



Nearly 500 Kurdish targets in Iraq, Syria hit

Says Turkey as Erdogan vows to secure border

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said yesterday that Turkey's military had hit nearly 500 Kurdish targets across Iraq and Syria as part of a campaign of air strikes.

"So far 471 targets have been struck and 254 terrorists were neutralised in the operation," Akar was quoted as saying by the official Anadolu news agency.

Ankara began the series of air strikes as part of Operation Claw-Sword on Sunday.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday threatened to launch a ground operation into Syria "with tanks and soldiers" in defiance of international pressure not to do so.

Turkey is more determined than ever to secure its Syrian border from attacks by Kurdish forces, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday, insisting that a ground operation would start "at the most convenient time."

Turkey's air raids followed a bombing in Istanbul on November 13 that killed six people and wounded 81.

Turkey blamed the attack on the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is blacklisted as a terror group by the

European Union and the United States.

The PKK, which has waged an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, denied any role in the bombing -- the deadliest in five years after a spate of attacks in Turkey between 2015 and 2017.

Erdogan accused Western states backing Kurdish forces in Syria of failing to deliver on their promise of no attacks on Turkish soil, pointing to the Istanbul bombing.

"If they can't keep their word," he said, "then we have the right to take care of ourselves."

Russia and the United States have called for de-escalation.

Nuri Mahmoud, YPG spokesman, late Tuesday deplored "the timid and weak statements by the guarantor countries and International Coalition" which relied on the group to counter IS jihadists.

Erdogan has repeatedly called for a 30-kilometre (19-mile) "safe zone" to protect Turkey against cross-border attacks from Syrian territory.

Yesterday, he vowed Turkey would complete the zone "step by step" starting from the towns of Tal Rifaat, Manbij and Ayn al-Arab, also known as Kobane in Kurdish, which are all located in northern Syria.



MASS SHOOTING

Walmart employee kills 6 in US

AFP, Washington

A Walmart employee shot dead six people at a store bustling with Thanksgiving holiday shoppers, before turning the pistol on himself, police said yesterday, in the country's second mass shooting in four days.

Four other people remained hospitalized in unknown condition following the Tuesday night rampage in the Walmart in Chesapeake, Virginia, police chief Mark Solesky said.

Solesky told a news conference the gunman was believed to have died of a "self-inflicted gunshot wound," and that the motive behind the latest attack in America's gun violence crisis was not immediately known.

The assault two days before Thanksgiving, the quintessential American family holiday marked this year on November 24, followed a weekend gun attack at an LGBTQ club in Colorado that killed five people.



A member of the Israeli security forces holds a sniffer dog at the scene of an explosion at a bus stop in Jerusalem yesterday. At least one person was killed and 15 others wounded in two separate explosions targeting bus stations in Jerusalem, security and medical officials said, with Israel's public security minister calling them "attacks."

PHOTO: AFP

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Will focus on writing

Says Mahathir after polls defeat

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's nonagenarian former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, one of the world's longest-serving politicians, said yesterday he will focus on writing after he suffered his first electoral defeat in more than half a century.

The 97-year-old statesman came fourth in a five-way fight for his long-held constituency on the resort island Langkawi in Saturday's election.

Commenting for the first time since his defeat, Mahathir accepted his loss but did not say whether he would quit politics. For the moment, he said he would write about the country's history.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's king has called for royal rulers to meet today to resolve political impasse that left the country without a prime minister days after inconclusive polls, the palace said. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim and former PM Muhyiddin Yassin remain the frontrunners for the top job.

SCOTLAND'S INDEPENDENCE

UK top court blocks bid for second vote

REUTERS

The United Kingdom's top court yesterday ruled that the Scottish government cannot hold a second referendum on independence without approval from the British parliament, dealing a hammer blow to nationalists' hopes of holding a vote next year.

In 2014, Scots rejected ending the more than 300-year-old union with England by 55pc to 45pc, but independence campaigners have argued the vote two years later for Britain to leave the European Union, which the majority of Scottish voters opposed, has materially changed the circumstances.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced earlier this year that she intended to hold an advisory independence vote on October 19, 2023, but that it had to be lawful and internationally recognised.

However, the British government in London has said it would not grant permission for another plebiscite, saying it should be a once-in-a-generation event. Polls suggest voters remain evenly split over whether or not they support independence and a vote would be too close to call.

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1:
National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs Modernization
National Board of Revenue (NBR)
IDEB Bhaban (10th Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh

Memo No. 1 (29)/Customs ICT and NSW/Misc./2018/1099 Date: 23 November 2022

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for Financial Management Specialist
(Contract Package No. NBR-SD4A)

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an USD 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) - a member of the World Bank Group - for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1(BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. Now the NBR intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring the services of a Financial Management Specialist (FMS) for its Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

2. Scope of Services:

The Financial Management Specialist (FMS) will work as a full-time member of the PIU. He/she will be responsible to strengthen and performing the role of the Financial Management and Planning aspects of the project. The activities of the FMS will be guided by, and be in conformity with, the relevant guidelines of the World Bank's Financial Management System. The FMS will have a significant role in assuring the Accounting, Budgeting System, Financial Rules, Accounting Policies, Internal Audit, audit and Procedures in conformance with the requirements of the Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers; Procurement in IPF, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting Services, July 2016 and the procurement laws and Rules of Bangladesh. He/she should not have any conflict of interest while working and should keep all the project information confidential. Detailed scope of works (Terms of Services) and other information will be available upon request from the address provided below, either through email or in person. TOR is also available in National Board of Revenue's website (www.nbr.gov.bd).

3. General Qualification and Experience:

- Bachelor degree in Accounting/Finance/Commerce/Business Administration along with a professional accounting qualification such as CA/CMA/ACCA/CFA/CPA etc.
- Ten (10) years' experience in financial management position.
- Out of Ten (10) years' at least three (3) years in a management position in any government/ semi government/ multinational organizations/development partner funded development project.
- Actively involved and fully conversant with large contract payments, GOB budget and planning procedures, Development Project Proposals, rules and regulations of the Government for budgeting, fund release, accounting, financial reporting and auditing and authorization for use of donors' funds.
- Experience/ exposure on World Bank's fund operating conditions & reporting requirements would be an advantage.

4. Specific skills and Experience:

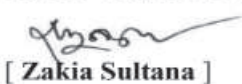
- a) Fully conversant and hands on experience in Computerized Accounting Systems with ability to assist in implementation and customization;
- b) Proven track record of ability to develop a Chart of Accounts with relevance to DPP, Disbursement Categories and Project Components.
- c) Self-guided, strong organizational and planning skills with the ability to work independently as a team player and under pressure.
- d) Strong interpersonal communicative skills and experience in team leadership and participatory management.

5. Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1(BRCP1), Component 3: Implementation of National Single Window (NSW) Project now invites eligible Applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. The Applicants are requested to submit their: (a) CV (Curriculum Vitae), which will indicate that they are qualified to perform the assignment;(b) expected remuneration and (c) submission letter as per the prescribed format.

6. The Financial Management Specialist (FMS) will be selected in accordance with the "World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (July 2016)". It is expected that the Financial Management Specialist's service will commence from the First week of January, 2023 at Dhaka. The duration of the consultancy services would be for 12 (Twelve) months, depending on the need of the client and the satisfactory performance of the consultant, the contract period may be extended through mutual agreement.

7. Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted 02 (two) hard copies and electronic/soft copy (CD/DVD/e-mail) by 08 Of December 2022 up to 4:00 PM either in sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Financial Management Specialist" in the email's subject line or on top of the envelope or through email sent to the following undersigned address.

The Project authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without assigning any reason, whatsoever.


[Zakia Sultana]
Project Director
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1:
National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization
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