

Quotes of the day



“We’ve been competing and China has been, from time to time, very cleverly playing us off each other in an open market, competitive way. We need to do a better job of working together and standing strong so China can’t play the angles and divide us one against the other using use coercive diplomacy.”

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU



A couple stands by a picture of the late South African Nobel Peace Prize Archbishop Desmond Tutu on the wake of his death outside St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa, yesterday. The anti-apartheid icon, described as the country's moral compass, died yesterday, aged 90, President Cyril Ramaphosa said.

PHOTO: STAR

MORE NEWS

Saudi-led coalition hits Yemen rebel camp

The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen yesterday said it struck a Huthi rebel camp in the capital Sanaa, as it intensified an aerial bombing campaign against the Iran-backed insurgents. The coalition, which backs Yemen's internationally recognised government against the Huthis in a civil war, said it destroyed weapons storehouses in the rebel-held capital, according to the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA). Yemen has been wracked by civil war since 2014 pitting the government against the Huthis who control much of the north. Tens of thousands of people have been killed, in what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The coalition launched a "large-scale" military operation against the Huthis on Saturday, the Saudi authorities said, after missiles fired by the rebels killed two people in the kingdom, the first such deaths in three years.

China replaces Xinjiang Communist Party chief Chen

China has replaced Chen Quanguo, who as Communist Party chief in the Xinjiang region oversaw a security crackdown targeting ethnic Uyghurs and other Muslims in the name of fighting religious extremism. Chen, in his post since 2016, will move to another role and Ma Xingrui, governor of the coastal economic powerhouse Guangdong province since 2017, has replaced him, the official Xinhua News Agency said on Saturday. It gave no other details. United Nations researchers and human rights activists estimate more than one million Muslims have been detained in camps in western China's Xinjiang region. China rejects accusations of abuse, describing the camps as vocational centres designed to combat extremism.



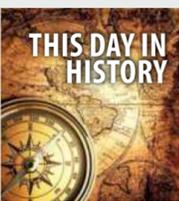
UK police arrest armed man on grounds of Queen's home

British police have arrested a man suspected of breaking into the grounds of Windsor Castle, where Queen Elizabeth II was spending Christmas, with what was reported to be a crossbow. "An investigation is ongoing following this incident and we are working with colleagues from the Metropolitan Police," the local force said in a statement late on Saturday, adding that the 19-year-old man was found at 08:30 GMT on Christmas Day. The Queen spent a low-key Christmas Day at the castle, west of London. The man was arrested on suspicion of breach or trespass of a protected site and possession of an offensive weapon. The Sunday Mirror newspaper said CCTV operators spotted a man carrying what appeared to be a crossbow, while the Mail on Sunday said the man used a rope ladder to scale a fence.

Save the Children suspends operations in Myanmar

Aid group Save the Children said it was suspending operations in Myanmar's strife-torn Kayah state after two staff members went missing in an attack that left at least 30 people dead, including women and children, with many bodies burnt. The two staff were travelling to their home villages for the year-end holidays when they were caught up in the violence in the eastern state. Save the Children said in a statement late on Saturday. "We have confirmation that their private vehicle was attacked and burned out," the statement said. Opposition groups on Saturday blamed the military, which seized power from a civilian government in February, for the carnage on Friday near Mo So village of Hpruso town.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



DECEMBER 27

**1927** - The Russian Revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Soviet Communist Party, marking a victory for Josef Stalin in their power struggle.  
**1945** - The International Monetary Fund was established in Washington.  
**1949** - Queen Juliana of the Netherlands grants independence to Indonesia.  
**2007** - A suicide bomber assassinated Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, plunging the country into chaos ahead of a general election that Bhutto hoped to win.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Africa's moral compass gone

AFP, Johannesburg

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who died Sunday at the age of 90, was the moral compass of his beloved "Rainbow Nation", never afraid to speak truth to power, whatever its creed or colour.

A tireless activist, he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for combatting white minority rule in his country.

Famously outspoken, even after the fall of the racist apartheid regime, Tutu never shied away from confronting South Africa's shortcomings or injustices.

"It's a great privilege, it's a great honour that people think that maybe your name can make a small difference," he told AFP shortly before his 80th birthday in 2011.

Whether taking on his church over gay rights, lobbying for Palestinian statehood or calling out South Africa's ruling African National Congress on corruption, his high-profile campaigns were thorny and often unwelcome.

None at the top were spared -- not even his close friend, late president Nelson Mandela, with whom Tutu sparred in 1994 over what he called the ANC's "gravy train mentality".

Yet "the Arch" brought an exuberant playfulness to all his endeavours. Quick to crack jokes -- often at his own expense -- he was always ready to dance and laugh uproariously with an infectious cackle that became his trademark.

It was Tutu who coined and popularised the term "Rainbow Nation" to describe South Africa when Mandela became president.

At the time, Tutu was serving as the first black

Anglican archbishop of Cape Town.

Ordained at the age of 30 and appointed archbishop in 1986, he used his position to advocate for international sanctions against apartheid, and later to lobby for rights globally.

Along the way, he won a host of admirers.

"I believe that God is waiting for the archbishop. He is waiting to welcome Desmond Tutu with open arms," said Mandela, who stayed at Tutu's home on his first night of freedom in 1990, after 27 years in apartheid jails.

"If Desmond gets to heaven and is denied entry, then none of the rest of us will get in!"

The Dalai Lama called Tutu his "spiritual older brother".

Irish activist and pop star Bob Geldof praised him as "a complete pain in the arse" for those in power, and US President Barack Obama hailed him as "a moral titan".

Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997 and underwent repeated treatment. He had retired a year earlier to lead a harrowing journey into South Africa's brutal past, as head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

For 30 months, the commission lifted the lid on the horrors of apartheid.

Tutu, with his instinctive humanity, broke down and sobbed at one of its first hearings.

A recipient of numerous awards, his causes ranged from child marriage to Tibet to calls for Western leaders to be tried over the Iraq war, and in later year for the right-to-die.

He also swore he would never worship a homophobic God.

"I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven. No, I would say sorry, I mean I would much rather go to the other place," he said.



Taliban force curb on women travel

Say male relative must e with them

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said Sunday that women seeking to travel anything other than short distances should not be offered transport unless they are accompanied by a close male relative.

The guidance, issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, also called on all vehicle owners to offer rides only to those women wearing hijabs.

"Women travelling for more than 45 miles should not be offered a ride if they are not accompanied by a close family member," ministry spokesman Sadeq Akif Muhajir told AFP on Sunday, specifying that it must be a close male relative.

The guidance, circulated on social media networks, comes weeks after the ministry asked Afghanistan's television channels to stop showing dramas and soap operas featuring women actors.

The ministry had also called on women TV journalists to wear hijabs while presenting. The ministry's directive also asked people to stop playing music in their vehicles.

The Taliban's interpretation of the hijab -- which can range from a hair covering to a face veil or full-body covering -- is unclear, and the majority of Afghan women already wear headscarves.

Since taking power in August, the Taliban have imposed various restrictions on women and girls, despite pledging a softer rule compared with their first stint in power in the 1990s. In several provinces, local Taliban authorities have been persuaded to reopen schools -- but many girls still remain cut off from secondary education.

Early this month, the Islamist group issued a decree in the name of their supreme leader instructing the government to enforce women's rights.

The decree did not mention girls' access to education. Activists hope that the Taliban's battle to gain international recognition and get aid flowing back into one of the poorest countries in the world will lead to them making concessions to women.

Respect for women's rights has repeatedly been cited by key global donors as a condition for restoring aid.



28 migrants found dead on Libyan coast

AFP, Tripoli

The bodies of 28 migrants have washed up on Libya's western coast after their boat sunk, a security official said yesterday, the latest tragedy on the world's deadliest migration route.

"Libyan Red Crescent teams recovered 28 bodies of dead migrants and found three survivors at two different sites on the beaches of Al-Alous," some 90 kilometres (55 miles) from Tripoli, the source said.

"The bodies' advanced state of decomposition indicates that the shipwreck happened several days ago," he said, adding the toll could rise in the coming hours.

Images published by Libyan media outlets showed corpses lined up along the shore then placed in body bags.

Libya, wracked by a decade of conflict and lawlessness, has become a key departure point for African and Asian migrants making desperate attempts to reach Europe. Migrants often endure horrific conditions in Libya before embarking northwards on overcrowded, often unseaworthy vessels that frequently sink or get into trouble.

The latest tragedy comes just days after 160 migrants died within a week in similar incidents, bringing the total number of lives lost this year to 1,500, according to the International Organization for Migration.

The IOM says more than 30,000 migrants have been intercepted in the same period and returned to Libya.

The European Union has cooperated closely with the Libyan Coast Guard to cut numbers of migrants arriving on European shores.

On their return, many face further horrific abuses in detention centres.

'Jihadists kill 41' in Burkina Faso

AFP, Abidjan

Burkina Faso began two days of mourning yesterday after 41 people died in the latest attack by suspected jihadists in the troubled and largely unprotected north.

A bloody six-year-long jihadist campaign has claimed around 2,000 lives and forced 1.4 million from their homes in the formerly peaceful West African nation and show no signs of easing.

A government statement said following Thursday's attack, "the search mission in the area of an ambush by armed terrorist groups... has established a toll of 41 bodies".

"The president decrees national mourning of 48 hours," from midnight, it added.

The government said the dead included members of an official self-defence force known as the Volunteers for the Defence of the Motherland (VDP), set up to support the army.

Volunteers receive 14 days of training and are then sent out on patrols and surveillance missions, equipped with light arms.

The attack was the deadliest since mid-November when 57 people, including 53 gendarmes, were killed.

**Bangladesh Election Commission**  
 Election Commission Secretariat  
 Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka  
 www.ecs.gov.bd

Ref. No. 17.00.0000.026.32.004.21-425 Date: 20-12-2021

**Tender Notice**

1	Ministry/Division	Election Commission Secretariat
2	Agency	Election Commission Secretariat
3	Procuring entity name	Secretary, Election Commission Secretariat
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5	Invitation Ref No.	17.00.0000.026.32.004.21-425
6	Date	20/12/2021
<b>Key Information</b>		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
<b>Particular Information</b>		
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB (Revenue Budget)
9	Tender package name	Event Management for 4 <sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day-2022 celebration
10	Tender Package no.	Lots No. 1, 2, 3
<b>Date</b>		
11	Tender publication date	30-12-2021
12	Tender last selling date	16-01-2022
13	Tender closing date and time	Date: 18-01-2022 Time: 12.00PM
14	Tender opening date and time	18-01-2022 12.30PM
15	Name & Address of the office(s)	
	(a) Selling tender document	Assistant Secretary, Election Support-II, Room No-202, Election Commission Secretariat, Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka.
	(b) Receiving tender document	Assistant Secretary, Election Support-II, Room No-202, Election Commission Secretariat, Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka.
	(c) Opening tender document	Joint Secretary (Election Management-1), Election Commission Secretariat, Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka.
16	Pre bid meeting	13-01-2022
<b>Information for Tenderer</b>		
17	Eligibility of tenderers	As per Tender document
18	Brief description of services	Event management of 4 <sup>th</sup> National Voters Day-2022 Celebration. Arrangement of Nirbachan Bhaban lighting & various road branding. Virtual Meeting including supplying Goods, Services and relevant technical support Electrical, Electronics and ICT equipment and temporary infrastructural support.
19	Lots No	Identification of package
	Lot-1	Lighting Building, branding and decoration and other related services
	Lot-2	Nirbachoni Padok (Gold Medal)
	Lot-3	Souvenir Printing
	Location	Dhaka
	Price of Tender document (Tk) (Non-refundable)	Tk. 2000/-
	Tender security (Pay order) 3%	Tk. 160000/-
	Completion time in days/weeks/ months	14 days
20	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Musharraf Hossain
21	Designation of official inviting tender	Assistant Secretary
22	Address of official inviting tender	Election Support-2, Election Commission Secretariat, Nirbachan Bhaban, Room No. 202 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), Agargaon, Dhaka.
23	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 02-55007544 Fax No: 55007515
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.	

GD-2390

Md. Musharraf Hossain  
 Assistant Secretary  
 Phone: 02-55007544