

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia slams West's sanctions over Navalny poisoning

Moscow yesterday hit back at Western countries for sanctioning senior Russian officials over the poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, warning its foes "not to play with fire". The Kremlin accused Washington and Brussels of interference after the US and the EU introduced fresh penalties Tuesday over Navalny, who was jailed last month when he returned from Germany where he was recovering from exposure to a nerve agent. The sanctions announced Tuesday by Washington signal a harder line from President Joe Biden and target several individuals within Russia's security sector, including Federal Security Service (FSB) head Alexander Borotnikov. But Peskov on Wednesday again denied Russian involvement and said that claims the FSB was involved in a poisoning attack were "outrageous".

One killed in rocket attack on Iraq base hosting US troops

A rocket attack on an Iraqi base hosting US-led coalition troops yesterday claimed a contractor's life, security sources said, just days after US airstrikes hit pro-Iranian militias in Syria. At least 10 rockets slammed into the sprawling Ain al-Assad military base which hosts Iraqi forces and US-led coalition troops helping fight the Islamic State group. Western security sources told AFP the rockets were Iranian-made Arash models, which are 122mm artillery rockets and heavier than those seen in similar attacks. Iraqi and Western officials have blamed hardline pro-Iran factions for the spate of rocket attacks.

Biden suffers defeat in Senate



US President Joe Biden suffered his first cabinet defeat Tuesday as he pulled an ill-fated nomination, the clearest signal yet that immensely powerful moderates in the deadlocked Senate can imperil his administration's ambitious agenda. Biden was forced to abandon his push to make Neera Tanden the White House budget director after centrists on both sides of the political aisle made it clear they would not support her. Several other Biden picks have made it into their posts with bipartisan support, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. Two more nominees were confirmed Tuesday: Council of Economic Advisors chair Cecilia Rouse, the first Black person to serve in the position, and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

'Dead' man in India comes alive moments before autopsy

An Indian man severely injured in a motorcycle crash was found moving on an autopsy table just before doctors prepared to open him up, a health official said yesterday. The 27-year-old from Mahalingapur town in the southern state of Karnataka was brought to a private hospital in a critical condition on the weekend, where doctors declared him dead and took him off a ventilator. His family then moved him to a nearby government hospital where he was to undergo a post-mortem examination on Monday. Relatives told local media a pathologist saw the body move as it lay on the autopsy table. A government health officer confirmed the incident and told AFP the injured man was then immediately admitted to another hospital, where his condition was improving.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

ICC opens formal probe

Palestinians welcome the decision; Israel, US reject ICC's jurisdiction in case

AFP, The Hague

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court yesterday said that she had opened a formal probe into alleged crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories, a move strongly opposed by Israel.

ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has previously said there is a "reasonable basis" to believe crimes were committed by members of the Israeli Defence Forces, Israeli authorities, Hamas and Palestinian armed groups during the 2014 Gaza conflict.

"Today, I confirm the initiation by the office of the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court of an investigation respecting the situation in Palestine," Bensouda said in a statement.

Bensouda said there were "admissible potential cases" for the war crimes court, which was set up in 2002.

The prosecutor said the probe would be conducted "independently, impartially and objectively, without fear or

WAR CRIMES IN PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES



PHOTO: REUTERS

Smoke rises from an Israeli raid on Gaza on July 8, 2014.

favour".

"In the end, our central concern must be for the victims of crimes, both Palestinian and Israeli, arising from the long cycle of violence and insecurity that has caused deep suffering and despair on all sides," she said.

ICC judges paved the way for a war crimes investigation when they ruled a month ago that

the court has jurisdiction over the situation due to Palestine's membership.

Bensouda said in December 2019 that she wanted a full investigation after a five-year preliminary probe, but asked the court to rule whether its reach extended to the Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian Authority welcomed the prosecutor's

investigation.

It is "a long-awaited step that serves Palestine's tireless pursuit of justice and accountability, which are indispensable pillars of the peace the Palestinian people seek and deserve", the PA foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Islamist militant group Hamas also welcomed the move.

Israel's foreign minister rejected the ICC's decision calling it "morally and legally bankrupt".

Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the Six-Day War of 1967, and later annexed mostly Arab east Jerusalem.

Today they are home to at least five million Palestinians defined by the United Nations as living under Israeli occupation.

The Gaza Strip is blockaded by Israel and ruled by the Islamist Hamas group.

The Israel-Palestinians probe will prove the first major test for incoming ICC prosecutor Karim Khan, a British lawyer.

France killed top Algerian independence figure

President Macron admits colonial-era crime

AFP, Paris

President Emmanuel Macron has admitted for the first time that French soldiers murdered a top Algerian independence figure then covered up his death in the latest acknowledgement by Paris of its colonial-era crimes.

Macron met four of the grandchildren of Ali Boumendjel and admitted "in the name of France" that the lawyer had been detained, tortured and killed in Algiers on March 23, 1957, his office said Tuesday.

French authorities had previously claimed that he had committed suicide while in detention, a lie that his widow and other family members had campaigned for years to see overturned.

"Looking our history in the face, acknowledging the truth, will not enable us to heal all of the still open wounds, but it will help to create a path for the future," the statement from Macron's office said.

As the first French president to be born in the post-colonial era, Macron has made several unprecedented steps to face up to France's brutal fight to retain control of its north African colony, which won independence in 1962.

In 2018, he admitted that France had created a "system" that facilitated torture during the war and acknowledged that French mathematician Maurice Audin, a Communist pro-independence activist, was also murdered in Algiers.

In July last year, he tasked French historian Benjamin Stora with assessing how France has dealt with its colonial legacy.

Stora's report in January made a series of recommendations, including acknowledging the murder of Boumendjel and creating a "memory and truth commission" that would hear testimony from people who suffered during the war.

It did not suggest a formal state apology, however, and Macron has said there would be "no



In this photo taken on May 5, 2001 Malika Boumendjel, widow of Algerian lawyer Ali Boumendjel (in the framed photo) gives an interview at her home in Puteaux, on her husband's death.

PHOTO: AFP

repentance nor apologies" but rather "symbolic acts" aimed at promoting reconciliation.

Boumendjel was a nationalist lawyer and intellectual who served as a link between the moderate UDMA party and the National Liberation Front (FLN), the underground resistance movement.

Paris ruled Algeria for more than a hundred years and the independence war from 1954-1962 left 1.5 million Algerians dead, leaving deep scars and a toxic debate about the legacy of colonisation.

During his 2017 election campaign, Macron declared that the occupation of Algeria was a "crime against humanity" and called French actions "genuinely barbaric".

But despite his outreach efforts, he has been criticised for ruling out a state apology, with the Algerian government calling the most recent report by Stora "not objective" and "below expectations".

On France's right and far-right, many politicians object to raking up the past, with French colonialism still defended as a "civilising" enterprise that helped develop occupied territories.

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO VISIT MOON

AFP, Tokyo

It's the sort of chance that comes along just once in a blue Moon: a Japanese billionaire is throwing open a private lunar expedition to eight people from around the world.

Yusaku Maezawa, an online fashion tycoon, was announced in 2018 as the first man to book a spot aboard the lunar spaceship being developed by SpaceX.

Maezawa, who paid an undisclosed sum for the trip expected to launch in 2023 at the earliest, originally said he planned to invite six to eight artists to join him on the voyage around the Moon.

But yesterday, in a video posted on his Twitter account, he revealed a broader application process.

"I'm inviting you to join me on this mission. Eight of you from all around the world," he said. "I have bought all the seats, so it will be a private ride," he added.

Maezawa, 45, said his initial plan of inviting artists had "evolved" because he came to believe that "every single person who is doing something creative could be called an artist."



In all, he said around 10 to 12 people will be on board the spaceship, which is expected to loop around the Moon before returning to Earth.

The application timeline for spots on the trip calls for would-be space travellers to pre-register by March 14, with initial screening carried out by March 21.

No deadlines are given for the next stages -- an "assignment" and an online interview -- but final interviews and medical checkups are currently scheduled for late May 2021, according to Maezawa's website.

Maezawa and his band of astronauts will become the first lunar voyagers since the last US Apollo mission in 1972 -- if SpaceX can pull the trip off.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.794.07.028.19.258

Date: 02/03/2021

Invitation for Bids (IFB) for International Competitive Bidding (ICB) IFB No.: ICB/2020-21/01

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this Project that appeared in UN Development Business on 25 February 2013.
- The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP) (IDA Credit No. 5339-BD), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the **Contract Package number MGSP/PMU/G97 for Procurement of 01 No. (One) Landfill Compactor (Backhoe Loader)**.
- The Local Government Engineering Department now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Procurement of goods as mentioned above.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 (Procurement Guidelines) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director, Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP), LGED, Email: pd.mgsp@lged.gov.bd and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address give below during office hours i.e. 09.00 to 17.00 hours (GMT+6 hours).
- The details of qualifications requirements are provided in the Bidding Documents. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall be applied. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at **11.00 hours (GMT+6 hours) on 24 March, 2021** at the office of the undersigned.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **equivalent US\$ 85.00 (eighty-five)**. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **15:00 hours (GMT+6 hours) on 20 April, 2021**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **15:15 hours (GMT+6 hours)**. The bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security amount **US\$ 3,000.00 (three thousand) or an equivalent** amount in any freely convertible currency in favour of the Project Director, Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP).
- The address referred to above is: the Office of the Project Director, Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP), LGED-RDEC Bhaban (Level-05), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh, Tel: +8802 9113446, Fax: +8802 9122434, E-mail: pd.mgsp@lged.gov.bd

Shaikh Muzakka Zaher
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BIGM

Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management

Plot # E-33, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Opportunity of Teaching

Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM), formerly known as the Civil Service College, Dhaka, funded by the Ministry of Public Administration, runs Masters Programme affiliated under the University of Dhaka. The institute also conducts a bunch of high caliber training courses and research works mostly focused on the area of governance, public policy and other prime issues. The core specialty of academic, training and research activities of the Institute is to prioritize practical knowledge and experience along with theoretical underpinnings. Henceforth, there exists limited opportunity of teaching, skill sharing and research networking for the highly reputed and erudite incumbent and former members of the civil service/teachers of the post graduate institutes/experts on the following broad areas:

Public Policy, Quantitative Analysis, Strategic Management, Leadership, Land Management, Public-Private Partnership, Local Government, Jurisprudence and Administrative Law, Business Law and Ethics, Mathematical Economics, Development Economics, International Economics, Econometrics, Environment and Sustainable Development, Quantitative Research, E-Governance, Human Rights, Research Methodology, International Trade, Negotiation and Conflict Management, Human Resource Management, Labor Law, Development and NGO's, Public Procurement, Supply Chain Management, Foreign Investment and Overseas Development Assistance, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship, Corporate Governance, Banking and Financial Institutions, Project Management, Statistics and Mathematical Modeling, English Language, Business Communication, Statistical Software (Stata, EViews, R-Python etc.) and related other topics.

- Candidate with experience in Policy Analysis and Governance will get priority. Ideal candidate should have a post graduate degree from a highly ranked and reputed foreign university.
- This is primarily a contractual/adjunct opportunity with competitive compensation package. However, suitable candidates, who have requisite qualifications, might be considered for full time positions if performance is proven to be satisfactory.
- Members of the Bangladesh Civil Services (BCS) who have expertise in the above-mentioned field or a have publication in the peer reviewed journal are strongly encouraged to apply. Qualified candidates from Bangladesh Civil Service/Public sector entities might be considered for full time position on lien.
- Age of the candidate is flexible. Young talents as well as experienced laureates (age, preferably, not exceeding 62 years) are welcome to apply.
- Only shortlisted persons will be contacted within 01 (one) month of the last date of application submission. No telephone query will be entertained. Individuals who have applied earlier need not to apply again.
- Interested candidates are requested to send a recent photo, resume, copy of qualifications and other relevant documents, mentioning 01 (one) or more desired broad areas of teaching, addressed to the **Director, Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM), Plot # E-33, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207;** should reach by **31 March, 2021**, by post or courier.

Md. Jahangir Alam
Additional Director

Phone: +88-02-48113589 Ext-128

GD-440



RAPE REMARKS BY INDIAN CJ

Thousands demand top judge to quit

AFP, Mumbai

India's top judge was facing calls to resign yesterday after telling an accused rapist to marry his schoolgirl victim to avoid jail.

More than 5,000 people have signed a petition demanding Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde quit after he told the government technician at a hearing: "If you want to marry (her) we can help you. If not, you lose your job and go to jail."

Bobde's comments sparked a furore and prompted women's rights activists to circulate an open letter calling for his resignation that has secured more than 5,200 signatures, campaigner Vani Subramanian said.

According to the letter, the man is accused of stalking, tying up, gagging and repeatedly raping the girl before threatening to douse her in petrol, set her alight and have her brother killed.

"By suggesting that this rapist marry the victim-survivor, you, the Chief Justice of India, sought to condemn the victim-survivor to a lifetime of rape at the hands of the tormentor who drove her to attempt suicide," the letter said.

India's abysmal record on sexual violence has been the focus of international attention since the 2012 gang-rape and murder of a student on a Delhi bus sparked nationwide protests.

Victims are regularly subjected to sexist treatment at the hands of police and courts, including being encouraged to marry their attackers in so-called compromise solutions.

The letter also drew attention to another hearing on Monday during which Bobde reportedly questioned whether sex between a married couple could ever be considered rape.

Marital rape is not a crime in India. Bobde has faced criticism for the criticism. His predecessor Ranjan Gogoi was the highest-profile figure in India to face a #MeToo backlash after he was accused by a former staffer of sexual assault.

He was cleared in 2019 after an in-house inquiry, prompting protests in the country.