INTERNATIONAL

Xi's 3-day Saudi visit starts today

AFP, Riyadh

Chinese President Xi Jinping will arrive in Saudi Arabia today for a three-day visit, his first to the world's biggest crude oil exporter since 2016, Saudi state media reported yesterday.

The visit will include a bilateral summit chaired by Saudi King Salman and attended by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Xi, head of the world's second biggest economy, will also attend a summit with rulers from the sixmember Gulf Cooperation Council and talks convening leaders from elsewhere in the Middle East, the state news agency said.

The Chinese leader's arrival coincides heightened tensions between Saudi Arabia and the United States over issues ranging from energy policy to regional security and human rights.

ABU AKLEH KILLING Al Jazeera files case at ICC

AFP, The Hague

TV network Al Jazeera submitted the case of slain journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to the International Criminal Court yesterday, saying she was killed by

Israeli forces. The Qatar-based channel said it had "unearthed new evidence" on the death of theournalist, shot while covering an Israel army raid

in Jenin on May 11. Any person or group can file a complaint to the ICC prosecutor for investigation, but the Hague-based court is under no obligation to

take on such cases. Al Jazeera said its submission highlighted "new witness evidence and video footage (that) clearly show that Shireen and her colleagues were directly fired at by the Israeli Occupation Forces."

The ICC last year launched a probe into war crimes in the Palestinian territories, but Israel is not an ICC member and disputes the court's jurisdiction.

Israel said it would not cooperate with any external probe into Abu Akleh's death.



Health workers wait to test passengers for the Covid-19 coronavirus after their arrival at Hongqiao railway station in Shanghai, yesterday. Residents of China's capital were allowed into parks, supermarkets, offices and airports without a negative Covid-19 test yesterday, the latest in a mix of easing steps nationwide after unprecedented protests against a tough zero-Covid policy.

Polluters' policies not enough for 1.5C limit

UN summit to protect nature begins today

AFP, Paris

The climate policies of most wealthy countries and many high-emitting emerging economies are in line with global heating far beyond the safer 1.5

degree Celsius limit reaffirmed at UN climate talks last month, a new analysis found yesterday.

raised countries their ambitions to emissions of greenhouse gases in the last 18 months, Paris Equity assessment found that the United States, Canada, Australia and the EU are working off plans that could see warming

between 2.1C and 3.4C.

including China, Russia, Saudi Arabia of Earth's wildlife and natural spaces. and Turkey are even worse -- implying Negotiators hope that the two-week catastrophic 5C heating by the end of

In contrast, most of the world's poorest countries are on course to stay within the 1.5C limit, according to the assessment, which is based on peer reviewed methodology and looks at the ambition of countries' climate targets published up to November this year.

Countries have agreed to a goal to

limit average warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels, which scientists say is a safer guardrail to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate

Barely 1.2C of warming to date has unleashed a crescendo of

deadly and costly extreme weather, from heat waves and drought to flooding and tropical storms made more destructive by rising

Currently, world is heading for around 2.5C under current commitments and plans.

Meanwhile. countries have gathered yesterday for a key UN nature conference in Montreal, aiming to broker a new The policies of emerging nations global agreement to protect what's left summit, known as COP15, yields a deal that ensures there is more "nature"

animals, plants, and healthy ecosystems in 2030 than what exists now.

More than 1 million species are now threatened with extinction, vanishing at a rate not seen in 10 million years. As much as 40% of Earth's land surfaces are considered degraded, according to a 2022 UN assessment.

Covid-19 was manmade virus!

NDTV ONLINE

GD-2260

In what appears to be an astonishing revelation, a USbased scientist, who worked at a controversial research lab in China's Wuhan, has said that Covid-19 was a "man-made virus" that leaked from the facility.

Covid was leaked from Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), a state-run and funded research facility, two years ago, the New York Post reported, quoting USbased researcher Andrew Huff's statement in the

British newspaper The Sun. According to the New York Post report, Huff is the former vice president of the EcoHealth Alliance, a non-

profit organisation that studies infectious diseases. In his latest book, "The Truth About Wuhan," epidemiologist Huff claims that the pandemic was caused by the US government's funding of coronaviruses in China.

Huff claims in his book that China's gain-offunction experiments were conducted with inadequate security, resulting in a leak at the Wuhan lab.

"China knew from day one that this was a genetically engineered agent," Huff wrote. "The US government is to blame for the transfer of dangerous biotechnology to the Chinese."

BAN ON SEX OUTSIDE MARRIAGE Indonesia House okays legislation

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia's parliament yesterday approved legislation that would outlaw sex outside marriage in a move critics said was a huge setback to rights in the world's most populous Muslim country. A revision of Indonesia's criminal code, which stretches back to the Dutch colonial era, has been debated for decades. Rights groups had protested against the amendments, denouncing a crackdown on civil liberties and political freedoms. The new code, which still needs to be approved by president Joko Widodo, will come into force after three years. According to the text seen by AFP, sex outside of marriage will be punished with one year in prison while unmarried people living together could face six months in jail.

Afghan blast kills 7

AFP, Mazar-i-Sharif

A roadside bomb killed seven petroleum company employees aboard a bus in northern Afghanistan vesterday, a provincial police spokesman said. "The bomb was placed in a cart by the roadside. It was detonated as the bus arrived," said Asif Waziri, of the Balkh police department in Mazar-i-Sharif. Although the Taliban claim to have improved security across the nation since storming back to power in August last year, there have been scores of bomb blasts and attacks -- many claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State group. Waziri told AFP Tuesday's blast happened around 7:00 am (0230 GMT) near Sayed Abad Square in the city. He said six people were injured in the blast.

DEATH OF JOURNO IN KENYA Pak SC to oversee probe

REUTERS, Islamabad

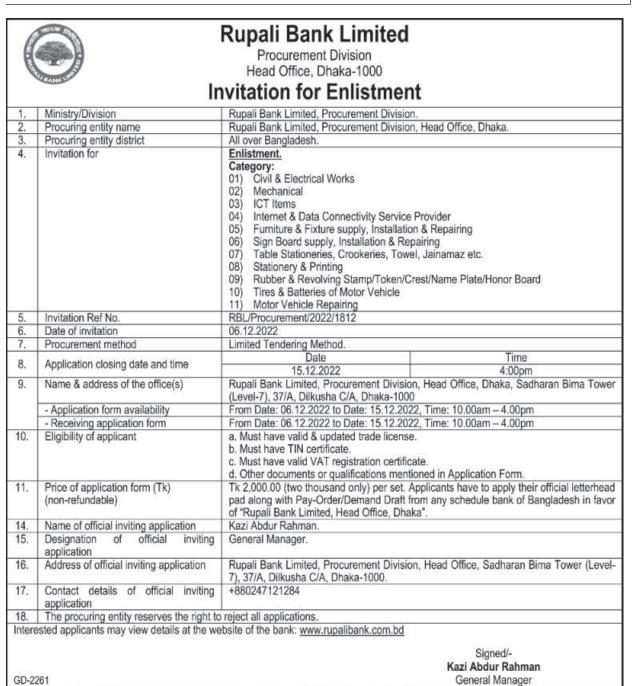
Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday set up a panel of five judges to supervise an investigation into the death of a prominent journalist who was shot and killed in Kenya, the court said. The Supreme Court said it had taken up the case voluntarily. Journalist Arshad Sharif, 50, was killed on Oct. 23 while travelling in a vehicle on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. Kenyan police said it was a case of mistaken identity. Sharif had earlier fled from Pakistan citing threats to his life after the government registered a treason case against him. The case stemmed from reporting he did that led to an accusation he had spread a call from an official in a previous government, led by former cricket star Imran Khan, for members of the armed forces to mutiny. Sharif worked for many years as a prime-time television news show host for ARY News in Pakistan. Imran Khan said Sharif had been murdered for his journalistic work. He called for a judicial investigation.

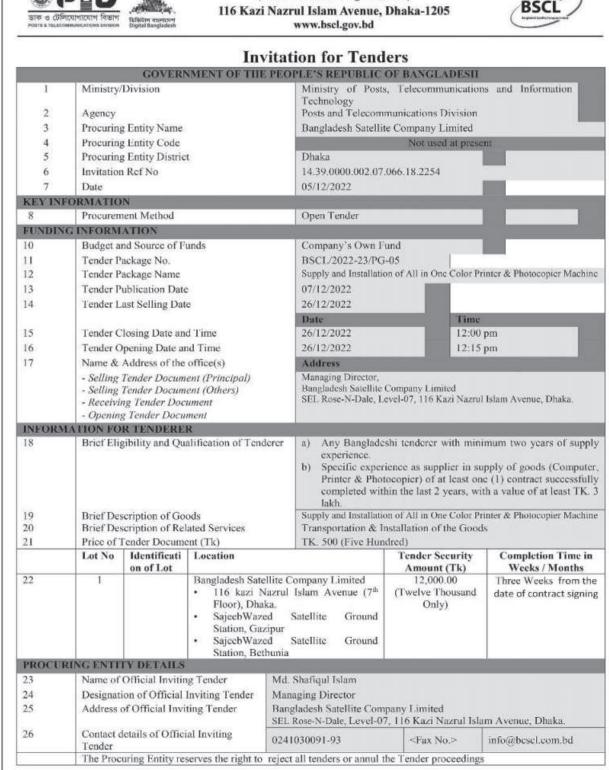
(Signed)

Md. Shafiqul Islam

Managing Director

Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited





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