

AFP, Islamabad

The scion of Pakistan's most influential political dynasty was appointed foreign minister yesterday, the latest step up a ladder likely to take Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to the top of the country's leadership.

Aged 33, Bhutto becomes one of the world's youngest foreign ministers but inherits a diplomatic bag of issues that started well before he was born -- including relations with arch-rival India. Bhutto was sworn in two weeks after he helped lead an alliance that toppled Imran Khan and saw Shehbaz Sharif become prime minister.

His first foreign mission in the role will be accompanying Sharif today to Saudi Arabia, a key trade partner and regular source of relief for Pakistan's economy.



The new foreign minister is considered a progressive, in his mother's image, and has frequently spoken out on the rights of women and minorities.

Political commentators have mixed opinions on Bhutto's abilities -- or how long he can maintain good relations with premier Sharif, of the rival Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) party.

"I believe he is an un-tested missile," analyst Hassan Askari Rizvi told AFP. "It is too early for a young MP."

Fellow analyst Farzana Bari disagreed. "I think Bilawal is intelligent enough to hold the fort," she told AFP.



This (testing cuts) makes us increasingly blind to patterns of transmission and evolution. When it comes to a deadly disease, knowledge is not bliss.

WHO chief **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

শিলা নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড
 শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Office of the Project Director
 Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
 Directorate of Technical Education
 F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207



Request for Expression of Interest (Selection of Financial Management Specialist)

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost for the Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project and intends to apply part of its for consulting services for the Project by some individual consultants.

1	Ministry/Division:	Technical & Madrasa Education Division			
2	Agency:	Directorate of Technical Education			
3	Procuring Entity Name:	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project			
4	Procuring Entity Code:	Not used at present			
5	Procuring Entity District:	Dhaka			
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of:	Individual Consultant (Time based)			
7	Invitation Ref No.:	57.03.0000.000.07.008.21-64			
8	Date:	24.04.2022			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method:	Individual Consultant Selection (Time Based)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds:	Development Budget (IDA)			
11	Development Partners:	International Development Association (IDA)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project Code:	P-167506			
13	Project Name:	Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project			
14	EOI Closing Date and Time:	23.05.2022 and 5.00 P.M.			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS					
15	Brief Description of Assignment:				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FMS will take overall charge under the leadership of the PD of the project in accounting and financial management; and conduct the tasks to ensure transparent and accountable financial management; Be responsible for preparing all financial and accounting documents in line with World Bank Guidelines and Public procurement Rules. The Consultant shall maintain financial records and monitoring systems to record and reconcile expenditure, balances, payments, statements and other day to day transactions and reports; Ensure that all financial management components of projects are implemented according to development partners and the government's finance and expenditure management law and regulations; Prepare the Financial Management Reports (FMRs), Statement of Expenditure (SOE) and Bank Reconciliation Statements as well as other periodic financial statement; N.B. Please see the ToR for detail description of assignment. 			
16	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FM Specialist will have at least fifteen (15) years' experience in accounting and financial management, with at least three years in a managerial position in a government or semi-government/ autonomous organization. Experience in accounting and financial management procedures of the World Bank will be required. Master's Degree with honors in a relevant discipline, e.g. Commerce, Business Management, Accounting, or other relevant disciplines etc.; Professional qualification from any of the IFAC bodies such as ICAB/ACCA/CIMA/CMA/CFA is mandatory; N.B. Please see the ToR for detail experience, resources and delivery capacity required 			
17	Other Details (If Applicable):	Interested applicants shall obtain further information from the Project office during office time in any working day before the closing date. They also requested to collect Standard Procurement Document (SPD) and other documents from the office undersigned during office time and website of DTE (www.techedu.gov.bd) within the stipulated date.			
18	Association with foreign firm is:	Not Applicable			
19	Ref No.	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date	Indicative Completion Date
	57.03.0000.000.07.008.21-64	24 Person Month	DTE, Dhaka	01 June, 2022	31 May, 2024
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
20	Name of Official Inviting EOI:	Md. Mohsin			
21	Designation of Official Inviting EOI:	Project Director(Additional Secretary), ASSET Project			
22	Address of Official Inviting EOI:	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project, Directorate of Technical Education, Room No - 501, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.			
23	Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Tel: 02-41024954			
24	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				


 (Md. Mohsin)

Project Director (Additional Secretary)

GD-871

AFP, New Delhi

At least 11 people including three minors were killed yesterday after a temple chariot procession came into contact with a high-voltage wire in India, police said. Initial indications suggested that the crowd used water to contain an initial fire after the top of the chariot touched the wire in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. At least 15 other people were hospitalised after the incident at around 3:00am in the city of Thanjavur. The victims were part of the team that was pulling the chariot. At least three people died on the spot.

AFP, Ramallah

Israeli forces yesterday killed an 18-year-old Palestinian man in the West Bank flashpoint city of Jenin in what the army called its latest "counterterrorism" raid following a series of attacks in Israel since late March. The army said that during the operation at Jenin's refugee camp, troops used "live ammunition" after being targeted with gunfire and explosives by Palestinian "rioters". He was shot in the head, a hospital official told the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal banned imported liquor, playing cards and nearly a dozen other “non-essential” goods to address the Himalayan country’s widening trade deficit and declining foreign currency reserves, officials said yesterday. Falling remittances and tourism earnings, combined with a blowout budget deficit, have severely dented Nepal’s fiscal position during the Covid-19 pandemic. The central bank has said reserves are only sufficient to cover just over six months of imports, down from 10 months in mid-2021. A commerce ministry directive on Tuesday announced prohibitions on the import of several luxury items including diamonds, large televisions, expensive mobile phones and tobacco until July.