



Sudanese youths confront security forces amidst tear gas fired by them to disperse protesters in the capital Khartoum. Photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Army sacks 6 envoys

Protests continue as condemnations grow

AGENCIES

Sudan's ruling military has sacked six ambassadors and security forces have tightened their crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, even as international pressure against this week's coup grows.

The decision, announced late on Wednesday on state media, Sudan's ambassadors to the United States, the European Union, China, Qatar, France and the head of the country's mission to the Swiss city of Geneva, apparently over their rejection of the military takeover.

It came as demands are mounting for the army to walk back Monday's coup that derailed Sudan's fragile transition towards democracy following the removal of longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in April 2019 in a popular uprising.

On Wednesday, the African Union announced its decision to suspend Sudan from the bloc's activities until the restoration of the country's civilian-led transitional government, while the World Bank froze aid and the United States paused \$700m in emergency assistance. Several Western embassies in Khartoum also said they will keep recognising deposed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and his cabinet as "the constitutional leaders of the transitional government" of Sudan.

COUP IN SUDAN



Meanwhile, protests denouncing the army's power grab continued in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere, with many businesses shut in response to calls for strikes as part of a civil disobedience campaign that has also seen demonstrators blocking roads.

Neighbourhood committees have announced plans for further protests, leading to what they said would be a "march of millions" tomorrow.

General Abdel Fattah el-Burhan on Monday dissolved the transitional government and the Sovereign Council, the country's top ruling body, as soldiers arrested several senior officials, including Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

Despite the declaration of a state of emergency, tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters poured into the streets of Khartoum and its twin city Omdurman. The demonstrations were met with gunfire by the security forces, with at least seven people killed and dozens more wounded, according to health sources.

Speaking at his first news conference since announcing the takeover, el-Burhan said on Tuesday the army had no choice but to sideline politicians who were inciting people against the armed forces.

He also pledged to hold elections in July 2023 and to appoint a technocratic government in the meantime.

CARBON EMISSIONS India rejects net zero target

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has rejected calls to announce a net zero carbon emissions target and said it was more important for the world to lay out a pathway to reduce such emissions and avert a dangerous rise in global temperatures.

India, the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United States, is under pressure to announce plans to become carbon neutral by mid-century or thereabouts at next week's climate conference in Glasgow.

But environment secretary RP Gupta told reporters that announcing net zero was not the solution to the climate crisis.

"It is how much carbon you are going to put in the atmosphere before reaching net zero that is more important."

The United States, Britain and the European Union have set a target date of 2050 to reach net zero, by which point they will only emit an amount of greenhouse gases that can be absorbed by forests, crops, soils and still-embryonic "carbon capture technology."

China, Saudi Arabia have both set targets of 2060, but these are meaningless without tangible action now, critics say.

Between now and the middle of the century the United States will release 92 gigatons of carbon into the atmosphere and the EU 62 gigatons, Gupta said, citing Indian government calculations. China would have added a staggering 450 gigatons by its net zero target date, he added.

Representatives of nearly 200 countries will meet in Glasgow, Scotland, from Oct. 31-Nov. 12 for climate talks to strengthen action to tackle global warming under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Protected forests now carbon emitters

Scientists blame human activities, wildfires

REUTERS, Bogota

Some of the world's most protected forests are emitting more carbon than they absorb, driven by things like logging and wildfires, a new report said, with researchers alarmed that protected areas are contributing to climate change.

At least 10 forests designated World Heritage sites - including Yosemite National Park in the United States - have been net carbon emitters over the last two decades, the report said on Wednesday.

"That even some of the most iconic and best protected forests such as those found in World Heritage sites can actually contribute to climate change is alarming and brings to light evidence of the severity of this climate emergency," Tales Carvalho Resende, report co-author and project officer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said in a statement.

Forests are considered vital for curbing climate change due to their ability to work as so-called carbon sinks. Trees and other plants absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen, removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

All 257 forests together do act as a net carbon sink, according to the research which analyzed a period from 2001 to 2020. Still, human activities like logging and intense climate-related events such as wildfires are hindering their ability to capture and store more carbon than they emit, which experts say is a cause for grave concern.

As well as in the United States, forests found to be net carbon emitters were also located in Indonesia, Australia and Russia, among other countries.

The findings drew on data published by the journal Nature Climate Change in January, which mapped greenhouse gas emissions and absorption by forests globally.

While just 10 of the UNESCO-protected forests were found to have been carbon emitters, the report said other sites also showed clear upward trajectories in emissions.

"This is one more clear sign that even forests we traditionally assumed to be safe are now under increasing threat," David Kaimowitz, one of the forest directors at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, told Reuters.



Quote of the day



When authoritarian regimes demonstrate expansionist tendencies, democratic countries should come together to stand against them. Taiwan is on the front lines.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN ON TENSIONS WITH CHINA AS SHE CONFIRMS US TROOPS TRAINING SOLDIERS ON ISLAND

Asean upgrades strategic relationship with China

Calls Myanmar 'an integral part of family'

REUTERS, Bandar Seri Begawan

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) said yesterday it has agreed with China to upgrade their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, a day after reaching a similar deal with Australia.

Australia's clinching of the enhanced partnership was a symbolic win for Canberra in beating China to the first such deal with the fast-growing Southeast Asia region, which has become a strategic battleground between Beijing and Washington.

Hailing the agreement at a news conference, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, chair of Asean, was also asked about Myanmar's future attendance after its junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, who led a coup in February, was excluded from Asian summits this week.

"Myanmar is an integral part of the Asean family and their membership has not been questioned," he said. "Asean will always be there for Myanmar and we have continued to offer help through the implementation of the five-point consensus."

Min Aung Hlaing was sidelined over his failure to follow that pact, which he agreed with Asean in April, committing to end hostilities, start dialogue and facilitate

humanitarian aid and mediation efforts by a special Asean envoy.

His sidelining was an unprecedented snub by a bloc criticised for decades for failing to stop atrocities and hiding behind a longstanding code of non-meddling. Myanmar was asked to send a non-political representative to the virtual summits instead, but the junta refused.

"For this meeting, we have given Myanmar space while firmly upholding the principles enshrined in the Asean charter including that of non-interference," the sultan said.

Speaking at a separate news conference, Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said it was unclear if Myanmar would join future Asean meetings and stressed the no-show this week was Myanmar's call.

Asked if it would continue to be part of Asean events, Saifuddin Abdullah said: "That's the one million dollar question which I cannot answer."

Cambodia, next year's Asean chair, will keep pressure on Myanmar to stick to its agreement, its Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn told Reuters yesterday, warning the country was on the brink of civil war.



Migrants heading in a caravan to the US, walk towards Mexico City to request asylum and refugee status in Huixtla, Chiapas State, Mexico, yesterday. Around 1,000 migrants seeking refugee status are marching towards the Mexican capital, as the government faced a call by the UN to process the requests quickly. PHOTO: REUTERS

MORE NEWS

WHO keeping close eye on Delta subvariant

The WHO said it was closely tracking a Delta subvariant to determine whether it was more transmissible than the original strain, as Covid-19 cases rise globally again. It was also examining whether people were more resistant to the particular subvariant, called AY.4.2, which has been detected in at least 42 countries. The lineage has three additional mutations compared to the original Delta variant, including two in the spike protein - the part of the virus which latches on to human cells. Some 93 percent of all detected cases of the subvariant were in Britain, according to data uploaded to the GISAID global science initiative.


European states call on Israel to halt settler project

A group of 12 European countries yesterday urged Israel to scrap plans for the construction of more than 3,000 settler homes in the occupied West Bank. A day after the US criticised the plan, France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden said in a joint statement that Israel should cancel its decision to build the settlements. About 475,000 Israeli Jews already live in settlements in the West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law, on land Palestinians claim as part of their future state.

Watchdog: 30 cases of violence against Afghan journo


More than 30 instances of violence and threats of violence against Afghan journalists were recorded in the last two months, with nearly 90 percent committed by the Taliban, says a media watchdog. More than 40 percent of the cases recorded by the Afghanistan National Journalists Union (ANJU) were physical beatings and another 40 percent were verbal threats of violence, Masorro Lutfi, the group's head, said on Wednesday. The remainder involved cases in which journalists were imprisoned for a day. One journalist was killed. Most of the cases in September and October were documented in provinces across Afghanistan outside the capital, Kabul, but six of the 30 cases of violence took place in the capital, ANJU said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute

"Seaweed Culture & Seaweed Product Development in Bangladesh Coast" Research Project
Marine Fisheries and Technology Station, Cox's Bazar



Memo No. 33.04.0000.124.03.005.21-51 Date: 28.10.2021

Request for Expressions of Interest (2nd call)

Ministry/Division:	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh	
Agency:	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh	
Procuring Entity:	Director General	
Expression of Interest for Selection of	An International Sea weed Culture & Value Addition Consultant (1 no's); Package No. S1 and an International Sea weed culture & Value Addition Technician (1 no's); Package No. S2	
Duration:	06 months in two phases	
EoI Memo No.:	Memo No. 33.04.0000.124.03.005.21-51 & Date: 28.10.2021	
Date:	28.10.2021	
Procurement Sub Method:	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)	
Budget and Source of Funds:	Development Budget and GoB	
Development Partners:	N/A	
Project / Programme Code:	224256500	
Project/Programme Name:	Seaweed Culture & Seaweed Product Development in Bangladesh Coast Research Project	
EoI Closing Date and Time:	Date: 28/11/2021 and Time: 05.00 p.m. (Bangladeshi Time)	
Information For Applicant:		
Outline of the assignment and required qualifications & experiences [Details provided in the Standard Request for Application (SRFA)].		
Position	Outline of the Assignment	Qualification & Experience
An International Seaweed Culture & Value Addition Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Explore Seaweed resources in the Bangladesh coast and assist in identification of Seaweed species ❖ Explore the different Seaweed cultivation techniques and adopted them to local conditions ❖ Develop techniques for potential use of Seaweed as food items and other industrial uses ❖ Explore export potential of Seaweed: where, how and in which form Seaweed can be exported ❖ Explore different alternative uses of Seaweed, where and how Seaweed can be used ❖ Explore import of high yielding sea weed germ lingform aboard for cultivation in Bangladesh coast ❖ To assist the scientists of BFRI in Seaweed culture, processing and product development. ❖ Prepare periodic project reports ❖ Relevant any other task assigned by the Project Director/project management as and when required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The position requires minimum Master's degree in Marine Fisheries/Biology with 10 year's experience in Seaweed Culture & Value Addition. Preference will be given to PhD holder in relevant field with experience in Asian countries. He/She must have a broad international exposure in his field of specialization.
An International Seaweed Culture & Value Addition Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provide technical guidance and support about the seaweed culture, identification, processing and product development of seaweed processing laboratory complex. ❖ To assist the scientists of BFRI in Seaweed culture, processing and product development. ❖ Prepare periodic project reports ❖ Relevant any other task assigned by the Project Director/project management as and when required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Must have minimum graduation degree in Fisheries/ Aquaculture/ Marine science with at least 6-8 years working experience on Seaweed culture in abroad. Or ❖ In case of highly practical experienced person educational qualification might be relaxed. ❖ Highly trained person will be preferred
Other Details:		
Applicants are requested to provide information as per the format provided in Standard Request for Application (SRFA) indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV in prescribed form with other details as applicable). SRFA may be obtained from the websites: fri.portal.gov.bd or www.mofl.gov.bd or from the address below either through email or in person from the office of the undersigned. The applicants shall submit supporting documents in favor of their experience and qualifications along with the SRFA. The services of the specialist will commence as per practical need of incumbent which will be determined once recruitment process is completed.		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EoI(s) without assigning any reason thereof.		
Procurement Entity Details		
Name of official inviting EoI	Md. Mohidul Islam	
Designation of official inviting EoI	Project Director	
Address of official inviting EoI	Seaweed Culture & Seaweed Product Development in Bangladesh Coast Research Project, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Marine fisheries and technology station, Cox's Bazar-4700, Bangladesh	
Contact details of official inviting EoI	Cell: +88-01719355655 Email: seaweed.projectbfri@gmail.com , mohidbfri@gmail.com	