nation of about half a million people.

The statement did not say how many more political appointees remained in the administration but added that the mass reduction of staff would save the country about \$370,000 a month.

The Maldives said in September its financial troubles were "temporary" and that it had no plans to seek an International Monetary Fund bailout despite warnings of a possible sovereign default.

Known as a luxury holiday destination, the Maldives has also become a geopolitical hotspot.

## Delhi's actions 'unacceptable'

Canada PM slams India as tensions soar over Sikh separatist murder

AFP, Ottawa

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday accused India of making a "fundamental error," as an escalating row over the killing of a Sikh separatist on Canadian soil last year saw both countries expel each other's ambassadors.

A grave Trudeau branded New Delhi's actions as "unacceptable" during a press conference in Ottawa on the diplomatic expulsions, which saw tensions reach a new height after the 2023 murder of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Trudeau has previously said there were "credible allegations" linking Indian intelligence services to the killing. Both countries have traded barbs since then, culminating with the expulsions Monday of each other's ambassadors and five other top diplomats in both countries.

"The government of India made a fundamental error in thinking that they could engage in supporting criminal activity against Canadians here on Canadian soil, whether it be murders or extortion or other violent acts," Trudeau told reporters in Ottawa, hours after the expulsions were announced.

"We will never tolerate the involvement of a foreign government threatening and killing Canadian citizens on Canadian soil, a deeply unacceptable violation of Canada's sovereignty and of international law," he said.

## MYANMAR CONFLICT

### Armed group claims capture of another town

AFP, Bangkok



Fighters from a Myanmar ethnic armed group have seized another town along a strategic highway to China, the group and a resident said, in the latest setback

for the embattled junta.

Northern Shan state has been rocked with fighting since the summer when an alliance of ethnic armed groups renewed an offensive against the military along the highway to China's Yunnan province.

The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) captured the last remaining military base in the town of Hsipaw on Sunday after weeks of fighting, a spokesperson for the group told AFP Monday. "We took all army bases and there is no more Myanmar army in the town," Lway Yay Oo said.

Hsipaw is normally home to about 20,000 people and sits on a highway from Myanmar's second city Mandalay to the China border, along which hundreds of millions of dollars of trade travels annually.

A Hsipaw resident who did not want to be named told AFP Tuesday that TNLA fighters had taken control of the town on Sunday.

**We see now what is probably the worst restrictions we've seen on humanitarian aid, ever.**

Unicef spokesman James Elder decries 'worst restrictions' on Gaza aid since the start of Israeli offensive

**জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
গৃহায়ন ভবন  
৮২, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।  
www.nha.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ২৫.৩৮.০০০০.৪০৩.১৮.০০৪.১৯-১৬৫ তারিখ ১৭/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।

**নিবন্ধন নবায়ন ও সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

রিয়াল এস্টেট উন্নয়ন ও ব্যবস্থাপনা আইন, ২০১০ এর ধারা ৪ উপধারা (২)(ঘ) অনুসারে রাজউক সহ অন্যান্য উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, সিটি করপোরেশন (সকল), পৌরসভা (সকল) এবং ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের অধিক্ষেত্রভুক্ত এলাকা ব্যতীত বাংলাদেশের সমগ্র এলাকার জন্য জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষকে সরকার কর্তৃক "কর্তৃপক্ষ" হিসেবে ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। উক্ত আইনের ধারা ৫ মোতাবেক জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন এলাকায় রিয়েল এস্টেট ব্যবসা পরিচালনার জন্য প্রত্যেক রিয়েল এস্টেট ডেভেলপার প্রতিষ্ঠানকে জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ এর নিকট থেকে নিবন্ধন গ্রহণ এবং প্রকল্প অনুমোদন নোয়া বাধ্যতামূলক। নিবন্ধন গ্রহণ এবং প্রকল্প অনুমোদন ব্যতীত রিয়েল এস্টেট ব্যবসা পরিচালনা করা বা কোন রিয়েল এস্টেট উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের কাজ শুরু করা কিংবা অননুমোদিত রিয়েল এস্টেট প্রকল্পের বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচার/প্রকাশ বা প্রটো/ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা এ আইনের ১৯ ও ২০ ধারামতে আইনত দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। ইদানীং লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, রিয়েল এস্টেট ডেভেলপার নিবন্ধন গ্রহণ এবং প্রকল্প অনুমোদন ব্যতীত অনেক প্রতিষ্ঠান এতদসংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচার/প্রকাশ ও উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করছে, যা উক্ত ধারার পরিপন্থী।

অন্যুহী সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নিবন্ধন গ্রহণ এবং প্রকল্প অনুমোদন ব্যতীত যাবতীয় বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচার/প্রকাশ এবং প্রটো/ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া হতে বিরত থেকে রিয়েল এস্টেট ডেভেলপার নিবন্ধন গ্রহণ এবং প্রকল্প অনুমোদনপূর্বক পরবর্তী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যথায় সর্বপ্রতি প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে উল্লিখিত আইনের ১৯ ও ২০ ধারামতে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

উল্লেখ্য, রিয়েল এস্টেট ডেভেলপার নিবন্ধন/নিবন্ধন নবায়ন গ্রহণ এবং প্রকল্প অনুমোদন সংক্রান্ত আবেদন ও হালনাগাদ তথ্য জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের ওয়েবসাইটে ([www.nha.gov.bd](http://www.nha.gov.bd)) পাওয়া যাবে। অন্যুহী জনসাধারণকে উল্লিখিত ওয়েবসাইটে হতে নিশ্চিত হওয়া ব্যতীত জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের আওতাধীন এলাকার নিবন্ধনবিহীন রিয়েল এস্টেট ডেভেলপার প্রতিষ্ঠান ও অনুমোদনবিহীন প্রকল্প হতে প্রটো/ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয় থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(মোঃ হেলালুজ্জামান সরকার)  
সচিব  
জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ  
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।

জিডি-৬৯৭

## CA to hold 2nd round of talks

FROM PAGE 12

Responding to another query, Azad yesterday said the interim government is unaware of any "minus two" formula. "There have been no discussions about this in any government meetings, and there is no likelihood of such an issue being discussed."

As a journalist sought his comment on the BNP's recent statement that it did not want to see another "minus-two" attempt, the deputy press secretary said, "Please ask the BNP what they have said and why."

### 'IDENTIFYING SYNDICATES'

Talking about syndicates of traders, Azad said the interim government was working to identify the syndicates to check the price hike of essentials.

"Efforts are on to identify and bust the syndicates of traders. We are seeking your [journalists] cooperation. If you have information on the syndicates who are manipulating prices, let us know about it. If you cooperate with the government by providing information, the government will of course take steps."

He said 99 percent garment factories are open now. Mentioning that ordinary people are worried about the price hike of essentials, Azad said the government has already taken some steps to bring down the prices to an affordable level.

"The price of eggs is going up. A decision has been made today [yesterday] to reduce the duty on egg imports to 13 percent from 33 percent."

The deputy press secretary said the government has decided to cut the duty on edible oil imports by five percent and withdraw VAT on its production and supply.

He said the government has started selling agricultural products, including potato, onion and vegetables, at affordable prices under an Open Market Sale (OMS) programme at different places in the capital.

The products are now being sold at 20 points and the number will be increased later.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Safiqul Alam was present at the press briefing.

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
Bangladesh Power Development Board

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর  
যান্ত্রিক সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ-১  
কর্ণফুলী পানি বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র,  
বিউবি, কক্সবাজার।  
ফোন-০১৩৩৩-০৪৩৯২২

Memo no: 27.11.8436.425.05.206.24.208 Dated: 12/10/2024

**e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following Goods:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Tender/ Proposal Package No.	Description	Tender/ Proposal Publish Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Document last selling Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing and Opening Date and Time
1.	1025592	KHS MMDI GR 8_2024-2025	Procurement of Air Filter & Refrigerant, and compressor for HVAC system. (MMD-1)	17-Oct-2024 12:00	03-Nov-2024 15:30	04-Nov-2024 12:00
2.	1025597	KHS_MMDI_WR 33_2024-2025	Repair and Maintenance of Braking Air Compressor of Unit No. 3 of Power House-1 (MMD-1)	17-Oct-2024 12:00	03-Nov-2024 15:30	04-Nov-2024 12:30

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents for both of the tenders (Tender ID: 1025592, Tender/ Proposal Package No. KHS\_MMDI\_GR\_8\_2024-2025, Tender ID: 1025597, Tender/ Proposal Package No. KHS\_MMDI\_WR\_33\_2024-2025) from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches up to 03-Nov-2024 15:30 and Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission Up to 03-Nov-2024 16:30. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) /Contact Number (01762625528-31).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন- ২৬৫ (২)/১৫/১০/২৪

(Md. Koysul Bari)  
ID-1-01948  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Maintenance Division-1  
KHS, BPDB, Kaptai, Rangamati.

জিডি-৭০৫