INTERNATIONAL

India religious freedom worsens 'significantly' Says US panel

AFP, Washington

A US commission said yesterday that religious freedom has deteriorated "significantly" in India under the Hindu nationalist government as it again recommended targeted sanctions over abuses. It was the third straight year that the US Commission on International Religious Freedom asked that India be placed on a list of "countries of particular concern" -- a recommendation that has angered New Delhi and is virtually certain to be dismissed by the State Department.



In an annual report, the panel -- which is appointed to offer recommendations but does not set US policy voiced wide concern about South Asia and also backed the State Department's inclusion of Pakistan on the

blacklist. In India, the commission pointed to "numerous" attacks on religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians, in 2021 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government promoted "its ideological vision of a Hindu state" through policies hostile to minorities. "Religious freedom conditions in India significantly worsened," the report said. It pointed to a "culture of impunity for nationwide campaigns of threats and violence by mobs and vigilante groups" and

arrests of journalists and

human rights advocates.

GD-837



'Failed state'

Sri Lanka's Buddhist leaders want gov't to resign

Sri Lanka's beleaguered government yesterday faced new pressure to resign from influential Buddhist leaders over a crippling economic crisis, as the island nation's stock market halted trading after a nearly 13 percent plunge.

The country's worst downturn since independence in 1948 has brought widespread hardships to its 22 million people, with months of regular blackouts and acute shortages of food and fuel.

Yesterday was the first morning of trade on the Colombo bourse after a two-week break, during which the government imposed a record interest rate hike and defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign

But trading was halted after a frenzied market sell-off, and called off for the day entirely when a brief resumption failed to dampen the downward slide, with the local S&P index finishing 12.6 percent down.

The latest market crash came as the country's most influential Buddhist clerics joined a growing list of former allies calling for the

government's resignation. "The country is fast becoming

a failed state," senior monk Medagama Dhammananda told reporters in the central city of Kandy.



Dhammananda said he and fellow Buddhist leaders had jointly petitioned President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to establish an interim government "to pull the country out of this crisis".

Such a move would require the resignation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa -- the president's brother and head of Sri Lanka's powerful ruling

Gotabaya has faced similar calls to step down, with thousands of protesters camped outside his seafront office in Colombo for more than two

Before the crisis, both men were beloved by much of the country's Sinhalese Buddhist majority for bringing a decadeslong ethnic civil war against the Tamil Tigers to a brutal end.

Yesterday's rebuke from the Buddhist clergy is the latest public departure by formerly steadfast allies of the Rajapaksa clan.

Recent weeks have seen the fracturing of the government's ruling coalition, along with business leaders and a former cabinet minister urging the Rajapaksas to resign.

Sri Lanka's economic collapse began to be felt after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances. Utilities unable to pay for fuel imports have imposed lengthy daily blackouts to ration power, while long lines snake around service stations as people queue for petrol and kerosene.

Hospitals are short of vital medicines, the government has appealed to citizens abroad for donations and record inflation has added to everyday hardships.

> "Another task has come to the fore: to split Russian society and destroy Russia from within." Vladimir Putin accuses West of 'terror'

Greenpeace activists block tanker at **Aasgaardstrand** harbour of Norway from delivering Russian oil yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SIPRI REPORT Global military spending hits all-time high

AFP, Stockholm

Global military spending rose again in 2021, setting new records as Russia continued to beef up its military prior to its invasion of Ukraine. researchers said yesterday, predicting the trend would continue in Europe in particular.

Despite the economic fallout of the global

Covid pandemic, countries around the world increased their arsenals, with global military spending rising by 0.7 percent last year, according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

"In 2021 military spending rose for the seventh consecutive time to reach \$2.1 trillion. That is the highest figure we have ever had," Diego Lopes da Silva, senior researcher at Sipri, told AFP.

Russia's spending grew by 2.9 percent -- the third year of consecutive growth -- to \$65.9



Defence spending accounted for 4.1 percent of Russia's gross domestic product (GDP), "much higher than the world average", and making Moscow the fifth largest spender in the world, Lopes da Silva said.

On the other side, Ukraine's military spending has risen by

72 percent since the annexation of Crimea. While spending declined by over eight percent in 2021 to \$5.9 billion, it still accounted for 3.2 percent of

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Local Govt Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer Sayedpur, Nilphamari www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No. 46.02.7385.000.14.67.22-171

Date: 25/04/2022

Invitation for Tender (Works) e-Tender Notice No. 05/2021-22 (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for 01 No. Package of EUCP Project, FY 2021-22 the procurement of following works.

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time	
1	671353	Package No. EUCPW- 188 Construction of Upazila Parishad Administration Bhaban and Hall Room under Sayedpur Upazila, Nilphamari.	24-05-2022 17.00pm	25-05-2022 12.00pm	25-05-2022 12.00pm	

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 24-May-2022, 17:00pm.

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

> M.M. Ali Reja Raju Upazila Engineer LGED, Sayedpur, Nilphamari www.ue.sayedpur@lged.gov.bd Phone: 02589956913

GD-839

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



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GD-843

Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer (East) Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender Notice No. IFT/BR/CEE/E/2021-2022/WR07

Dated: 25.04.2022

An e-Tender is invited in National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

production of following works, details are given below.							
SI.	Tender	Package No.	Description of work	Scheduled	Tender		
No.	ID			tender/proposal	closing &		
				publication	opening		
				date & time	date & time		
1.	690533	BR/CEE/E/2021-	Electrification of newly	27-April-2022	02-Jun-		
		2022/WR07	constructed 10th & 11th	09:00hrs.	2022		
			floor of Rail Bhaban with		12.00hrs.		
			other ancillary works under				
			SSAE/E/DA.				

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System 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 up to one hour before tender last selling time.

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

Ajoy Kumar Podder

Chief Electrical Engineer (East) Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়

নং-১৯.০০.০০০০.১৫২.২৬.২৫৫.২০-

ঢাকা

তারিখ ঃ ২৬ এপ্রিল ২০২২ খ্রিঃ

বিষয় ঃ পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের অকেজো ঘোষিত ০৪টি সিডান কার নিলামে বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের অকেজো ঘোষিত নিম্নে বর্ণিত ০৪টি নিশান সিডান কার সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্ত মোতাবেক ক্রয় করতে আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তিবর্গের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচেছ ঃ

ক্রমিক নং	গাড়ীর নং	গাড়ীর ধরন ও মডেল নং	জামানতের পরিমান	গাড়ীর অবস্থান
0) 1	ঢাকা মেট্রো খ-১২-৬২২৫	নিশান সিডান কার, মডেল ২০০৮	– গাড়ী প্রতি – টাকা ২০,০০০/-	পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা
०२।	ঢাকা মেট্রা খ-১২-৬২২৬	নিশান সিডান কার, মডেল ২০০৮		ঐ
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দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ১৭/০৫/২০২২ ইং, বেলা ১২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

দরপত্র জমা নেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ১৮/০৫/২০২২ ইং, বিকেল ১৪ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

দরপত্র খোলার শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ১৮/০৫/২০২২ ইং, বিকেল ১৪ঃ৩০ ঘটিকা।

দরপত্র দাখিলে আগ্রহীগণ পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের সাধারণ সেবা শাখা/নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হতে প্রতিটি গাড়ীর বিপরীতে আলাদাভাবে ১,০০০/০০ টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে পারবেন এবং জমা দেয়ার শেষ সময় পর্যন্ত পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের সাধারণ সেবা শাখায় (কক্ষ নং-১০৫) রক্ষিত টেভার বাব্ধে জমা দিতে পারবেন। পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ে রক্ষিত গাড়ীসমূহ যে কোন কার্যদিবসে সকাল ১০ঃ০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।

গৃহীত দরদাতাকে সোনালী ব্যাংকে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে আর্থিক কোড-১-১৮০১-০০০১-২৬৮১-তে নির্ধারিত মূল্য এবং প্রযোজ্য হল্ক/কর পরিশোধের পর তা জমাপূর্বক পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে প্রাপ্ত গাড়ী নিয়ে যেতে হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

> (এস, এম, গোলাম সরওয়ার) সহকারী সচিব (সাধারণ সেবা)

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