Pak court frees

rapist after deal

to marry victim

A Pakistan court freed a rapist after he married

his victim in a settlement brokered by a council of

elders in the northwest of the country, his lawyer

who say it legitimises sexual violence against

women in a country where a majority of rape goes

imprisonment by a lower court in Buner district

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province for raping a deaf

woman. He was released from prison on Monday

after the Peshawar High Court accepted an out-

of-court settlement agreed by the rape survivor's

delivered a baby earlier this year, and a paternity

in Pakistan, where women are often treated as

test proved he was the child's biological father.

that go to trial is lower than three percent.

said it was "appalled" by the ruling.

Khan was arrested after his unmarried victim

Rape is notoriously difficult to prosecute

In Pakistan, the conviction rate of rape cases

"This is effectively the court's approval of rape

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

and facilitation of rapists and rape mentality," Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir, a lawyer and human rights activist, said of the Peshawar court decision.

Trump tax returns to

be released tomorrow

Former Republican President Donald Trump's

redacted tax returns will be made public

tomorrow, a spokesperson for the US House of

Representatives Ways and Means Committee

said on Tuesday. The Democratic-controlled

committee obtained the returns last month as

part of an investigation into Trump's taxes, after

a lengthy court battle that ended with the US

Supreme Court ruling in the committee's favor.

The committee released a report into its findings

last week, which said the Internal Revenue Service

(IRS) broke its own rules by not auditing Trump

for three of the four years of his presidency. The

documents to be released on Friday are expected

to include Trump's tax returns filed between

2015 and 2021, the years he ran for and served as

Ethnic fighting kills

Clashes have killed 56 people during four days of

fighting in South Sudan's eastern Jonglei state,

after youth from the Nuer community attacked

another ethnic group, a local official said, with the

Nuer making up most of the casualties. The territory of South Sudan, which gained independence from

Sudan in 2011, has been plagued by blood feuds and clashes over cattle and land for decades. Armed Nuer youth began attacking the Murle community on Dec. 24 in Gumuruk County and Likuangole County, said a government official. He said 51 of

56 in South Sudan

The decision has outraged rights activists,

Dawlat Khan, 25, was sentenced in May to life

AFP, Peshawar

said yesterday.

unreported.

second-class citizens.

REUTERS

president.

REUTERS, Juba

INTERNATIONAL

NY digs out from blizzard Death toll rises to 60

REUTERS, Buffalo

Storm-weary road crews and residents of western New York state struggled on Tuesday to dig out from a deadly weekend blizzard, with snow still falling and forecasts for rapid warming and rains that could cause flooding and turn the frozen landscape to slush.

The region in and around Buffalo, New York, downwind of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario emerged as ground zero for an Arctic deep freeze and massive winter storm that extended over most of the US last week and through the Christmas holiday as far south as the Mexican border.

Confirmed storm-related deaths in New York's Erie and Niagara counties rose to 32 on Tuesday, officials said. Nationwide, at least 60 people died in weather-related incidents in recent days, NBC News reported.

The situation was expected to change dramatically. The NWS forecast a rapid thaw later this week, with spring-like temperatures well above freezing and well above normal, accompanied by rain that could unleash flooding.



This aerial photo taken yesterday shows a multi-vehicle collision on Zhengxin Yellow River Bridge in Zhengzhou, in China's central Henan province. One person died during the highway pile-up.

'Seoul must respond to N Korea's provocations'

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korean President Yoon Suk-veol yesterday said that any provocation by North Korea must be met with retaliation without hesitation despite its nuclear weapons, his office said, after an intrusion by North Korean drones.

Five North Korean drones crossed into South Korea on Monday, prompting South Korea's military to scramble fighter jets and attack helicopters to try to shoot them down, in the first such intrusion

'We must punish and retaliate against any provocation by North Korea. That is the most powerful means to deter provocations," Yoon said in a meeting with his aides, according to his press secretary Kim Eun-hye. "We must not fear or hesitate because North Korea has nuclear weapons," he said.

Monday's intrusion triggered criticism in South Korea of its air defences. Yoon chided the military, in particular its failure to bring down the drones while they flew over South Korea for hours. South Korea responded on Monday by sending drones over North Korea for three hours.

Next 40 days crucial

Says India as it predicts surge in Covid cases in January

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India may see a surge in Covid-19 cases in January and the coming 40 days are going time around, deaths and to be crucial, health ministry sources said yesterday citing the pattern of previous outbreaks.

"Previously, it has been noticed that a new wave of Covid-19 hits India around 30-35 days after it hits East Asia.... This has been a trend," a ministry official said.

He, however, said the severity of the infection this time is less and even if there is a wave, deaths and hospitalisation will be very low, they said.

passengers arriving from China of this BF.7 subvariant is very

and five other places to have negative RT-PCR reports from next week, the sources said.

Even if there is a wave this hospitalisation will be very low, the Health Ministry sources said.

Amid a spike in Covid-19 cases in some countries, including China and South Korea, India has sounded an alert. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya have held meetings to assess the country's preparedness to deal with a fresh surge in cases.

The latest spike in cases is being driven by Omicron sub-The Indian government is variant BF.7. Health ministry likely to make it mandatory for sources said the transmissibility

high and an infected person can infect 16 more persons.

Beijing's sudden pivot away from containing Covid-19 has caused jitters around the world, with the United States saying it may restrict travel from China following its decision to end mandatory quarantine for overseas arrivals.

China late Monday scrapped quarantine for inbound travellers from January 8 onwards, dismantling the last remaining piece of its stringent zero-Covid policy and ending some of the world's harshest border restrictions. The move was greeted with jubilation by Chinese citizens, who rushed to book international flights, triggering a surge in ticket prices.



Ministry/Division

meeting (optional)

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Inspector General Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

Invitation for Local Tender (OTM) (National)

License along with Vcloud Suit 2019 Advanced with NSX-T enterprise for 8 core Processor in FY 2022-2023.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Memo No-ICT/44.01.0000.438.07.032.22/16

Date: 28/12/2022 Sealed tenders are hereby invited from well-reputed and experienced firms in their official pad for the Purchase for Upgradation of Vmware

	THE STATE OF THE S	William of Home Hilliams				
2	Agency	Bangladesh Police				
3	Procuring Entity Name	AIG (ICT), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.				
4	Invitation for	Purchase for Upgradation of Vmware License along with Vcloud Suit 2019 Advanced with NSX-T enterprise for 8 core Processor.				
5	Invitation Ref. No.	ICT/44.01.0000.438.07.032.22/16 (2022-2023)				
6	Date	28 December 2022				
KEY INFO	RMATION					
7 Procurement Method		Open Tendering Method (OTM).				
FUNDING	INFORMATION					
8 Budget and source of fur		Revenue Budget (GOB)-4113301-Computer Software				
PARTICU	LAR INFORMATION					
9	Tender Publication date	29 December 2022				
10 Tender last selling date		14 January 2023				
11	Tender closing date and time	15 January 2023 at 15:00 hrs				
12 Tender opening date and time		t 15 January 2023 at 15:30 hrs				
NAME &	ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE	1				
13 N	ame & address of the office	Police Headquarters, 6 Phoenix Road, Fullbaria, Dhaka 1000				
S	elling tender document	AIG (ICT), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka				
R	eceiving tender document	AIG (ICT), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka				
C	pening tender document	NCCOM Building (3rd Floor) Police Headquarters, 6 Phoenix Road, Fullbaria, Dhaka 1000				
14 P	lace/date/time of pre-tender	9 January 2023, at 11:30 hrs. NCCOM Building (3rd Floor) Hall of Harmony Conference				

7) Other requirements described in the standard tender document (PG-3). 16 BRIEF DESCRITION OF Service Identification of Software Quantity Price of tender document | Tender security in Taka Tender Completion (Non-refundable)

Room, Police Headquarters, 6 Phoenix Road, Fullbaria, Dhaka

Eligibility of The bidder shall have 1) Valid trade license 2) Current income tax certificate, 3) VAT registration and 4) Shall be

Financially solvent. 5) Shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract 6) Must not be blacklisted and bankrupted

					Time		
9	Purchase for Upgradation of Vmware License along with Vcloud Suit 2019 Advanced with NSX-T enterprise for 8 core Processor.	01(One) Unit	3000/- (Three Thousand) Taka	5,50,000/- (Five Lac Fifty Thousand) taka	60 (Sixty) days		
Proc	curing Entity Details:	AV					
17	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Zannatul Hasan,BPM(Bar)					
18	Designation of the official inviting tender	AIG (ICT), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka					
19	Address of official inviting tender	NCCOM Building (3rd Floor) Police Headquarters, 6 Phoenix Road, Fullbaria, Dhaka 1000					
20	Contact details of official inviting the tender	Tel: 02-223355312 E-mail: aigict@police.gov.bd					
	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS						
	a) No tender will be received after the deadline of submission time & date.						
	b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason.						
	c) The Procuring entity also reserves the right to omit, increase and/or decrease the quantity of any item(s) from the tender.						
	d) If not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same tender will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue.						
	e) Evaluation will be on the basis of total price.						

f) The Procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Rules 2008.

Md. Zannatul Hasan, BPM(Bar) BP-7203020852 AIG (ICT) On behalf of Inspector General Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka. Tel: 02-223355312 E-mail: aigict@police.gov.bd

d 28.12.22

"The infection surge in China is on expected lines. If you have a susceptible population that is not exposed to the virus, cases will rise. Nothing has changed for the rest of the world, including India."

Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, an epidemiologist and health systems specialist.



Taliban must revoke bans on women **Says UNSC**

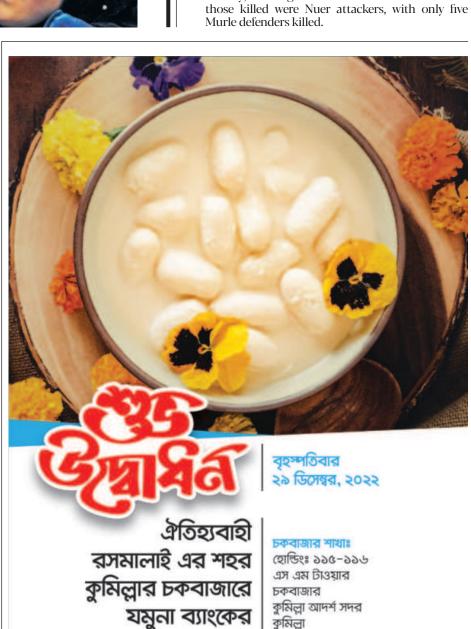
REUTERS, United Nations

The UN Security Council has called for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in Afghanistan, denouncing a ban by the Taliban-led government on women attending universities or working for humanitarian aid

groups. In a statement agreed by consensus, the 15-member council on Friday said the ban on women and girls attending high school and universities in Afghanistan "represents an increasing erosion for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

The university ban on women was announced as the Security Council in New York met on Afghanistan last week. Girls have been banned from high school since March.

The council said a ban on female humanitarian workers, announced on Saturday, "would have a significant and immediate impact humanitarian operations in country," including those of the United Nations.



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