



Fireworks go off on Copacabana beach to mark the New Year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. The world ushered in 2022 with scaled-back celebrations due to new restrictions aimed at slowing soaring Covid cases -- although hope remained for a better new year.

PHOTO: AFP

IFJ REPORT

45 journalists killed in 2021

AFP, Brussels

A total of 45 journalists were killed worldwide in 2021, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said on Friday -- "one of the lowest death tolls" it has recorded for any year.

The figure tracked closely with a toll of 46 killings of journalists given two weeks ago by another media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders (known by its initials RSF).

The toll included 9 in Afghanistan, the highest number suffered by a single country. Elsewhere, 8 died in Mexico, 4 in India and three in Pakistan.

The IFJ said the media workers "more often than not are killed for exposing corruption, crime and abuse of power in their communities, cities and countries".

According to the group's count, the Asia-Pacific region -- which includes Afghanistan -- was the deadliest, with 20 killings. Then came the Americas, with 10, Africa, with eight, Europe with six, and the Middle East and Arab countries with just one. It also mentioned the death of two journalists in a "deadly accident" in Iran.

The IFJ's figures differed slightly from those given by RSF, which counted 7 journalists killed in Mexico, 6 in Afghanistan, and 4 each in Yemen and India.

Sri Lanka in dire straits

Food prices hit record highs as shortages bite



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's food prices rose by a record 22.1 percent in December, official figures showed yesterday, as the country struggles to finance urgent imports to tackle an acute shortage of essentials.

The census and statistics department said food inflation hit an all-time high last month on a year-on-year basis since the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) was launched in 2013.

The price increases in December compared to a figure of 17.5 percent in November, the previous record, the department said.

It added that overall inflation was also at a record 12.01 percent in December, the highest since the CCPI index was launched.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in his New Year message expressed hope of reviving the cash-strapped economy but did not announce measures to address the crippling foreign exchange crisis.

International rating agencies have downgraded Sri Lanka and raised concerns about its ability to service its debt of \$26 billion.

The latest inflation figures were released a day

after the government increased the price of milk powder by 12.5 percent following a similar rise in fuel prices last month.

The island's tourism-dependent economy has been hammered by the pandemic and the government was forced to impose a broad import ban to shore up foreign exchange reserves.

Supermarkets have for months been rationing milk powder, sugar, lentils and other essentials as commercial banks ran out of dollars to pay for imports.

A top agricultural official warned last month of an impending famine and asked the government to implement an orderly food rationing scheme to avoid such a scenario. He was fired within hours of making the appeal.

Food shortages have been worsened by the government's ban on agrochemical imports, which was lifted in November after widespread crop failures and intense farmer protests.

Sri Lanka had foreign reserves of just \$1.58 billion at the end of November, down from \$7.5 billion when Rajapaksa took office in 2019.

This week the government drew down a \$1.5 billion Chinese loan and claimed reserves had nearly doubled to \$3.1 billion by the end of 2021.



We must remind the Beijing authorities to not misjudge the situation and to prevent the internal expansion of 'military adventurism'. ... The use of military means is absolutely not an option for resolving the differences between our two sides.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen

'Violence against women insults God'



REUTERS, Vatican City

Pope Francis yesterday used his New Year's message to issue a clarion call for an end to violence against women, saying it was insulting to God.

Francis, 85, wove his New Year's homily around the themes of motherhood and women - saying it was they who kept together the threads of life - and used it to make one of his strongest calls yet for an end to violence against them.

"And since mothers bestow life, and women keep the world (together), let us all make greater efforts to promote mothers and to protect women," Francis said.

"How much violence is directed against women! Enough! To hurt a woman is to insult God, who from a woman took on our humanity - not through an angel, not directly, but through a woman," he said, in a reference to Jesus's mother Mary.

Farewell Tutu

AFP, Cape Town

South Africa yesterday bade farewell to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the last great hero of the struggle against apartheid, in a funeral stripped of pomp but freighted with tears and showered with drizzles of rain.


Tutu died last Sunday at the age of 90, triggering grief among South Africans and tributes from world leaders for a life spent fighting injustice.

Famous for his modesty, Tutu gave instructions for a simple ceremony, with a cheap coffin, donations for charity instead of floral tributes, followed by an eco-friendly cremation.

After the ceremony, he was buried in Cape Town's St. George's Cathedral where, for years, Tutu used the pulpit to rail against a brutal white minority regime.

With Nelson Mandela and other leaders sentenced to decades in prison, Tutu in the 1970s became the emblem of the anti-apartheid struggle. He campaigned relentlessly abroad and home and castigated world powers for failing to slap sanctions on the regime. He was also fearlessly against the new rulers after the end of apartheid.





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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:


Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	631870	Supply of Sound System and Related Services	17/01/2022; 3:00 pm	17/01/2022; 4:00 pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches upto 16/01/2022 at 4:00 pm.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Held Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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GD-06

Ukrainian soldier killed as Russia tensions soar


AFP, Kiev

Ukraine yesterday said one of its soldiers was killed in fighting with pro-Moscow separatists, as the US again warned Russia against any attacks on the country.

US President Joe Biden was due to speak to his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky today, after warning Russian President Vladimir Putin for the second time of a tough response should he invade Ukraine.

"One serviceman of the Joint Forces was fatally wounded," the army said in a statement, adding that separatists had launched three attacks within 24 hours, using grenade launchers and small arms. The army gave no further details of how the soldier was killed.

Tensions with Moscow have soared in recent months, with Russia massing troops near Ukraine's borders. The West has accused the Kremlin of planning an invasion.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (শ্রেডা)
বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

আইইবি ভবন (৯ম ও ১০তম তলা), রমনা, ঢাকা
www.sreda.gov.bd

ইন্টারশিপ প্রোগ্রামে আবেদন

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (শ্রেডা) দেশের নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানির উন্নয়ন-প্রসার, জ্বালানির দক্ষ ব্যবহার ও উন্নয়ন, জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ে যথাযথ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ এবং নতুন সম্ভাবনাময় টেকসই জ্বালানির ক্রমাগত অনুসন্ধানে সরকার কর্তৃক সৃষ্ট একটি সংবিধিবদ্ধ সংস্থা। টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি বিষয়ে আগামী প্রজন্মকে উদ্বুদ্ধ করার জন্য শ্রেডা কর্তৃক বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণের অংশ হিসেবে শ্রেডায় ইন্টারশিপ প্রোগ্রাম চলমান রয়েছে। এ লক্ষ্যে নিম্নোক্ত যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলীর ভিত্তিতে ২য় ব্যাচে (মার্চ-মে, ২০২২) ইন্টারশিপ প্রোগ্রামে অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

যোগ্যতা	আবেদনের পদ্ধতি ও শর্তাবলী
১। বিএসসি (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং) অথবা নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি বা জ্বালানি সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা স্নাতকোত্তর পরীক্ষায় অবতীর্ণ বা সদ্য উত্তীর্ণ (পাস করার পর দুই বছরের অধিক নয়) হতে হবে।	• আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের জীবন বৃত্তান্ত এবং নিজ নিজ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে অনাপত্তি সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) গ্রহণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ চেয়ারম্যান, শ্রেডা বরাবর নির্ধারিত ফরমে (হার্ডকপিতে) আবেদন করতে হবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও আবেদন ফরম শ্রেডার ওয়েবসাইটে (http://sreda.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।
২। আবেদনকারীকে কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষ হতে হবে।	• প্রোগ্রামের মেয়াদ ০৩ (তিন) মাস [মার্চ-মে, ২০২২]
৩। জ্বালানি বিষয়ক বিভিন্ন সফটওয়্যার এর উপর দক্ষতা থাকলে প্রার্থী বাছাইয়ে অগ্রাধিকার পাবে।	• প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় সকল সনদপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
	• চূড়ান্তভাবে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ইমেইল ও ডাকযোগে অবহিত করা হবে।
	• পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদের টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
	• নিয়মিত কর্মসম্পাদন ও এন্ট্রপোজার ভিজিট এর জন্য ইন্টারনৈতিক মাসিক জনপ্রতি ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা সম্মানী প্রদান করা হবে।
	• ইন্টার্ন বাছাইয়ের ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

* আবেদন পৌছানোর শেষ তারিখ
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জিডি-০৪