

**REUTERS, New Delhi**

India's top court yesterday upheld the right of a woman to an abortion up to 24 weeks into pregnancy regardless of marital status, a decision widely hailed by women's rights activists.

"Even an unmarried woman can undergo abortion up to 24 weeks on par with married women," said Justice D.Y. Chandrachud of India's Supreme Court, holding that a woman's marital status could not decide her right to abort.

"The decision to have or not to have an abortion is borne out of complicated life circumstances, which only the woman can choose on her own terms without external interference or influence," the court ruling said.

It added that every woman should have the "reproductive autonomy" to seek abortion, without consulting a third party.



REUTERS, Venice

Rescue workers and residents of Florida's Gulf Coast searched for missing people and picked up the pieces from wrecked homes yesterday after Hurricane Ian tore through the area with howling winds, torrential rains and raging surf.

One of the mightiest storms to hit the US mainland in recent years, Ian flooded communities and left more than two million homes and businesses without power before barreling on across the peninsula to the Atlantic seaboard.

It was downgraded to a tropical storm yesterday morning, Ian blasted ashore at the barrier island of Cayo Costa on Wednesday afternoon as a Category 4 hurricane.

The United States yesterday announced \$810 million in new funding for Pacific Islands at a summit with President Joe Biden amid inroads by China in the strategic but sparsely populated region. The White House said \$600 million will be in the form of a 10-year package to clean up dirty waters to support the tuna industry, while the United States will also expand climate assistance, development aid and its diplomatic presence.

The US was set to address a first-ever Washington summit of Pacific Island nations later yesterday, including 12 heads of state or government, in hopes of using a personal touch to reconnect with a region that has been tied closely to the United States since World War II.

With the United States often seen as taking the region for granted, China has asserted itself strongly in recent years through investment, police training and, most controversially, a security pact with the Solomon Islands.

The Biden administration also announced that the United States would recognize Cook Islands and Niue, a self-

governing territory whose foreign and defense policies and currency are linked to New Zealand.

The step will allow the United States to increase its diplomatic presence in the Cook Island and Niue, which have fewer than 20,000 inhabitants but constitute a sprawling economic zone in the South Pacific.

Launching a new strategy for engagement, Biden also designated a veteran US ambassador in the region, Frankie Reed, as the first-ever US envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum.

The US recently announced the restoration of an embassy in the Solomon Islands, amid the heavy presence of China, and the White House said yesterday that US embassies would also open in Tonga and Kiribati.

The US Agency for International Development will open a Pacific regional mission in Fiji by September 2023 and Peace Corps volunteers will return to Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu. Addressing the summit opening at the State Department on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the two sides had agreed "a declaration of partnership between the US and the Pacific."



AFP, Paris

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Iran yesterday stepped up pressure on celebrities and journalists over the wave of women-led protests sparked by outrage over the death of Mahsa Amini after she was arrested by the Islamic republic's morality police.

Filmmakers, athletes, musicians and actors have backed the demonstrations, and many saw it as a signal when the national football team remained in their black tracksuits when the anthems were played before a match in Vienna against Senegal. "We will take action against the celebrities who have fanned the flames of the riots," Tehran provincial governor Mohsen Mansouri said, according to the ISNA news agency.

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta sentenced an Australian economist to three years in prison yesterday, while also handing down another conviction to ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a source told AFP yesterday. Both have been detained since a coup in February last year, when the military ousted Suu Kyi's government, for which Sean Turnell was an adviser. "Mr Sean Turnell, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and another three were sentenced to three years imprisonment each under the Official Secrets Act," the source told AFP, adding that Suu Kyi would appeal her verdict. Turnell was also convicted for three years under the country's immigration act, the source said, adding that he will serve the second conviction concurrently, and that his sentence would be eligible for a time already served deduction. Suu Kyi has already been convicted of corruption and a clutch of other charges by a closed court.






বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

website: www.ugc.gov.bd



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### Invitation for Tenders

IFT Ref. No. 37.01.0000.191.30.011.22-3121

Date: 28/09/2022

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
2	Agency	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
4	Address of the Procuring Entity	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, UGC Bhaban, Plot # 18/A, Block # E, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-c-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of <b>Stationery, Toiletries, Electrical &amp; Plumbing Goods (Lot by Lot).</b>
6	Invitation Ref. No.	37.01.0000.191.30.011.22-3121
7	Publishing Date	30/09/2022
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) / National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Lot by Lot.
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
9	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB Funds
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
10	Tender Package No.	UGC/Store/OTM/GID-1/2022-23
11	Tender Package Name	Supply of <b>Stationery, Toiletries, Electrical &amp; Plumbing Goods (Lot by Lot).</b>
12	Selling Tender Document	Finance & Accounts Division, UGC Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
13	Tender Last Selling Date	<b>Up to 23/10/2022 (during office hour).</b>
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	<b>24/10/2022 at 12:00 Noon (Tenderer can be submitted from the date of publication of this document)</b> <b>24/10/2022 at 12:05 PM.</b>
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	Office of the Secretary, UGC Bhaban, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
16	Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, UGC Bhaban, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. (Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening meeting)
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
18	Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(a) At least 5 (Five) years experience of supplying of similar goods to Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous organization. (b) Satisfactory completion of supply for similar goods of at least 05 (Five) contract(s) successfully completed within the last 05 (five) years, each with a value of at least Tk. 08(Eight) lac for Lot 1. Stationery, Tk. 10(Ten) lac for Lot 2. Toiletries, Tk. 06(Six) Lac for Lot 3. Electrical, Tk. 04(Four) Lac for Lot 4. Plumbing Goods.
19	Brief Description of Goods	<b>Lot-1 Stationery, Lot-2 Toiletries, Lot-3 Electrical &amp; Lot-4 Plumbing Goods.</b>
20	Brief Description of Related Service	N/A
21	Submission of Tender	(a) The original copy for every lot of the tender document shall be submitted in an envelope (containing price schedule etc. in standard tender forms prescribed by the CPTU & properly superscripted stating the name of package. (b) The tender document shall be written in English or Bangla language. (c) The tenderers shall submit valid Trade License, E-TIN and VAT certificate, recent Bank Solvency Certificate, valid income tax clearance certificate etc. as required by the PPR-2008.
22	Price of Tender Document (non refundable)	Tk.1000/- (One Thousand ) for every lot.
23	Tender Security Amount (refundable)	The amount of the Tender Security shall be Tk. 23,500 (Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred) for Lot 1. Stationery, Tk. 29,500 (Twenty Nine thousand Five Hundred) for Lot 2. Toiletries, Tk. 17,000 (Seventeen thousand) for Lot 3. Electrical, Tk. 12,500 (Twelve thousand Five Hundred) for Lot 4. Plumbing Goods the form of Bank Draft/Pay-order/Bank Guarantee in favour of the Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh.
24	Performance Security Amount (refundable)	10% of the contract price in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee.
25	Tender validity time	90 (Ninety) calendar days from the submission date of tender.
26	Time for completion of supply	15 (Fifteen) calendar days from the signing date of contract/as per schedule of TDS.
27	The period of validity of the warranty	12 (Twelve) months from the date of acceptance of the goods.
28	The procuring entity reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantities of the goods and reserves the right to reject all tenders or accept any tender in a part or in a full without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

**Dr. Ferdous Zaman**  
Secretary  
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

GD- 1825