

UN warns of new 'war crimes' in Rakhine state

AFP, Geneva

Myanmar's apparent continued targeting of civilians in the country's Rakhine and Chin states could constitute new war crimes and crimes against humanity, the UN rights chief said yesterday.

Michelle Bachelet demanded action to remedy the serious rights violations suffered by Myanmar's Rohingya minority in particular.

Military operations in 2017 forced some 750,000 Rohingya to flee from conflict-torn Rakhine state to Bangladesh in violence that now sees Myanmar facing genocide charges at the UN's top court.

Speaking at the opening of the 45th Human Rights Council in Geneva, Bachelet decried that the abuses against the Rohingya and other minorities in the country were ongoing.

"People from the Rakhine, Chin, Mro, Daiguet and Rohingya communities are increasingly affected by the armed conflict in Rakhine and Chin States," Bachelet said.

She pointed to "disappearances and extra-judicial killings of civilians; massive civilian displacement; arbitrary arrests, torture and deaths in custody; and the destruction of civilian property."

"Civilian casualties have also been increasing. In some cases, they appear to have been targeted or attacked indiscriminately, which may constitute further war crimes or even crimes against humanity," she said.



Firefighters set a backfire to protect homes during the Bobcat Fire in Arcadia, California, US on Sunday night. California wildfires have already incinerated a record 2.3 million acres this year and are expected to continue till December. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi to ease int'l flight restrictions today

Saudi Arabia will partially lift its suspension on international flights from today, the interior ministry said, six months after travel curbs were imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The kingdom will end all restrictions on air, land and sea transport for Saudi citizens "after January 1" next year, the ministry added on Sunday, adding that an exact date will be announced in December. Gulf citizens and non-Saudis with valid residency permits or visas will be allowed to enter the kingdom from today as long as they are not infected with the virus, the ministry said in a statement published by the official Saudi Press Agency. People in other "exceptional categories", including Saudi government and military employees, embassy workers, students and people requiring medical treatment, will also be allowed to enter and exit the kingdom from today.

France, Sweden confirm Navalny's poisoning

The German government said yesterday that laboratories in France and Sweden have confirmed its own findings that Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent. Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement that Germany had asked France and Sweden "for an independent review of the German evidence (of Novichok poisoning) on the

UK MPs resume feuding

New bill faces first Commons vote over PM Johnson's plan to break EU divorce treaty

AFP, London

Britain's parliament yesterday found itself in familiar territory -- arguing about Brexit -- with threats of rebellion and resignations over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial plan for a new law that will break his EU divorce treaty.

The House of Commons held its first debate and vote over the bombshell new bill from late afternoon, despite a call from Brussels for it to be withdrawn by the end of the month.

The contentious legislation, unveiled last week, would override the divorce deal the UK struck with the EU last year in several key areas related to Northern Ireland.

It would see London unilaterally regulate UK trade and state aid within the British province, ignoring the EU treaty which gives Brussels a continuing say over Northern Ireland's trading relationship.



BREXIT CHAOS

If the law passes in the coming weeks, Brussels has warned it could scupper ongoing trade deal talks and threatened court action, leaving the prospects of an orderly Brexit in tatters. Even some Brexiteer lawmakers were aghast that Britain would willfully trash an international treaty, threatening the country's reputation and potentially endangering Northern Ireland's fragile peace.

Former prime ministers John Major and Tony Blair this weekend openly criticised the action, while David Cameron said yesterday he had "misgivings" about the approach.

Meanwhile, Johnson's pro-Brexit former attorney general Geoffrey Cox said it would be "unconscionable" to override an international treaty.

"I think it is wrong that the British government or our parliament should renege on an agreement on which we gave our solemn word," he told Times Radio.

The latest row revives the bitter wrangling over how to implement British voters' shock decision in 2016 to quit the bloc, which led to parliamentary deadlock and repeated postponements.

The impasse was broken after Johnson sealed a divorce deal with Brussels and used it to win a thumping victory in a December general election which gave his Conservatives an 80-seat majority in the House of Commons.

China laying OFC at Ladakh flashpoint

Say Indian officials despite high-level talks in Moscow to ease standoff

REUTERS, LEH

Two Indian officials said Chinese troops were laying a network of optical fibre cables at a western Himalayan flashpoint with India, suggesting they were digging in for the long haul despite high-level talks aimed at resolving a standoff there.

Such cables, which would provide forward troops with secure lines of communication to bases in the rear, have recently been spotted to the south of Pangong Tso lake in the Himalayan region of Ladakh, a senior government official said.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to questions on the matter from Reuters, while defence officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Thousands of Indian and Chinese troops backed by tanks and aircraft are locked in an uneasy stalemate along a 70 km-long front to the south of the lake. Each country has accused the other of escalating the standoff.

A third Indian official said yesterday that there had been no significant withdrawals or reinforcements on either side since the foreign ministers of the two countries met last week.

"It is as tense as earlier," he said. Above Leh, Ladakh's main city, Indian fighter planes flew throughout the morning, their engines booming and echoing across the valley surrounded by brown, barren mountains.

"Our biggest worry is that they have laid optical fibre cables for high-speed communications," the first official said, referring to the lake's southern bank, where Indian and Chinese troops are only a few hundred metres apart at some points.

"They have been laying optical fibre cables on the southern bank at breakneck speed," he said.

Indian intelligence agencies noted similar cables to the north of the Pangong Tso lake around a month ago, the second government official said.

The first Indian government official said the authorities were alerted to such activity after satellite imagery showed unusual lines in the sand of the high-altitude deserts to the south of Pangong Tso. These lines were judged by Indian experts - and corroborated by foreign intelligence agencies - to be communication cables laid in trenches, he said.



basis of new samples from Mr Navalny," who is receiving treatment in Berlin. "The results of this review at specialised laboratories in France and Sweden are now available and confirm the German evidence (of Novichok poisoning)," Seibert said. He said Germany was still waiting for the outcome of a separate evaluation by the OPCW global chemical weapons watchdog. On the basis of the findings by the three European laboratories, however, Seibert said Germany was "renewing its call for Russia to make a declaration on the events" of the Navalny case.

Delhi riot case: ex-JNU student leader arrested

Former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid has been arrested by the Delhi Police's special cell for his alleged role in the riots that broke out in north-east neighbourhoods of the national capital in February this year. Umar Khalid was earlier charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in another case related to the riots. His mobile phone has been seized by the police, news agency PTI reported. "After 11 hours of interrogation, the Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested Umar Khalid as a conspirator in the Delhi Riots case. The fairy tale narrative that DP (Delhi Police) has been spinning and criminalising protests in the garb of investigating riots, finds yet another victim," United Against Hate, an activist group whose member is Umar Khalid, said in a statement on Sunday.

SOURCE: AFP, NDTV



Refugees and migrants from the destroyed Moria camp protest near a new temporary camp, on the island of Lesbos, Greece yesterday. More than 12,000 people, mostly refugees from Afghanistan, Africa and Syria, are without shelter and are having to sleep out in the open without proper sanitation after the fire tore through the Moria migrant camp last Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Attacks on journos increasing

AFP, Paris

The number of incidents of violence against journalists covering protests across the world has risen sharply, with police and security forces the main culprits, the United Nations cultural agency said yesterday. Unesco said it had counted 21 protests between January and June of this year where journalists were attacked, arrested or killed.

The organisation, whose role includes monitoring media developments, said in a report the spike came as part of "a wider upward trend in the use of unlawful force by police and security forces over the last five years".

US ELECTION 2020

Bloomberg to spend \$100m in Florida to boost Biden

AFP, Washington

Billionaire Mike Bloomberg will spend at least \$100 million to boost Democratic candidate Joe Biden's prospects in Florida, a battleground state that could sway the presidential election's outcome, US media reported Sunday.

The former New York mayor made the decision after President Donald Trump announced earlier in the week he is prepared to spend part of his own fortune on his reelection campaign, according to The Washington Post which cited Bloomberg advisors.

Trump, who won Florida in 2016, is counting on strong Republican turnout in his adopted home state this go-around.

"Voting starts on Sept. 24 in Florida so the need to inject real capital in that state quickly is an urgent need," Bloomberg advisor Kevin Sheekey told the Post.

"Mike believes that by investing in

Florida, it will allow campaign resources and other Democratic resources to be used in other states, in particular the state of Pennsylvania," he added.


All of this year's top swing states -- Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Arizona -- went to Trump in 2016, including four which had voted for Democrat Barack Obama in 2012.

Biden is polling ahead in Florida but only marginally, with 48.2 percent of the vote compared to Trump's 47 percent, according to the latest polling average by RealClearPolitics.

Since the start of 2019, Trump's campaign has spent some \$800 million, more than twice as much as that of Biden.

But Biden surprised many by overtaking Trump in the fundraising stakes this August with a \$365 million haul -- shattering previous monthly records.





ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ
বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী
সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
 ফোন : ০২-৭৬৬১০৩৩, ৭৬৬১৪৮১-৮২ বর্ধিত-১১৭

০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.৫৫.২৪১.২০.২৪১ ১৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০


দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে মেশিন শপের পশ্চিম অংশে ও শিপবিল্ডিং শপের পূর্ব পার্শ্বে আরসিসি রাস্তার কাজ এবং ৫নং জেটি সম্মুখে আরসিসি হার্ডস্ট্যান্ডিং তৈরির কাজ সম্পাদনের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত তারিখে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

১	কাজের স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
২	কাজের বিবরণ	অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে মেশিন শপের পশ্চিম অংশে ও শিপবিল্ডিং শপের পূর্ব পার্শ্বে আরসিসি রাস্তার কাজ এবং ৫নং জেটি সম্মুখে আরসিসি হার্ডস্ট্যান্ডিং তৈরির কাজ।
৩	সিডিউলের মূল্য	টাকা ৫০০.০০ (টাকা পাঁচশত মাত্র) (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৪	ক্রয়ের প্রক্রিয়া	খোলা দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে।
৫	সিডিউল বিক্রয়/প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ক্যাশ সেকশন, হিসাব বিভাগ, ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ। মোবাইল নং- ০১৮২২৮১৯৬৭৫।
৬	সিডিউল সংগ্রহের তারিখ	১৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ হতে ২৭ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০, বেলাঃ ০৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৭	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২:১৫ ঘটিকা।
৮	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।
৯	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সেকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি (বিগত ৬ মাসের স্টেটমেন্টসহ), এ্যাক্টিভিটি, পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ কপি (তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
১০	তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার	পূর্ত কাজের ক্ষেত্রে তালিকা ভুক্তির নথিপত্রাদি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১১	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

১২। বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ

- দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।
- দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৬০ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বলবৎ থাকবে।
- অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে।
- দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখেন।


 মনোজিং ডাইরেক্টর

GD-1453