

## NEW MILITARY HIRING PLAN

### One killed as protests rage in India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian police fired at an angry mob who set trains on fire yesterday during protests against a new short-term military recruitment scheme that has flared around the country.

The system aims to bring in more people to the military on short, four-year contracts to lower the average age of India's 1.38 million-strong armed forces and cut down on burgeoning pension costs.

The new process will bring in men and women between the ages of 17 and a half and 21 for a four-year tenure at non-officer ranks, with only a quarter retained for longer.

But many potential recruits object, concerned about employment opportunities after serving their four-year terms and disappointed to miss out on a pension.

Thousands of young men took to the streets yesterday, with protests turning violent in at least three states.

One protester was killed in a clash with police in the southern city of Secunderabad, in the southern state of Telangana, a government official said.

In Uttar Pradesh, protests erupted in 14 districts. In Bihar, protesters torched train coaches in at least two stations and disrupted rail services, police said.



Policemen open fire to disperse protesters during a demonstration against the government's new 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme for the army, navy, and air forces at a railway station in Secunderabad in the southern state of Telangana, India; protesters set a train on fire in Secunderabad; and policemen carry an injured protester.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

## End 'age of fossil fuels'

Urges UN chief, warns the fuel industry is grabbing 'humanity by the throat' at major climate summit

AFP, Washington

The UN chief yesterday launched an all-out attack on the fossil fuel industry, accusing it of having "humanity by the throat" and calling on leaders of the world's major economies to "end the age of fossil fuels."

"The first duty of leadership is to protect people from clear and present dangers," Antonio Guterres said in a speech to the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. "Nothing could be more clear or present than the danger of fossil fuel expansion."

The virtual meeting, hosted by US President Joe Biden,

brings together countries representing 80 percent of global GDP, population, and greenhouse gas emissions, the White House said.

"Even in the short term, fossil fuels don't make political or economic sense," Guterres said. "Yet we seem trapped in a world where fossil fuel producers and financiers have humanity by the throat."

The UN chief accused the fossil fuel industry of having tried for decades to convince leaders and sway public opinion of its limited responsibility for climate change, and for seeking to "undermine ambitious

climate policies."

"They exploited precisely the same scandalous tactics as Big Tobacco decades before," he said, referring to what he called the industry's push to obfuscate its products' harm and what it knew concerning the dangers.

This is Biden's third convening of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate since he took office in 2021.

Friday's gathering will be the largest leader-level gathering before COP27, the follow-up summit, set to take place in Egypt this November.

**“We all know that Ukrainians are ready to die for the European perspective. We want them to live with us for the European dream.”**

EU commission chief Ursula von der Leyen backs Ukraine's EU candidate status

## Dhaka to focus

FROM PAGE 14

on water sharing of six rivers -- Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar.

Besides, Dhaka wants India to implement Bangladesh's Upper Surma-Kushiyara project to increase the rivers' navigability through dredging and excavation.

Talking to journalists recently, Foreign Minister Momen stressed the need for joint river management to improve the life and livelihood of the people on the river basins and for weather forecast data sharing on flood, citing the recent heavy flooding in Sylhet region following rains in Assam and Meghalaya.

"Dhaka will actively raise these issues with Delhi," said a foreign ministry official.

### BOOSTING TRADE

Bangladesh-India bilateral trade has surpassed \$10 billion dollars last year, with Bangladesh exporting to India slightly above \$1 billion. One of Bangladesh's requests to India is removing anti-dumping duty on export of jute. Besides, there are some para-tariff and non-tariff issues in both the countries.

Foreign ministry officials said these issues will be raised to minimise trade gap.

**ENERGY COOPERATION**  
As Bangladesh moves towards industrialisation and faces the threat of climate change, it seeks regional hydropower connectivity with India, Nepal and Bhutan. And India's cooperation will be crucial to this end.

A foreign ministry

official said Dhaka would stress the importance of this during the JCC.

Bangladesh will also reiterate its willingness to join the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway that links Moreh to Moe Sot in Thailand, through Myanmar.

"Our relationship with India is comprehensive. While we have worked mostly on a bilateral basis so far, we would also like to work from the regional approach," said a foreign ministry official.

There are also the issues of border killings, the number of which has dropped in recent times. Yet, Dhaka will put emphasis on better border management to stop such killings and improve border haats and check smuggling, he added.

## A gesture

FROM PAGE 14

some of the best varieties of mango in the world.

Mangoes were also sent to the dignitaries of other South Asian countries like Bhutan and the Maldives and some Middle Eastern countries last year.

## EU backs

FROM PAGE 14

country -- this is based on the understanding that good work has been done but important work also remains to be done," von der Leyen said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was back in Kyiv yesterday for a second visit in just over two months, Zelenskiy said, hailing Britain's "resolute" support for Ukraine.

In the meantime, the fighting continues, with Russian forces bombarding Ukrainian pockets of resistance in frontline Severodonetsk, including civilians holed up in a chemical plant in the eastern Ukrainian city.

And Moscow turned up the pressure on the Western allies, sharply reducing flows of natural gas in its pipelines to Western Europe, driving up energy prices, reports AFP.

France's network provider said it had not received any Russian gas by pipeline from Germany since June 15, and Italy's Eni said it expected Russian firm Gazprom to cut its supplies by half later yesterday.

In Severodonetsk, governor of Luhansk region Sergiy Gaiday called for a ceasefire, stating hundreds of civilians were trapped in the besieged Azot chemical plant in the city.

## SSC exams

FROM PAGE 1

Last year, amid the pandemic, SSC and HSC candidates sat for tests on only three optional subjects with a shortened syllabus and for fewer marks.

This year, SSC candidates will have to sit for Bangla, English, Mathematics and a fourth subject, besides the three optional subjects, said Dhaka Education Board Chairman Prof Tapan Kumar.

They will not need to sit for exams on religion, ICT, Bangladesh and Global Studies and science.



## UK clears Assange

FROM PAGE 2

The extradition was an attempt to "try to disappear him into the darkest recesses of their prison system for the rest of his life to deter others from holding governments to account".

The head of Amnesty International said the government's approval of the extradition "sends a chilling message" to journalists.

"If the extradition proceeds, Amnesty International is extremely concerned that Assange faces a high risk of prolonged solitary confinement, which would violate the prohibition on torture and other ill treatment," said Agnes Callamard.

"Diplomatic assurances provided by the US that Assange will not be kept in solitary confinement cannot

be taken on face value given previous history," she added, calling for the charges to be dropped and Assange to be released.

A Home Office spokesperson said there were no grounds for Patel to block the extradition order, which was made on April 20 after a long-running legal saga up the hierarchy of UK courts.

"In this case, the UK courts have not found that it would be oppressive, unjust or an abuse of process to extradite Mr Assange," the spokesperson said.

"Nor have they found that extradition would violate the prohibition on torture and other ill treatment, including his right to a fair trial and to freedom of expression, and that whilst in the US he will be treated appropriately, including in relation to his health."

## Shops, markets

FROM PAGE 1

"Although there is a provision under the existing law that employees will work from 10:00am to 8:00pm, we never followed it for reasonable grounds."

Helal added that as the government made the decision to save energy and power following soaring prices of oil and energy across the globe due to

Russia-Ukraine war, they have no alternative to abide by the decision.

He, however, said some 16 to 18 lakh people are involved with small businesses in the capital.

"Under this consideration, we will request Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to give us permission to keep shops open from 12:00 noon to 9:00pm."

## Sanctions on Rab

FROM PAGE 14

reports our concerns. We've raised it with them in bilateral meetings. And so, while the sanctions may have come as a surprise, the idea that we had concerns should not have."

The envoy said the US is also not perfect when it comes to democracy but that the striving for democracy must continue.

Referring to Bangladesh, he said there are things that the Bangladeshi people and the government can work on as well and the elections provide a good framing for that, because they're still more than a year out.

"We don't favour any particular party, or platform, or anything else ... But what we would like to see is what I think all Bangladeshis would like to

see, which is an election run at international standards that allow the people of Bangladesh to choose their next leaders in an open, competitive process free of violence and free of coercion."

Haas said he welcomes some of the signs, some of the signals that they have been receiving.

"Foreign Minister [Abdul] Momen has made it clear that Bangladesh will welcome international observers. And I think that's critical.

"But the election actually has already started. And so, it's important to be looking at it all the way from now to make sure that everyone feels safe and secure in their decision on whether or not to participate in any aspect of the upcoming elections," he added.

## Killings, recovery of rifle

FROM PAGE 1

widely been debated as Rohingyas and security experts believe they are members of the Myanmar insurgent group in Cox's Bazar camps.

However, the government has always maintained that this group does not exist in Bangladesh and that some criminals might have falsely identified themselves as Arsa operatives to intimidate the Rohingyas.

More than 100 killings have taken place in Rohingya camps since the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals arrived in Bangladesh in 2017, according to law

enforcement agencies.

Shahab Enam Khan, professor of international relations at Jahangirnagar University, said the presence of arms like M16 clearly gives the hint that the security situation in and around the Rohingya camps can become volatile anytime.

"The issue of inter-agency cooperation and collaborative monitoring of the security situation should be ensured not only by the law enforcement agencies, but also by the intelligence agencies."

Shahab, who monitors the Rohingya situation, said repatriation must be the priority and any violence will only delay

the repatriation and international cooperation in this regard.

"If required, the possibility of reengaging the armed forces [in security issues] should be explored," he said.

Speaking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, a member of the CTC arms enforcement team said M16 rifle is a sophisticated weapon and an updated version of M-4, which is used by SWAT for combat operations.

It can be operated in two modes -- auto and burst. In auto mode, the weapon fires a single bullet at a time while in burst mode it fires randomly with just a press on the trigger, he added.

## Biman plane makes

FROM PAGE 14

aircraft, the pilot announced that its main landing gear went out of order.

Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director, HSIA, told this correspondent that the Dash-8 aircraft suffered a "technical issue" and made a technical landing safely. No passengers were hurt, he added.

BOEING 787

Biman sources said a Boeing 787-8 aircraft landed at HSIA from Riyadh at 4:15pm on Thursday.

After landing, the aircraft was brought to the boarding bridge no 4. When the aircraft was being taken to the hangar after the passengers had disembarked, it collided with the boarding bridge.

The Biman authorities said the damaged boarding

bridge has been repaired. There was no damage to the aircraft and it was ready to fly to Riyadh from HSIA at 2:30am today, they added.

The two-member probe body, led by Biman Chief Engineer Kaiser Zaman, has been asked to submit its report within three working days, said Tahera Khondoker, Biman's general manager (public relations).

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
Director, CMSD				
Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka.				
Tender for Goods (Single Lot)				
Ref. No: CMSD/COVID(SDF)-2101/NCT/21-22/Proc.-7/90		Dated: 16/06/2022		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
1	Procurement Method/Document	NCT Open		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
2	Source of Funds	Development Budget (Aid Grant/Credit)		
3	Development Partner			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
4	Project/Programme Code			
5	Project/Programme Name	SAARC Development Fund (SDF)		
6	Tender Package No.	COVID (SDF)-2101		
7	Tender Package Name	Procurement of RT-PCR Test kit		
8	Tender Publication Date	16/06/2022		
9	Tender Last Selling Date	14/07/2022		
10	Tender Closing Date and time	17/07/2022 at 11:00 AM		
11	Tender Opening Date and time	17/07/2022 at 11:30 AM		
12	<b>Name and Address of the Office(s)</b>			
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Swarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.		
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	Do		
	- Receiving Tender Document	Do		
	- Opening Tender Document	Do		
13	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Swarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka (Conference Room, Room No.-115) 03/07/2022 at 11:30 AM		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
14	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tender will be conducted through the National Competitive Tender (NCT) procedures specified in the tender schedule and PPA-2008 & PPR-2008.		
15	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Realtime RT-PCR test kit for SARS-CoV-2 virus detection kit (Including VTM & Swab)		
16	Brief Description of Related Services	Do		
17	Tender Document Price	BDT 4,000/- (Bangladesh Taka four thousand) only. The method of payment will be in pay order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.		
17	Lot No	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka
	Single	Realtime RT-PCR test kit for SARS-CoV-2 virus detection kit (Including VTM & Swab)	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Swarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.	BDT. 20,00,000.00 through a scheduled bank in Bangladesh
				Completion Time in weeks/months To be delivered within 21 (twenty one) days after signing of contract. In case of delivery beyond 21 (twenty one) days will be treated as non-responsive.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Mukhtesur Rahman Sarkar		
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, CMSD, Tejgaon, Dhaka.		
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	30 Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Swarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.		
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No: 02-48115486 Fax: 88-2-9126547 E-mail: cmsdstore@gmail.com		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				
GD-1258				