

ILO adds health, safety to workers' fundamental rights

AFP, Paris

The International Labour Organization has elevated occupational health and safety to the status of a "fundamental right" for the world's workers, a "historic" decision that will mean new obligations for member states.

Almost three million people die each year from work-related causes, the UN agency said.

"The adoption of the inclusion of a safe & healthy working environment in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles & rights at work is an important step to prevent these unacceptable losses," the ILO tweeted.

The "Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work", adopted in 1998, already enshrined the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour and an end to discrimination in workplaces.

Under the 1998 declaration, all 187 ILO member states, regardless of their level of economic development, committed to the agreed principles and rights.

Friday's announcement means they must now also "commit to respect and promote the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment, whether or not they have ratified the relevant Conventions," the ILO said on its website.

The new rules will be backed up by a "follow-up procedure" involving annual reports on the progress and obstacles of each country towards the new goal.

The "historic" decision is "critically important," tweeted ILO head Guy Ryder.



A woman reacts during a funeral ceremony of a Ukrainian serviceman killed in a fight during Russia's invasion in Kyiv, Ukraine on yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

North Korea appoints first female FM

AFP, Seoul

North Korea has appointed veteran diplomat Choe Son-hui as its first female foreign minister, state media reported yesterday, as Pyongyang pushes ahead with a blitz of sanctions-busting weapons tests and ignores US calls for talks.

Choe, who formerly served as the North's vice foreign minister, was tapped to lead the foreign ministry at a ruling party meeting overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, the state media KCNA reported.

She replaces Ri Son Gwon, a hardline former military official who previously led talks with the South.

A career diplomat who speaks fluent English, Choe served as a close aide to Kim during nuclear talks with the United States.

Diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington have since stalled, with the Kim regime in recent months not responding to the United States' repeated offers to return to negotiations.

China threatening stability around Asia

Says US, blasts 'destabilising' military activity near Taiwan; Beijing warns of war

AGENCIES

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin yesterday called out China for a series of coercive, aggressive and dangerous actions that threaten stability around Asia and vowed the United States would stand by partners to resist any pressure.

"Indo-Pacific countries shouldn't face political intimidation, economic coercion, or harassment by maritime militias," Austin said in a keynote speech to the Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's premier defense conference.

"The PRC's moves threaten to undermine security, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific," Austin said, using the acronym to refer to the country by its official name, the People's Republic of China.

He listed a series of areas where he said China is muscling its neighbors, including sending large numbers of warplanes into the skies near Taiwan, dangerously intercepting the patrol planes of US allies, and illegal fishing operations that "plunder the region's provisions."

Tensions between Washington and Beijing are soaring over democratic, self-ruled Taiwan, which China views as its territory and has vowed to seize one day, by force if necessary.

Beijing has conducted dozens of incursions into Taiwan's air defence zone this year, and on Friday, Defence Minister Wei Fenghe warned Austin that China was prepared to go to war if the island declares independence.

In an address to the Shangri-La Dialogue

security summit in Singapore, Austin took aim at Beijing's "growing coercion" towards Taiwan, a day after holding his first face-to-face talks with Wei.

"We've witnessed a steady increase in provocative and destabilising military activity near Taiwan," he told the forum, which is attended by defence ministers from Asia and around the world.

"That includes (Chinese military) aircraft flying near Taiwan in record numbers in recent months, and nearly on a daily basis," he said.

"We categorically oppose any unilateral changes to the status quo from either side," he added.

But he also stressed the importance of "fully open lines of communication with China's defence leaders" in avoiding miscalculations.

"These are deeply, deeply important conversations." On Friday, Wei had warned Austin that "if anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese army will definitely not hesitate to start a war no matter the cost", according to Chinese officials.

He also vowed that Beijing would "smash to smithereens any 'Taiwan independence' plot and resolutely uphold the unification of the motherland", according to the Chinese defence ministry.

Taiwan's foreign ministry said it rejects Beijing's "absurd claims".

China's defence minister will address the summit today, its final day.

Myanmar polls will not be fair: US

AFP, Singapore

A top US government official yesterday said there was "no chance" the Myanmar junta's planned elections next year would be free and fair.

Myanmar has been in turmoil and its economy paralysed since the February 2021 coup which ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The junta scrapped a 2020 election won by Suu Kyi's party accusing massive fraud.

Almost 2,000 civilians have been killed in the junta's crackdown on dissent and more than 14,000 people have been arrested.

US State Department counsellor Derek Chollet cast doubt over the junta's pledge to hold new elections in August 2023.

"I think there's no chance it could be free and fair, and it can be an attempt to just manipulate the region, the international community," Chollet told the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

United Nations special envoy for Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer -- who has not been allowed to visit the country since she took up the role late last year -- fears an illegitimate poll could cause further unrest.

'Appalling' Prince Charles slams UK's plan to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda

AFP, London

Britain's Prince Charles has called the government's plan to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda "appalling", a report said yesterday as opponents readied a last-gasp legal bid to stop the first flight.

The UK government intends to fly the first planeload of 31 claimants to Rwanda on Tuesday -- shortly before Charles is due to represent his mother Queen Elizabeth II at a Commonwealth summit in Kigali.

PM Boris Johnson -- who is also set to attend the summit -- welcomed his government's victory in a High Court hearing

Friday that gave the plan a green light. Charles, however, joined others including senior Christian clerics in denouncing the plan, and fears the issue could overshadow the Commonwealth summit on June 24-25, The Times reported.

"He said he was more than disappointed at the policy," the newspaper quoted an unidentified source as saying.

"He said he thinks the government's whole approach is appalling. It was clear he was not impressed with the government's direction of travel," the source added.

The reported intervention from the Prince of Wales threatens to stoke controversy about his political views as he shoulders more of the duties of his 96-year-old mother.

In Kigali, Charles and Johnson are due to meet Rwandan President Paul Kagame, whose government is accused by campaigners of persecuting political dissidents and gay people.



A Palestinian man scuffles with Israeli forces during a protest against Israeli settlement activity near Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ANTI-MUSLIMS REMARKS Two killed in India protests

AFP, Patna

Indian police shot dead two protesters and arrested more than 130 others during street rallies sparked by a ruling party official's remarks about the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), authorities told AFP yesterday.

There have been widespread protests in the Muslim world since last week, when a BJP spokeswoman made the controversial comments.

In India and neighbouring countries, Muslims took to the streets in huge numbers after Friday prayers to condemn the remarks, with police firing on a crowd in the eastern Indian city of Ranchi.

"Police were forced to open fire to disperse protesters... resulting in the death of two," a police officer in Ranchi told AFP.

Officers said that the crowd had defied their orders and had thrown broken bottles and stones when police attempted to disperse the rally with a baton charge. Authorities cut internet connections in the city and imposed a curfew. Situation remained tense yesterday.

Police in Uttar Pradesh fired tear gas to disperse at least one rally after several demonstrations were staged across the northern Indian state.

Most protests ended peacefully but demonstrators in some cities threw stones at police and injured at least one officer, said Avnish Awasthi, a senior government secretary in the state.

Sharma's remarks have embroiled India in a diplomatic storm, with the governments of nearly 20 countries calling in Indian envoys for an explanation.

Her comments sent the BJP into damage control, with the party suspending her from its ranks and issuing a statement saying it respected all religions.

Office of the Mirkadim Paurashava
District: Munshiganj

উন্নয়নের পথিক
শেখ হাসিনার মন্ত্রণালয়

Memo No. Mika/pau/Eng/10-617/19-142 Date: 08/06/2022

e-Tender Notice (OTM) No. 2/2021-22

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the work
1	625382 (Re-Tender)	UIIP-BC/PCO/W-430	Construction of RCC Road from Rikabi Bazar-Sipahipara main road towards east near H/O Selim at Golapbag (Ch: 0+00 to 0+154m) Link (Ch: 0+00 to 0+076m) towards South near Golapbag masjid under Mirkadim Pourashava, Munshiganj. (Including Side Drain)
2	684127	UIIP-BC/PCO/W-533	(A) Construction of 01 No. Box Culvert (2x2.5x3.0x6.0m) Near Rekabi Bazar Fish Market on Rekabi Bazar Main Road under Mirkadim Pourashava. (B) Construction of RCC Road from Sipahipara Main Road to Chondontola Bridge at (Ch. 00.00 to 0+612.00m) including palasiding work at (Ch. 0+333.00m to 0+365.00m & Ch: 0+536.00m to 0+612.00m) & R.C.C Drain (Ch: 00.00 to 0+125.00m) under Mirkadim Pourashava, Munshiganj.

This is 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 to 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 Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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