NEWS IN brief

Twitter blocks Rahul Gandhi's tweet

Rahul Gandhi, the leader of India's main opposition party, slammed Twitter yesterday for blocking a tweet over the alleged rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl, saying the platform was playing partisan politics. Gandhi's account, which has 19.5 million followers, was locked after he posted a photograph of himself with the parents of a girl who was allegedly raped and killed in New Delhi on Aug 1, saying the family deserved justice. Indian law bars disclosing the identity of victims of sexual assault and the National Commission for Protection of Child Right issued a notice to Twitter asking for its removal.

Malaysia PM seeks bi-partisan support

Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin made a plea yesterday to opposition lawmakers to support him in an upcoming confidence vote, in a bid to shore up his government and prevent an election amid a resurgence in Covid-19 infections. The Southeast Asian nation is in political turmoil after some lawmakers in the ruling alliance withdrew support for Muhyiddin. Last week, the premier defied calls to quit and said he would prove his majority in parliament through a confidence vote. But yesterday, Muhyiddin admitted for the first time that he does not have a majority and said the vote cannot be passed without bipartisan support.

Russia asks BBC journo to leave

Russia has asked a BBC journalist working in Moscow to leave the country by the end of the month when her visa expires in retaliation for what it views as British discrimination against Russian journalists, state TV reported late on Thursday. The Rossiya-24 TV channel said that Sarah Rainsford, one of the British broadcaster's Moscow correspondents, had been declared persona non grata and would be going home in what it called "a symbolic deportation." It said the Russian authorities had decided against renewing Rainsford's accreditation to work as a foreign journalist in Moscow in retaliation for Britain not renewing or issuing visas to Russian journalists.

SOURCE: **AFP, REUTERS**

US troops pullout a 'mistake'

Says UK defence secy, fears return of al-Qaeda; top US senator says Biden's 'reckless' Afghan policy leading to disaster, compares situation to fall of Saigon

AGENCIES

Britain yesterday slammed the US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, warning the Taliban's resurgence would create a breeding ground for extremists that threatened the world.

In US, the top Republican in Congress blasted President Joe Biden Thursday for his "reckless policy" on Afghanistan, as the United States moved to evacuate embassy workers ahead of the Taliban advance.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace on Thursday announced that some 600 troops would help evacuate British nationals from the country, as the Islamists seize more control.

But he told Sky News television the US decision to withdraw troops "leaves a very big problem on the ground", handing momentum to the Taliban.

He predicted it would benefit Al-Qaeda, who were given safe haven by the Taliban before the September 11, 2001 attacks that prompted the West's 20-year involvement in Afghanistan.

"I'm absolutely worried that failed states are breeding grounds for those type of people," he added.

"Of course Al-Qaeda will probably come back," he said, warning that would lead to "a security threat to us and our interests."

President Biden's (Afghanistan) strategy has turned an imperfect but stable situation into a major embarrassment and a global emergency in a matter of weeks

TOP REPUBLICAN SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL

I felt that (troops withdrawal from Afghanistan) was a mistake to have done it that way, that we'll all as an international community probably pay the consequences of that.

UK DEFENCE SECRETARY BEN WALLACE

"I felt that that was a mistake to have done it that way, that we'll all as an international community probably pay the consequences of that," Wallace said of the Doha agreement signed between the United States and the Taliban.

The agreement, signed under former US president Donald Trump last year, left Britain with no choice but to withdraw its troops, he said.

The minister's critical comments about the withdrawal were among several from senior politicians and military top brass.

The chairman of the influential Foreign Affairs Select Committee in parliament, Tom Tugendhat, told the BBC: "We've just pulled the rug from under them," referring to the Afghan people.

Former international development minister Rory Stewart called the troop withdrawal "a total betrayal by the US and by the UK" that risked triggering a civil war between rival warlords currently defending against the Taliban.

Johnny Mercer, a Conservative MP who served in Afghanistan, called the withdrawal "a disgrace".

In US, the news of thousands of American soldiers being sent to Afghanistan to evacuate embassy staff from Kabul has revived painful US memories of the fall of Saigon.

A photo that immortalized America's defeat in Vietnam, showing evacuees boarding a helicopter on the roof of a building, spread fast on social networks after the United States announced the emergency deployment on Thursday.

The announcement heightened the perception that after 20 years of war the United States is abandoning the country.

"Afghanistan is careening toward a massive, predictable, and preventable disaster," top Republican lawmaker Mitch McConnell said in a statement.

"If we let the Taliban dominate Afghanistan and Al-Qaeda return, it will resonate throughout the global jihadist movement."

McConnell said the decision to deploy US troops to manage the evacuation "seem(s) like preparations for the fall of Kabul," which he compared to "the humiliating fall of Saigon in 1975," when North Vietnamese troops seized control of the city two years after the US military withdrew.

"President (Joe) Biden's decisions have us hurtling toward an even worse sequel to the humiliating fall of Saigon in 1975," he added.

21 killed as heavy rainfall batters China

AFP, *Beijing*

At least 21 people died as heavy downpours struck central China's Hubei province, authorities said yesterday, weeks after record floods wreaked havoc and killed hundreds in a neighbouring province.

China has been battered by unprecedented rains in recent months, extreme weather that experts say is increasingly common due to global warming.

In Hubei, torrential rains caused power cuts and landslides, destroying hundreds of homes and forcing the evacuation of nearly 6,000 people, the province's Emergency Management Bureau said, as reservoirs reach dangerous levels.

Hundreds of firefighters and thousands of police and military have been dispatched to the worst affected areas.

Afghan women forced from jobs as Taliban take control

REUTERS

In early July, as Taliban insurgents were seizing territory from government forces across Afghanistan, fighters from the group walked into the offices of Azizi Bank in the southern city of Kandahar and ordered nine women working there to leave.

The gunmen escorted them to their homes and told them not to return to their jobs. Instead, they explained that male relatives could take their place, according to three of the women involved and the bank's manager.

"It's really strange to not be allowed to get to work, but now this is what it is," Noor Khatera, a 43-year-old woman who had worked in the accounts department of the bank told Reuters.

"I taught myself English and even learned how to operate a computer, but now I will have to look for a place where I can just work with more women around."

The incident is an early sign that some of the rights won by Afghan women over the 20 years since the hardline Islamist militant movement was toppled could be reversed if it returns to power.

The Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, have overrun many of Afghanistan's biggest cities in recent days and are closing in on the capital Kabul.

Under the group's strict interpretation of Islamic law, women could not work, girls were not allowed to attend school and women had to cover their face and be accompanied by a male relative if they wanted to venture out of their homes.

Women who broke the rules sometimes suffered humiliation and public beatings by the Taliban's religious police.

During hitherto fruitless talks over a political settlement in recent years, Taliban leaders made assurances to the West that women would enjoy equal rights in accordance with what was granted by Islam, including the ability to work and be educated.

Two days after the episode at Azizi Bank, a similar scene played out at a branch of another Afghan lender, Bank Milli, in the western city of Herat, according to two female cashiers who witnessed it. Three Taliban fighters carrying guns entered the branch, admonishing female employees for showing their faces in public. Women there quit, sending male relatives in their place.

Afghan women working in fields including journalism, healthcare and law enforcement have been killed in a wave of attacks since peace talks began last year between the Taliban and the US-backed Afghan government.

Scores of educated Afghan women took to social media to appeal for help and express their frustration.

"With every city collapsing, human bodies collapse, dreams collapse, history and future collapse, art and culture collapse, life and beauty collapse, our world collapse," Rada Akbar wrote on Twitter. "Someone please stop this."

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PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Search and Rescue team members evacuate locals during flash floods which have swept through towns in the Turkish Black Sea region, in Bozkurt, a town in Kastamonu province, Turkey. The death toll from the floods rose to 27 yesterday.

AUGUST 14

1945 - Japan accepted the Allies' terms of unconditional surrender, ending World War Two.

2006 - A UN-brokered truce to end five weeks of fighting between Israel and Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas came into effect after leaving around 1,110 people dead in Lebanon, and 156 in Israel.

2015 - US embassy re-opens in Havana after 54 years.

SOURCE: **REUTERS**

US 'white' population drops 8.6pc in a decade

AFP, *New York*

The number of US residents who identify as "white" has fallen for the first time, according to the latest 2020 census data released Thursday. The United States has grown "more racially and ethnically diverse" and more urban over the past 10 years, according to the Census Bureau. The "white" population decreased by 8.6 percent between 2010 and 2020, a first since the earliest such data was taken in 1790. It remains the largest group in the country, last year representing 204 million residents, or 61.6 percent of the population. A decade earlier people identifying as white comprised 72.4 percent. African Americans represent some 12.4 percent of the population (41 million people), a percentage that remained stable over the past 10 years. The Asian-American population meanwhile jumped 35.5 percent to include 20 million people (six percent of the US population). Native Americans comprise 1.1 percent of the population. The number of people identifying as Hispanic -- specified as an ethnicity, not a race, on the questionnaire -- soared 23 percent, accounting for 62 million US residents, or 18 percent of the total population. Census results are essential to determining the distribution of electoral representation across all 50 US states, along with the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding, especially for schools and hospitals.

The 11-year-old British boy walking to save the earth

REUTERS, *Woburn Sands*

Jude Walker, an 11-year-old boy, is on an odyssey he hopes will help save the planet: he is walking to London from northern England in a bid to garner support for a carbon tax to tackle carbon emissions. Partly inspired by activist Greta Thunberg, Walker, from Hebden Bridge in Yorkshire, has braved hills, rain and doubts along his 210-mile trek to the British parliament in Westminster, central London. Global warming is dangerously close to spiralling out of control and the world is already certain to face further climate disruptions for decades, if not centuries, to come, a United Nations climate panel said this month. While most political leaders and investors accept the science behind climate change, there are deep divisions over what must be done to stop it, how radical the response should be - and who should pay for it. Walker is clear that a carbon tax is a crucial step to slowing down humanity's current path to what he called a dystopian world. "We now know a lot more about climate change and I think a carbon tax would be definitely one of the most useful solutions to it," Walker told Reuters as he walked through Woburn Sands, a town about 50 km north of London. He wants people to sign a petition calling for a carbon tax. Currently just under 57,000 people have signed it. If it gets 100,000 signatures, it will be considered for debate by parliament. He is walking for 10 miles a day, accompanied on each day's walk with either members of his family or friends. He is due to finish the walk at St James's Park on Saturday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
মানিকগঞ্জ।

"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২১-২২ (রেশন স্টোর)।

"পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০০৮ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০১১ (সংশোধিত)" অনুসারে জেলা পুলিশ, মানিকগঞ্জ-এর ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টারের (অক্টোবর, নভেম্বর, ডিসেম্বর, ২১ মাস) এবং এনএসআই ও মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সদস্যদের ২০২১-২২ সনের ১ম প্রান্তিকের (জুলাই-ডিসেম্বর, ২১ পর্যন্ত) বিভিন্ন রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়, গম পেষাই কাজ, কুলি ও অন্যান্য সেবা কাজ সম্পন্ন করার লক্ষ্যে নিম্ন বর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সিলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	পুলিশ সুপার, মানিকগঞ্জ।
৪.	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	জেলা পুলিশ, মানিকগঞ্জ এর রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও অন্যান্য সেবা কাজ।
৫.	দরপত্র সূত্র নং	২৪০৫(২) /ই
৬.	তারিখ	তারিখ-১২.০৮.২১ খ্রি.।
কাজের বিবরণ -		
৭.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)।
অর্থেও উৎস-		
৮.	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব খাত।
তথ্যাদি -		
৯.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	১২.০৮.২১ খ্রি.।
১০.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০২.০৯.২১ খ্রি. ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১.	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের (সিডিউল ড্রপ) সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৫.০৯.২১ খ্রি. ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৫.০৯.২১ খ্রি. ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময় এবং স্থান	০৯.০৯.২১ খ্রি. ১১.০০ ঘটিকা, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।
অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা -		
১৪.	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান-
	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	১। ডি.আই.জি. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা রেঞ্জ-এর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা। ২। পুলিশ রেশন স্টোর, পুলিশ লাইন্স, মানিকগঞ্জ। ৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রাজবাড়ী।
	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস	১। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।
	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	১। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।
১৫.	প্রি টেন্ডার সভার স্থান, তারিখ, সময়	-
দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য-		
১৬.	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	১। হাল নাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ২। আয়কর সনদ ৩। ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ ৪। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ ৫। জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ৬। অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যাহা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লেখ আছে।

১৭ ক্রমিক নং মালামালের বিবরণ

ক্রমিক নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ কেজি/লিটার)	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (অফেরতযোগ্য)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্প্র করার সময়
(১)	উন্নত মানের সয়াবিন তেল ক্রয়	২৩,৭৫০ লিটার	৭৫০/-	১,০০,০০০/-	কার্য সম্পাদন চুক্তিতে উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময় অনুযায়ী
(২)	উন্নত মানের মশুর ডাল ক্রয়	২৫,০০০ কেজি	৭৫০/-	৮০,০০০/-	
(৩)	জ্বালানী কাঠ ক্রয়	৩,০০০ কেজি (আনুমানিক)	৪০০/-	১,০০০/-	
(৪)	গম পেষাই	৯৬,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	২০,০০০/-	
(৫)	কুলি কাজ-চিনি-অনুমোদিত চিনি কল হতে এবং চাল ও গম-জেলা খাদ্য গুদাম হতে ট্রাকে উঠানো/রেশন স্টোরে নামানো।	২,৩৩,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৪০০০/-	
(৬)	পোলাওর চাল ক্রয়	১,১০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৩,৫০০/-	

১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জনাব মোহাম্মদ গোলাম আজাদ খান, পিপিএম-বার।
১৯.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার, মানিকগঞ্জ।
২০.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।
২১.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোন-০২৭৭১০৪০০, ফ্যাক্স-০২৭৭১০৩০৬।
২২.	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী -	

(ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
(খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
(গ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি বা কমানোর ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
(ঘ) দরপত্র পিপিএ/২০০৬, পিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং ২০১৯ (সংশোধিত আইন ও বিধিমালা) মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।
(ঙ) প্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় ও দরপত্র দাখিলের ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক যথাযথ ক্ষমতাপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
(চ) কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য নহেন।

(মোহাম্মদ গোলাম আজাদ খান, পিপিএম-বার)
বিপি নং-৭৬০৬১১৯৭৪৮
পুলিশ সুপার
মানিকগঞ্জ
ফোন-০২৭৭১০৪০০, ফ্যাক্স-০২৭৭১০৩০৬।

জিডি-১৪৭২