

GERMAN ELECTION

Far-right surge ‘last warning’ for parties

Says polls winner Merz

AFP, Berlin

Germany’s conservative election winner Friedrich Merz said yesterday that the surge of the far-right AfD to 20 percent voter support was “the last warning” to the country’s mainstream parties.

The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) scored its best-ever result in Sunday’s election after a campaign marred by a spate of deadly car-ramming and stabbing attacks blamed on migrants.

Merz, of the centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU), has vowed a crackdown on immigration and a “zero tolerance” law and order drive to ease public fears and win back voters drifting to the far-right party.

“This is really the last warning to the political parties of the democratic centre in Germany to come to joint solutions,” Merz said at a Berlin press conference.

Merz pointed to the especially strong gains of the far-right party in the ex-communist east, the AfD’s heartland.



Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky with his wife Olena, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Antonio Costa, Canada’s PM Justin Trudeau, Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez, and other leaders from European countries visit a makeshift memorial place displaying Ukrainian flags with the names of fallen service members at the Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UKRAINE WAR

Xi hails Russia’s ‘positive efforts to defuse crisis’

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday hailed Moscow’s “positive efforts to defuse” the Ukraine crisis in a call with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, state media said.

Xinhua news agency reported Xi as saying “China is happy to see Russia and relevant parties make positive efforts to defuse” the crisis in Ukraine.

Moscow and Beijing have strengthened military and trade ties since Russia sent troops into Ukraine, though China has sought to depict itself as a neutral party amid the nearly three-year conflict.

Beijing remains a close political and economic partner of Moscow and has never condemned Russia’s actions.

Speaking of China’s ties with Russia, Xi said “history and reality” show the two countries “are good neighbours that cannot be moved away, and true friends who share weal and woe, support each other and achieve common development”, Xinhua reported.

The Kremlin later said Putin “briefed” Xi on the talks between Russian and US officials held in Saudi Arabia – their first high-level meeting since Russia sent troops into Ukraine three years ago.

Era of ‘dictators’ could return

Warns UN rights chief as global system undergoing ‘tectonic shift’

AFP, Geneva

The international system is in upheaval with human rights being “suffocated”, the United Nations said yesterday, warning that an era of “dictators” could return.

During an opening address at the UN Human Rights Council’s main annual session, UN rights chief Volker Turk painted a dark picture of a “very dangerous” situation in a world increasingly dominated by authoritarians.

He did not mention any country – even as the world grapples with the Russia-Ukraine war, dramatic changes in the United States and a more assertive China.

It was clear, he said though, that “the international system is going through a tectonic shift”.

“The human rights edifice we have built up so painstakingly over decades has never been under so much strain.”

UN ‘gravely concerned’ by violence in West Bank

Gaza truce in doubt as first phase nears end

AGENCIES

The UN chief yesterday voiced alarm at rising violence by Israeli settlers in the West Bank and calls for annexation after Israel announced expanded military operations in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Israel on Sunday said its troops would remain for many months in refugee camps in the occupied West Bank. Tens of thousands of Palestinians living there have been displaced by an intensifying military operation.

“I am gravely concerned by the rising violence in the occupied West Bank by Israeli settlers and other violations, as well as calls for annexation,” Antonio Guterres told the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

He also stressed the importance of the fragile ceasefire in place in Gaza since January 19, reports AFP.

As the first phase of the ceasefire between

Israel and Hamas in Gaza is meant to be drawing to an end, it has once again been put in doubt.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said later on Sunday that Israel was prepared to resume fighting against Hamas after the Palestinian group accused it of endangering a five-week-old Gaza truce by suspending prisoner releases.

Hamas official Basem Naim said talks with Israel through mediators on further steps in a ceasefire agreement are conditional on Palestinian prisoners being released as agreed, reports Reuters.

The White House on Sunday backed Israel’s decision to delay releasing the Palestinian prisoners, citing the “barbaric treatment” of Israeli hostages by Hamas.

The delay was an “appropriate response” to the Palestinian group’s treatment of the hostages, a statement from National Security Council spokesman Brian Hughes said.

Hamas says talks with Israel depends on release of prisoners

Trump admin eliminating 1,600 USAID jobs in US

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump’s administration said on Sunday it was placing all personnel at the foreign assistance agency USAID, except leaders and critical staff, on paid administrative leave and eliminating 1,600 positions in the United States.

Billionaire Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency has led an effort to gut the US Agency for International Development, the main delivery mechanism for American foreign assistance and a critical tool of US “soft power” for winning influence abroad.

“I regret to inform you that you are affected by a Reduction in Force action,” said an email sent to one of the workers being fired that was reviewed by Reuters. Those who got the note will be let go from federal service effective April 24, the email said. USAID said on its website that just before midnight on Sunday US Eastern Time, all direct hires except essential workers will be put on leave.

Office of the Bhandaria Paurashava
Upazila: Bhandaria, District: Pirojpur.
www.bhandariapouroshova.pirojpur.gov.bd

Memo No.Bha/poura/engr/2024-25/993. Date: 24/02/2025

e-GP Notice No: 07/2024-25 (OTM)
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

| Tender ID & Package No. | Name of works | Last selling | Closing & Opening date |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1079490 | Construction of RCC wall Railing & Electricity with Beatification of Kalima Chottar, In ward no # 03 & 04, under Bhandaria Pourashava, Pirojpur. | Date: 12/03/2025 Time:17.00 | Date: 13/03/2025 Time:12.00 |

ADP/BHAN/POU/2024-25/16

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>) required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Gazi Nazrul Islam)
Assistant Engineer
Bhandaria Paurashava, Pirojpur.

GD-511

British couple arrested by Taliban: family

AFP, London

An elderly British couple have been arrested by Taliban authorities in Afghanistan, their daughter said yesterday, urging UK diplomats to do “everything in their power” to secure their release.

Peter and Barbie Reynolds, who are in their seventies, have run school training programmes in the south Asian country for 18 years.

Their daughter Sarah Entwistle and her three brothers had initially chosen not to involve the UK authorities “hoping to hear directly from the Taliban about why they’d arrested our parents”, she told TimesRadio yesterday.

“Our parents have always sought to honour the Taliban, so we wanted to give them the opportunity to explain their reasons for this detention,” she said.

“However, after more than three weeks of silence, we can no longer wait. We’re now urgently calling on the British consulate to do everything in their power to get us answers and to put as much pressure as they can on the Taliban for their release,” she added.

The Taliban administration and the British Foreign Office declined to comment. The Reynolds, who married in Kabul in 1970, remained in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover in 2021.

British MP jailed for 10 weeks for punching passerby

AFP, London

A lawmaker suspended from Britain’s ruling Labour party was jailed for 10 weeks yesterday after pleading guilty to punching a man, potentially triggering an election test for Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

MP Mike Amesbury got into a late-night street altercation with a man who complained to him about a bridge closure, which ended with the man being knocked to the ground. Labour suspended Amesbury, 55, after the Mail Online published a video that apparently showed the assault and he now sits in parliament as an independent. Starmer said his party had moved “very swiftly” to suspend the lawmaker.



ঢাকার গ্রাথ করিডোরে
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Faridpur
Phone/Fax: 0631/63256-66367
Email: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com

RHD Quotation for Toll Collection
Sealed Quotation are hereby invited for the following work:

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Leasing Quotation No. | : FRD-01/2023-24 (16th call) |
| 2 | Description of Toll | : Leasing out for collection of Toll from Different Vehicular Traffic Crossing the Gorai Bridge at 66th km of Daulatdia-Faridpur (Goalchamot)- Magura- Jhenidah-Jessore- Khulna Mongla (Digraj) (N-7) Highway Road Under Road Division, Faridpur during the year 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27 (3 Financial years). |
| 3 | Lease Period | : 03 (Three) financial years |
| 4 | Price of Quotation Scheduled | : Tk. 5000/- (Five Thousand) only (Non-Refundable) |
| 5 | Earnest Money | : 10% of Total Quoted Rate (with VAT and IT) in form of B.D. or P.O from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favor of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur. |
| 6 | Last Date & Time for Selling Leasing Quotation Document | : 09/03/2025 upto5:00 pm |
| 7 | Last Date & Time for Receiving Quotation | : 10/03/2025 up to 12:00 pm |
| 8 | Eligibility of Quotationer | : Contractors in RHD or in any department/ any person or firm in Bangladesh (who possesses Nationality of Bangladesh, VAT Certificate and upto Date Trade License and Income Tax Certificate) |
| 9 | Name of Offices where Leasing Quotation will be Available | : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/ Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur/ Madaripur/Shariatpur/ Gopalganj/ Rajbari/ Planning Division- 1, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka/ Upazilla Nirbahi Officer, Modhukhali, Faridpur/ Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division 1/2/1st Line Workshop, Faridpur |
| 10 | Name of the Offices where Leasing Quotation will be received | : a) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur. b) Gopalganj Road Zone, Gopalganj. c) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Faridpur. d) Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur. e) Superintendent of Police, Faridpur. |
| 11 | Date, Time & Place for Opening the Quotation | : Place: Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Faridpur Date: 10/03/2025 Time: 03:00 pm |

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any/all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

(Khalid Saifullah Sardar)
ID No-602287
Executive Engineer (c.c.), RHD
Road Division, Faridpur.

GD-508