

China, India are ‘friends, partners’ Says Xi Jinping

REUTERS, Hong Kong

China's President Xi Jinping said China and India were "good neighbours, friends and partners" as he wished President Droupadi Murmu congratulations on the South Asian nation's Republic Day, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday.

Xi said that over the past year, China-India relations have continued to improve and develop and are of "great significance for maintaining and promoting world peace and prosperity," according to Chinese state-media Xinhua.

Xi said China has always believed that being "good neighbours, friends and partners" is the right choice for both China and India.

He referred to China and India as the "dragon and the elephant dancing together," Xinhua said.



People take part in a demonstration in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Sunday, a day after Alex Pretti was fatally shot by federal immigration agents during an attempted detention. Billionaire Bill Ackman donated \$10,000 to a fundraiser for Pretti's family, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing his spokesman.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel agrees to reopen Gaza's Rafah crossing Passage limited to pedestrians; Israeli forces raid West Bank town of Kafr Aqab

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel said yesterday it would only allow pedestrians to travel through the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt as part of its "limited reopening" once it has recovered the remains of the last hostage in the Palestinian territory.

Reopening Rafah, a vital entry point for aid into Gaza, forms part of a truce framework announced by US President Donald Trump in October, but the crossing has remained closed since Israeli forces took control of it during the war in the Palestinian territory.

Visiting US envoys had reportedly pressed Israeli officials to reopen the crossing during talks in Jerusalem over the weekend.

World leaders and aid agencies have repeatedly pushed for more humanitarian convoys to be able to access Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces ordered Palestinians to evacuate a number of buildings, including schools and kindergartens, in the town of Kafr Aqab in the occupied West Bank amid a major military raid.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said yesterday that Israel had agreed to a reopening "for pedestrian passage only, subject to a full Israeli inspection mechanism". The move would depend on "the return of all living hostages and a 100 percent effort by Hamas to locate and return all deceased hostages", it said on X.



WAVE OF IRAN PROTESTS US-based rights group confirms deaths of 5,848 Says 17,091 possible fatalities under probe; Rubio warns Iraq on pro-Iran govt

AFP, Paris

A US-based rights group said yesterday it had confirmed the deaths of 5,848 people in a wave of protests in Iran suppressed by security forces, warning that it was still investigating thousands more potential fatalities.

The protests started in late December sparked by economic grievances but turned into a mass movement against the Islamic republic, with huge street rallies for several days from January 8.

NGOs tracking the toll have said their task has been impeded by a now 18-day internet shutdown, warning that confirmed figures are likely to be far lower than the actual toll.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) said it had confirmed that 5,848 people had been killed, including 5,520 protesters, 77 minors, 209 members of the security forces and 42 bystanders.

But the group added it was still investigating another 17,091 possible fatalities. At least 41,283 people have been arrested, it said.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned Iraq on Sunday against a pro-Iranian government as the expected return of Nouri al-Maliki as prime minister stirs Washington's concern.

JUNTA-RUN POLLS Myanmar pro-military party declares victory

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's dominant pro-military party has won junta-run elections, a party source told AFP yesterday, after a month-long vote that democracy watchdogs dismissed as a rebranding of army rule.

The military snatched power in a 2021 coup, ending Myanmar's experiment with civilian rule and triggering civil war, but pledged a three-phase vote, which finished on Sunday, would return power to the people.

With massively popular democratic figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi detained and her party dissolved, critics say the ballot was stacked with army allies to prolong their grip on power.

Voting was not held in huge patches of the country controlled by rebel factions fighting in the civil war -- another hurdle cited by those questioning the poll's mandate.

North Sea nations look to wind to resist Russian energy 'blackmail'

AFP, Hamburg

Nine European nations yesterday vowed to build up North Sea offshore wind power with the aim of boosting climate-friendly energy while reducing dependence on Russia and other foreign powers.

Germany, France, the UK and Denmark were among the countries which signed an agreement pledging to turn the North Sea into the "world's largest clean energy reservoir".

The EU's Commissioner for Energy and Housing, Dan Jorgensen, said at the signing ceremony that the agreement was a "very clear signal to Russia".

"No more will we let you blackmail member states of the European Union and no more will we help indirectly fund the war in Ukraine".

The European Union has been scrambling to wean itself off Russian energy imports since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Leaders and ministers were meeting in the German port city of Hamburg for the third North Sea summit, after they pledged in 2023 to develop 300 gigawatts of clean energy capacity in the North Sea by mid-century. An intermediate target of 120 GW by 2030 was also set at the time, although experts have said this will not be met on current trends.

The "Hamburg Declaration" signed on Monday envisages that 100 GW of the targeted 300 GW will be quickly delivered through an "unprecedented fleet of joint offshore wind projects".

Venezuela frees 104 political prisoners

AFP, Caracas



More than 100 political prisoners were freed Sunday in Venezuela, where detainees are slowly being released under pressure from the United States, the non-governmental organization Foro Penal said.

"At Foro Penal we have verified 104 releases of political prisoners in Venezuela today," the NGO wrote

on social media.

Foro Penal had earlier reported 80 political prisoners being released Sunday.

Director Alfredo Romero said on X that the group was verifying the identities of those released from jails nationwide.

Foro Penal attorney Gonzalo Himiob said the initial releases had taken place in the early hours of the day.

"This figure is not yet definitive and could increase as we proceed with verifications," he said, also on X.

The government of Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodriguez, who took power after leftist president Nicolas Maduro was captured by US special forces early this month, has promised to release a "large number" of the hundreds of Maduro opponents languishing in prison.

Office of the Project Director
Mosque Based Child & Mass Literacy Program
for the development of Morality and religious values
Islamic Foundation
Ministry of Religious Affairs
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No : 16.01.0000.025.15.028.25.853

Date: 26/01/2026

**Invitation of e-Tender
(Open Tender Method)**

e-Tender has invited in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Goods as stated below:

Tender ID	Name of Goods	Tender publication Date & Time	Tender last selling Date & Time	Tender closing & opening Date with Time
1212249	Purchase and supply of Educational materials (Signboard)-73768 nos for all upazilla of 64 districts.	26 January-2026 at 12.00	18 February-2026 at 17.00	19 February-2026 at 12.00
1212353	A) Purchase of Educational materials (White Board with Duster)- 73768 nos for all upazilla of 64 districts. B) Purchase of Educational materials (White Board Marker)- 885216 nos for all upazilla of 64 districts.	26 January-2026 at 12.00	18 February-2026 at 17.00	19 February-2026 at 12.00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hardcopy is accepted. To submit e-Tender please register in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd). The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all applications.

(S. M. Tarikul Islam)
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Mosque Based Child & Mass Literacy Program
for the development of morality and religious values
Phone: 02222218288

GD-194

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Patuakhali Road Division, Patuakhali.
☎: 0441-62216
Fax: 0441-65108
e-mail: cepat@rhd.gov.bd

"Quotation Invitation for Lease of Toll Collection of RHD Boga Ferry Ghat"

01.	Lease Quotation No.	PRD (Lease Quotation)/01/BF/2025-2026 (3 rd Call)
02.	Name of Work	Lease for Toll Collection of Boga Ferry ghat at 14th km of Lebukhali-Bauphal-Golachipa-Amragachia Road (Z-8806) under Patuakhali Road Division.
03.	Time Limit for Lease	For Boga Ferry Ghat : 1073 days (24.07.2025 to 30.06.2028).
04.	Price of Lease Quotation Schedule	Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka Five thousand only) Per group.
05.	Earnest Money	10% (Ten percent) of quoted price within Bank Draft/Pay Order.
06.	Last Selling Date & Time of Lease Quotation	16.02.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.
07.	Date & time of Receiving Lease Quotation in seal condition	17.02.2026 Up to 12.30 P.M.
08.	Eligibility to Lease Quotation	VAT and TAX Certified Company/Person, All Contractor's of Government/Private/Autonomus Body.
09.	Offices of Selling Lease Quotation	(a) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Barisal. (b) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali. (c) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Patuakhali. (d) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barguna. (e) Office of the the Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Patuakhali/Kuakata Road Sub-Division/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Patuakhali.
10.	Offices of Receiving Lease Quotation in seal condition	(a) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal. (b) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Barisal. (c) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali. (d) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Patuakhali.
11.	Place, Date & Time of Opening Lease Quotation	Place : Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Patuakhali. Date : 17.02.2026 Time : At 3:00 P.M.
12.	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Quotation/Lease.	

(Md. Juwel Hossain)
Assistant Engineer (A.C.), RHD
Road Division, Patuakhali.

(Md. Zamil Akter Limon)
ID No: 602346
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Patuakhali.

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