

## BELARUS' ARREST OF JOURNO DIVERTING PLANE

## West weighs action

AGENCIES

Belarus' forced diversion of a plane and arrest of a journalist who was on board has widened a rift between Western powers and Minsk, prompting calls for further sanctions and an international probe over the incident.

Minsk forced the Ryanair flight from Athens, Greece, to Vilnius, Lithuania, to land in Minsk, the Belarusian capital, on Sunday after it scrambled a fighter jet, allegedly in response to a bomb threat.

On its landing, Belarusian authorities took Roman Protasevich, a 26-year-old journalist who has been critical of the government, into custody. His whereabouts remain unknown.

Protasevich is wanted in Belarus on "extremism" charges. He is accused of organising mass riots against the country's longtime President Alexander Lukashenko, as well as inciting social hatred - allegations he denies.

Sunday's incident led to international outrage. Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda accused Minsk of undertaking a "state-sponsored terror act" and called for "serious sanctions" against Lukashenko's government, while the EU's executive arm labelled the move a "hijacking".

But Russia, an ally of Lukashenko, accused Western powers of hypocrisy over their remarks.

"It is shocking that the West calls the incident in Belarusian airspace 'shocking',"

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova wrote on Facebook.

The plane diversion is expected to top the agenda at a two-day summit of EU leaders, who were united in their condemnation of Lukashenko, that began yesterday.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell condemned the "inadmissible step" as "yet another blatant attempt by the Belarusian authorities to silence all opposition voices".



Borrell also indicated toughened EU sanctions against Belarus were incoming, reports Aljazeera online.

The United States and former EU member the United Kingdom called for the immediate release of Protasevich and demanded the council of the International Civil Aviation Organization investigated the incident.

Ryanair Chief Executive Michael O'Leary said Sunday's incident was "state-sponsored piracy".



Palestinian children play with toy guns yesterday next to the rubble of a house which was destroyed by Israeli air strikes earlier this month in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip. Inset, a person is seen holding a sign amongst a crowd of other demonstrators during a pro-Palestine protest on the steps of City Hall in Louisville, Kentucky, US. Israeli police said an assailant stabbed two young Israeli men before being shot dead by police at a tram station in Jerusalem yesterday. There was no immediate confirmation of the assailant's identity.

PHOTO: AFP



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Mass evacuations as 2nd cyclone in week forms off India

Indian authorities yesterday ordered the evacuation of nearly half a million people out of the path of a new cyclone heading towards eastern India just one week after another deadly storm smashed into the west coast. The cyclones are hitting as India reels from a surge in coronavirus infections that has plunged the healthcare system into crisis and pushed the country's Covid-19 death toll above 300,000. Experts say storms off India's coast are increasing in frequency and intensity as climate change warms ocean waters. The India Meteorological Department said Cyclone Yaas had formed in the Bay of Bengal and was expected to barrel into West Bengal and Odisha states on Wednesday.



## Iran inspection deal extended by one month: IAEA

Iran has informed the UN nuclear watchdog that it has decided to extend a monitoring deal with the agency for a month, Iran's envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency said yesterday, according to the Etemad website. "The Director General of the IAEA today has been informed about Iran's decision... The data from the last three months are still in the possession of Iran and will not be handed over to the IAEA. The data of the next month will remain only with Iran according to the agreement," Kazem Gharibabadi was quoted as saying.

## CBI moves SC challenging 'house arrest' of TMC leaders

India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) yesterday filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court challenging the Calcutta High Court's order allowing Narada case accused and senior leaders of TMC to be kept under house-arrest. The CBI in its appeal sought deferment of the larger bench hearing, fixed for yesterday before the five-Judge Bench of the Calcutta high court. The Calcutta HC in its earlier order allowed four TMC leaders, including two sitting ministers, accused in the Narada case, to be granted bail, and to be kept under house arrest. The HC had referred the bail pleas of four leaders to be heard by a five-judge bench after the split verdict was passed by the two-judge bench.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS, TOI

## 115,000 health workers died from Covid-19: WHO chief

Calls for dramatic scale-up of vaccination in all countries

AFP, Geneva

At least 115,000 health and care workers have died from Covid-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, the WHO chief said yesterday, calling for a dramatic scale-up of vaccination in all countries.

At the opening of the World Health Organization's main annual assembly, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed the sacrifices made by health workers around the world to battle the pandemic.

"For almost 18 months, health and care workers all over the world have stood in the breach between life and death," he said.

"They have saved countless lives and fought for others who, despite their best efforts, slipped away.

"Many have themselves become infected, and while reporting is scant, we estimate that at least 115,000 health and care workers have paid the ultimate price in the service of others."

He said many health workers have since the start of the crisis felt "frustrated, helpless and unprotected, with a lack of access to personal protective equipment and vaccines."

And they are not alone. He described the overall

inequity in access to vaccines as "scandalous", warning it was "perpetuating the pandemic."

More than 75 percent of all Covid-19 vaccines have gone to just 10 countries. "The number of doses administered globally so far would have been enough to cover all health workers and older people if they had been distributed equitably," he said. "There is no diplomatic way to say it: that small group of countries that make and buy the majority of the world's vaccines control the fate of the rest of the world."

He urged those countries that have large stocks of vaccines to share them, and greater cooperation to scale up production and distribution of the jobs.

Meanwhile, India passed 300,000 confirmed coronavirus deaths yesterday, fatalities remaining high despite the country flattening out the number of new cases in its devastating pandemic wave.

It became the third country -- after the United States and Brazil -- to cross 300,000 deaths.

For several weeks the country of 1.3 billion has been hitting record daily rises in infections and fatalities, that have overwhelmed its healthcare system.



This handout photo taken and released by Dawei Watch yesterday shows protesters making the three-finger salute during a demonstration against the military coup in Dawei, Myanmar.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'It's an attack on culture'

Gaza bookshop owner's dreams buried under the rubble

AFP, Gaza City

For decades, it was the place to go for books in the blockaded Gaza Strip, from school texts to the Koran to Arabic translations of European literary classics.

But last Tuesday, owner Samir al-Mansour watched in disbelief as the bookshop and publishing house he had poured his life into went up in smoke.

"Forty years of my life were obliterated in less than a second," said the man in his 50s, a cigarette between his fingers, staring at a mound of concrete, paper and squashed plastic chairs.

"There are 100,000 books under this rubble," he said.

At around 5:00 am on Tuesday, Mansour was at home watching television when the channel reported the Israeli air force was about to hit the building housing his bookshop.

Mansour rushed over, but came to a dead stop some 200 metres (220 yards) away from the building, just in time to see a missile obliterate his life's work.

The latest deadly clashes lasted 11 days and saw Israel launch air strikes in response to a rocket barrage by Hamas, which rules Gaza, and other Islamist groups. "I have nothing to do with an armed group, a political faction," Mansour told AFP. "It's an attack on culture."

Mansour started working in his father's bookshop in the 1980s, when he was just 14 years old, then took over in 2000 and soon branched out into publishing.

Israeli strikes on Gaza since May 10 have killed 248 Palestinians, including 66 children, and have wounded over 1,900 people, the Gaza health ministry said. Rockets and other fire from Gaza have claimed 12 lives in Israel, including one child and an Arab-Israeli teenager, an Israeli soldier, one Indian, and two Thai nationals, medics said.

## Afghan forces, Taliban clash near capital

AFP, Mihtarlam

Afghan forces clashed with Taliban fighters in a provincial capital about 120 kilometres (75 miles) from Kabul, officials and witnesses said, prompting the defence minister to take charge of a counteroffensive.

Violence has soared in Afghanistan since US forces began their final pull-out on May 1, as the insurgents press on with a campaign to seize new territory.

Fierce fighting erupted late Sunday on the edge of Mihtarlam, a city of around 140,000 people and the capital of Laghman province.

At one point Defence Minister Yasin Zia took personal charge in the field, officials said. "With the arrival of reinforcements, the enemy has sustained heavy blows," Zia, a former army chief of staff, said in a video message.

The ministry said at least 50 Taliban fighters were killed in overnight fighting.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP the insurgents captured 37 security checkpoints on the outskirts of the city.

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Website: [www.parjatan.gov.bd](http://www.parjatan.gov.bd)  
File No. 30.32.0000.060.14.007.2021 Date: 23/s05/2021

**e-Tender Notice No. 01/2020-2021**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the Procurement of following works. Details are given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Procurement method	Closing date & time
1	566183	Land Development & Related Ancillary work of Parki at Anowara Upazilla, Chattogram for Creation of Tourist Facilities.	OTM (NCT)	21/06/2021 16:30pm

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 Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 13:00 on the IFT mentioned date. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and at e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Engr. Md. Mahmud Kabir**  
General Manager (Works)  
Deputy Secretary

GD-1041

## \$150b stolen oil cash smuggled out since 2003: Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq's president said \$150 billion from oil had been smuggled out of the country since Saddam Hussein was ousted in 2003, as he introduced a law to fight endemic corruption.

President Barham Saleh presented a draft law to parliament to fight corruption, recover stolen funds and hold perpetrators to account, a statement read yesterday.

He called "on parliament to adopt this crucial piece of legislation, in order to curb this pervasive practice that has plagued our great nation".

Transparency International ranks the country 21st from bottom in its Corruption Perceptions Index. "Of the close to a trillion dollars made from oil since 2003, an estimated \$150 billion of stolen money has been smuggled out of Iraq," Saleh added, calling for cooperation with other governments and international bodies to recover the funds.

Endemic corruption was one of the drivers of protests that shook Iraq from October 2019 to June 2020. "Corruption is an impediment to any nation's economic and social development," the Iraqi head of state said, whose powers are limited under the constitution.

"It deprives citizens of opportunities and livelihoods, and robs them of essential services and infrastructure," he added.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Power Division  
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)  
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**Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consultancy Service**

1. Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Power Division
2. Agency	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)
3. Procuring Entity Name	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5. EOI for Selection of	Consulting Firm (Lump-Sum)
6. Title of Service	Consultancy Services to Revise 'Renewable Energy Policy, 2008'
7. EOI Ref. No.	Memo No.: 27.02.0000.031.22.001.20
8. Date	Date: 24.05.2021
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9. Procurement Sub Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
10. Budget and Source of Funds	Non-Development, GoB
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
11. EOI Closing Date & Time	Date: 14.06.2021, Time: 2:00 pm
12. Publication Date	25.05.2021
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
13. Brief Description of Assignment/ Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required/ Other details	1. Consulting Firm as mentioned in the EOI Document (TOR) posted in SREDA website ( <a href="http://www.sreda.gov.bd">www.sreda.gov.bd</a> ) 2. Consulting Firm with minimum 2 years' experience in Renewable Energy (RE) field. The consulting firm must have experience in consultancy to formulate policy/guideline/study/ action plan of at least 01(one) assignment in government/semi-government/autonomous bodies.
14. Other Detail (If applicable)	Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with PPA/2006 and PPR/2008 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by GOB with its update amendment.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
15. Name of Official Inviting EOI	Mohammad Alauddin
16. Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Chairman
17. Address of Official Inviting EOI	SREDA, IEB Bhaban (10 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000
18. Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI	Phone: 02-55110340, Fax: 02-55110341, Email: <a href="mailto:chairman@sreda.gov.bd">chairman@sreda.gov.bd</a> , <a href="mailto:info@sreda.gov.bd">info@sreda.gov.bd</a>
<b>SPECIAL INSTRUCTION</b>	
19. i) Expression of Interest for above-mentioned assignment to be clearly marked on the top of envelope. ii) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any EOI.	

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GD- 1052