

MORE NEWS

Sri Lanka asks women to delay pregnancy over Covid

Sri Lankan women were urged to delay getting pregnant after more than 40 expectant mothers died of Covid-19 in four months, the health ministry said yesterday. The island nation, which recorded its first maternal coronavirus death in May, is battling a spike in Delta variant infections after travel restrictions were eased for local new year celebrations in mid-April. Government obstetrician and gynaecologist Harsha Atapattu said he was urging "newlyweds, as well as those who are trying to have a baby, to delay it by at least a year because of the risks of Covid-19". Officials said about 5,500 expectant mothers had been infected.

US defense secretary postpones visit to Saudi Arabia

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who is on a tour of the Gulf, has indefinitely postponed a visit to Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon said Wednesday, citing "scheduling issues." The Secretary's trip to Saudi Arabia has been postponed due to scheduling issues. He looks forward to rescheduling at the soonest opportunity," a defense department official told AFP. Austin traveled to the Gulf region earlier this week, a week after the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan ended. He first went to Doha, Qatar with Secretary of State Antony Blinken to visit the main base for the massive airlift set up by the US out of Kabul. Austin then traveled to Kuwait and Bahrain.



Brazil court calls Bolsonaro threatens 'attack on democracy'

Brazil's Supreme Court hit back Wednesday at criticism and threats by President Jair Bolsonaro, warning him against trying to violate its rulings and accusing him of an "attack on democracy." Bolsonaro has repeatedly hit out at the high court, which has ordered investigations of him and his inner circle, notably over accusations of systematically spreading fake news from within the government. The far-right leader upped his rhetoric at huge Independence Day rallies by his supporters Tuesday, vowing not to respect rulings by Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has jailed several Bolsonaro allies. "The Supreme Court will not tolerate threats to the authority of its decisions," said Luiz Fux, chief justice of the 11-member court. "Besides representing an attack on democracy, such an attitude constitutes a 'crime of responsibility,'" he said — an impeachable offense.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A parade of paramilitary and public security forces' celebrate the 73rd founding anniversary of North Korea at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang. Inset, Personnel in orange hazmat suits march during the ceremony. North Korea put tractor-towed artillery, fire engines and health personnel in orange hazmat suits on show at the parade in Pyongyang early yesterday, rather than the more usual tanks and ballistic missiles.

PHOTO: AFP



Quote of the day



Experience has shown that a non-inclusive government does nothing to help stability, peace and progress in Afghanistan, so our expectation from the foreign ministers is to announce the necessity for the formation of an inclusive government with a unified voice.

IRANIAN TOP DIPLOMAT **HOSSEIN AMIRABDOLLAHIAN**

US getting 'closer' to giving up on Iran deal

Warns Blinken after UN watchdog's damaging report

AFP, Ramstein

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has warned that time was running out for Iran to return to a nuclear deal after a scathing report by the UN atomic watchdog and Tehran's signals that it would take a while to return to talks.

The IAEA released a strongly-worded report Tuesday saying monitoring tasks in Iran have been "seriously undermined" after Tehran suspended some of the UN agency's inspections of its nuclear activities.

After ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi took over as new president of the country, Iran had also suggested that talks aimed at reviving the stalled JCPOA were unlikely to resume for two to three months.

"I'm not going to put a date on it but we are getting closer to the point at which a strict return to compliance with the JCPOA does not reproduce the benefits that that agreement achieved," Blinken told reporters in Germany on Wednesday in response to a question on the point at which it would no longer be possible to return to a deal.

Germany found the delay signalled by Tehran "far too long", Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said. The German minister said he had telephoned his new counterpart in Tehran to get him to "return more swiftly to the negotiating table".

Nevertheless, Maas said Berlin still expects the new Iranian government to continue to support results from negotiations that had taken place so far.

Raisi became Iran's president in early August, taking over from moderate Hassan Rouhani, the principal architect on the Iranian side of the 2015 agreement.

The 2015 deal offered Iran an easing of Western and UN sanctions in return for tight controls on its nuclear programme, monitored by the UN.

In retaliation for former US President Donald Trump's withdrawal three years ago and his subsequent imposition of swingeing sanctions, Iran in effect abandoned most of its commitments under the deal.

But Trump's successor President Joe Biden wants to bring Washington back into the agreement.

Triumphant Taliban start putting policies into practice

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban have promised a more inclusive government this time after seizing power. However top posts of new government have been handed to veteran leaders who played key roles in their notoriously brutal 1996-2001 rule. While much remains opaque, here is what is known about their policies on key issues so far:

Women's rights: The Taliban have sought to distance themselves from the harsher policies of old, when half the population was excluded from work and education. Under new rules, women may work "in accordance with the principles of Islam", the Taliban have decreed, without giving further details. Women can also study at university in classrooms that are segregated by sex, but they must wear an abaya robe and niqab covering most of the face. However it's too early to call on the issue.

Economic crisis: Afghanistan is facing a financial crisis following the takeover, with much of the international aid that had propped up the economy frozen. It remains unclear how the Taliban will find the funds to pay civil servants' salaries -- or to support critical infrastructures. The Taliban's current annual income, much of which is raised from taxation and criminal activities, is estimated to be somewhere between as low as \$300 million and as high as \$1.5 billion. But while those funds bankrolled a successful insurgency, it is nowhere near meeting the needs of running a nation, experts say.

Freedom of speech: The Taliban say that journalists -- including women -- can continue to work. But Afghan journalists paint a different picture, with many having already fled the country, or in hiding fearing attacks. The Taliban have also banned



growing protests against their rule, unless permission had been granted by the justice ministry. On Wednesday, two Afghan journalists were badly beaten covering one in Kabul. Zaki Daryabi, founder and editor-in-chief of the Etilaat Roz newspaper, shared images on social media of two male reporters, one with large, red welts across his lower back and legs and the other with similar marks on his shoulder and arm.

Culture and sport: During their first stint in power, the Taliban were infamous for their strict interpretation of sharia law, banning music, photography, television, and even children's games such as kite-flying. This time, the Taliban have yet to issue official decrees regarding entertainment and culture. But spokesman Mujahid told the New York Times last month that they were hopeful that Afghans would follow their rules without compulsion. "Music is forbidden in Islam," Mujahid said, adding that "we're hoping that we can persuade people not to do such things, instead of pressuring them." Ahmadullah Wasiq, deputy head of the Taliban's cultural commission, said women cannot play. "Islam and the Islamic Emirate do not allow women to play cricket or play the kind of sports where they get exposed," he said.



SEPTEMBER 10

1989 - Hungary opened its border to the West, allowing thousands of East Germans to leave in a mass exodus that presaged the toppling of the Berlin Wall.

2002 - Switzerland became the 190th member of the United Nations, pledging to respect its traditional neutrality while pursuing human rights and world peace.

2008 - Scientists at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) start up the Large Hadron Collider, a huge particle-smashing machine.

SOURCE: REUTERS



Migrants wait to disembark from a Spanish coast guard vessel in the port of Arguineguin, in the island of Gran Canaria, Spain on Wednesday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

France grants citizenship to 12,000 Covid frontline workers

AFP, Paris

France has granted citizenship to over 12,000 foreign-born health workers, security guards, checkout assistants and other frontline workers to thank them for their services during the Covid crisis, the government said yesterday.

Marlene Schiappa, junior interior minister in charge of citizenship, said over 16,000 people had applied for a French passport over the past year under a special scheme allowing workers in essential services to apply for citizenship after just two years in France, instead of the usual five.

Of these, 12,012 became French, she said. Among the other categories of employees eligible for the scheme are garbage collectors, home-care providers and nannies.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Segunbagicha, Dhaka
 www.mofa.gov.bd

Memo No. 19.05.0000.01.20.001.14/89 Date: 09.09.2021

Invitation for Tender

1. Ministry, procuring entity & district	: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Public Diplomacy Wing, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
2. Invitation for	: Procurement of Diary, Desk Calendar and Wall Calendar.
3. Invitation Ref No. & Date	: 19.05.0000.01.20.001.14/88, Date: 09.09.2021
4. Procurement method	: OTM (Open Tendering Method).
5. Budget and source of funds	: Revenue Budget for MOFA.
6. Tender publication date	: 10 September, 2021
7. Tender last selling date and time	: 26 September, 2021, Time-2.00pm
8. Tender closing date and time	: 27 September, 2021, Time-3.00pm
9. Tender opening date and time	: 27 September, 2021, Time-3.30pm
10. Selling tender document-place & address of the office	: Assistant Secretary, Room No. 220, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
11. Receiving tender document-place & address of the office	: Assistant Secretary, Room No. 220, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
12. Opening tender document place & address of the office	: Office of the Director General, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
13. Price of tender document	: Each set Tk. 1000/- (non-refundable).
14. Brief description of goods	: Printing of Diary, Desk Calendar and Wall Calendar as per schedule with technical specification and supplied design.
15. Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	: (a) Minimum 05 years of general experience in printing said products of the best quality. (b) Tenderer should have latest trade licence, 13-digit VAT certificate, income tax pay certificate, TIN certificate, NID along with other conditions described in tender documents.
16. Special instruction for the tenderer	: (a) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings. (b) Tender details are mentioned in Tender Document. (c) If tender cannot be received in due time for unavoidable circumstances, tender will be received in following working day.
17. Name & designation of official inviting tender	: Pranab Kumar Bhattacharjee, Director (Media), Public Diplomacy Wing, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
18. Address of official inviting tender	: Room No. 214, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
19. Contact details of official inviting tender	: Telephone: 02-223388083, Fax No. +880-2-9562163 E-mail: dirmission@mofa.gov.bd

Pranab Kumar Bhattacharjee
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