

Hunger rising sharply in Syria: WFP

REUTERS, Dubai

Hunger and malnutrition are rising sharply in Syria and more than half its population is short of food after 12 years of war, economic pressures and last month's earthquake, the World Food Program said yesterday.

"The situation is worse than ever in Syria, the United Nations agency's Middle East director, Corrine Fleischer, told Reuters.

About 55 percent of Syria's population of some 12.1 million people are food insecure and a further 2.9 million are at risk of sliding into hunger, a WFP report said.

Data show malnutrition is rising and that stunting and maternal malnutrition rates are at unprecedented levels.

"We're very, very concerned that hunger is on a steep rise in Syria," Fleischer said.

An earthquake in February which killed at least 53,000 across Syria and Turkey came on top of social and economic hardship of 12 years of war and a weakening Syrian pound. As agencies responded to the earthquake, the head of the WFP a month ago called on authorities in northwestern Syria, which is controlled by insurgents at war with forces loyal to President Assad, to stop blocking access to the area.



French protesters carry a banner that reads "No to the pension reform" during a demonstration on the 8th day of strikes and protests across the country against the government's proposed pensions overhaul in Calais, France yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Japan parliament expels YouTuber MP

AFP, Tokyo

A celebrity gossip YouTuber-turned-lawmaker became the first MP expelled by Japan's parliament in over 70 years yesterday, having not shown up to work once. Yoshikazu Higashitani, known by his online moniker GaaSyy, had been ordered to apologise for his months-long absence earlier in March. But the lawmaker, one of two elected members of the fringe party Seijika Joshi 48, or "Politician Girls 48", did not attend that parliamentary session either. Higashitani, 51, had not set foot in the House of Councillors since his July 2022 election, despite a requirement for lawmakers to be present. The former businessman and YouTuber has instead remained at his home in Dubai, claiming he may be arrested if he returns to Japan, where he reportedly faces questioning over alleged defamation. Japan's Upper House decided on Tuesday to expel him from parliament. The move was made official yesterday -- making him the first Japanese lawmaker to be expelled since 1951, local media reported. Higashitani will be replaced by another member of his party.

CYCLONE FREDDY  
Death toll in Malawi and Mozambique passes 270

REUTERS, Blantyre/Maputo

Malawi and Mozambique were racing to rescue survivors from Tropical Cyclone Freddy yesterday as the death toll rose above 270 from one of the most powerful storms recorded in the southern hemisphere.

Freddy tore through southern Africa for the second time in a month over the weekend and was still causing heavy rain yesterday, hampering relief efforts.

Malawi's disaster management department said in a statement that the death toll from the second hit stood at 225, up from 190 on Tuesday.

In neighbouring Mozambique at least 21 people had died as of Tuesday, according to the disaster agency.

The overall death toll since Freddy first made landfall in February is now estimated at more than 270 in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar.



A woman walks past a damaged vehicle after a Russian missile strike in the city of Kharkiv yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Strike grips Lanka  
Trade unions cripple hospitals, ports, banks to protest IMF bailout

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka deployed armed troops as trade unions crippled hospitals, ports and banks yesterday to protest against high income taxes imposed as a precondition for a crucial IMF bailout.

Schools cancelled term tests and outpatient departments at hospitals closed due to the work stoppage that involved more than 40 trade unions. Fewer vehicles were seen on roads.

Dockers at the main sea port in Colombo stayed away while air traffic controllers joined the combined industrial action to carry out "go slow" for two hours affecting at least 14 international flights.

"All considered, our work-to-rule was for two hours, but we will consider a full-blown strike if the government does not roll back the new tax rates," Rajitha Seneviratne, secretary of the air traffic controllers' association, told AFP.

Armed soldiers were deployed at railway stations as well as the port as the government tried to restore minimum services. Dock workers had a tense standoff with the military inside the port, but there were no reports of clashes.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office said 20 trains operated to bring office workers to the capital, but unions said it was less than five percent of the daily services.

State-run buses were also operating, the president's office said, but only a few of them were seen on the roads while attendance in schools, offices and factories had dropped sharply yesterday.

The strike came despite a ban imposed by Wickremesinghe last month, and warnings that violators could lose their jobs.

**Pabna University of Science & Technology**  
Office of the  
Project Director, Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project  
Rajapur, Pabna-6600.

**Invitation for Expression of Interest  
for  
Appointment of Architect/Architectural Firm**

Sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) Applications are hereby invited from competent candidates for appointment of an Architect/Architectural Firm to Prepare Interior Architectural Design for the office of Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Treasurer of Pabna University of Science & Technology at the under Construction 10 storied Administrative Building at PUST Campus, Rajapur, Pabna as per the following terms and conditions stated below :

Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Education/Secondary and Higher Education Division.
Agency	:	Pabna University of Science and Technology.
Procuring Entity Name	:	Project Director, Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project, PUST, Pabna.
Procuring Entity Code	:	MOE SHED Code-1250101 - 224262400
Procuring Entity District	:	Pabna.
Inviting Expression of Interest for Selection of	:	01 (One) Architect (Individual Consultant)/Architectural Firm for Interior Architectural Design works for the PUST Development Project.
EOI Ref: No and Date	:	PUST/PD/10 Storied Admin Building/PD-2007 , Date : 15 March 2023
Project/Programme Name	:	Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project.
Selection Method	:	Fixed Budget Selection Method
Source of Fund	:	OWN fund of PUST Development Project.

**Applicants eligibility, experiences, assignments etc**

Title of Consultant	No. of Consultant	Minimum Educational Qualification	Professional Minimum Working Experience	Assignments
Architect/Architectural Firm	01 (One)	Bachelor Degree in Architecture from any recognized University	05 five) Years	(1) The responsibilities of the consultant is to provide Interior Architectural Drawing/ Design for the office of the VC, Pro-VC and Treasurer at the newly built 10 Storied Admin Building and PUST Development Project. (2) Supervise the interior architectural design works by the contractor/Supplier/ service Provider as per the direction of Engineers in-charge.

Availability of Application Form/Format, Terms of Reference (TOR), Format of Request for Application (RFA)	:	Complete set of Standard Request for Application Documents including Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available at Deputy Director, Local Govt Pabna, SP office Pabna and Janata Bank Ltd, PUST Branch, Pabna. The cost of document is TK-1000.00
Expected duration of the service contract	:	03 Months or 90 (ninety) days.
Location of Works	:	PUST Campus, Rajapur, Pabna.
Expected Commencement & Completion Date of Contract:	:	The Expected Commencement Date of Works may be from 14 May 2023 and likely Completion of Works 16 August, 2023
Name of Official Inviting EOI with designation	:	Engineer Lt Colonel G M Azizur Rahman, afwc, psc (Retd), Project Director, PUST Development Project, Pabna.
Dead line/Last Date, Time and Place for EOI/ Application Submission	:	On or before 1200 hours 09 April 2023, place: DD LG, Pabna, SP office Pabna and PD office, PUST, Pabna.
EOI Opening Date, Time and Place.	:	Project Directors office, PUST Campus, Pabna.
Location of Works	:	10 Storied Admin Building (Level-3,4 &5) of PUST Project, PUST Campus, Pabna.
Special Note/Other Information	:	(1) EOI shall be submitted as per the prescribed form (Preferably). (2) EOI shall be submitted in the sealed envelope and those shall be clearly marked as Expression of Interest for Selection of Architect/Architect Ural Firm envelope. (3) Contract Address with mail and Mobile Number of the application should be written on the left side of the envelope. (4) The applicant need to submit Curriculum Vitae (CV). Along with copies of academic training and experience Certificate and one passport size recent photo. (5) 02 sets of EOI (Original +01 Copy) filled in the prescribed form (Preferably). With supporting documents shall be submitted. (6) Applicants shall provide information need to submit documents indicating their competence to perform the expected/said service/Works. (7) Experience on similar nature of works specially on the design and supervision on interior architectural works will be given preference. (8) Delayed submission of application will not be acceptable.

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to change or rectify any terms and condition of the standard request for Application (SRFA) documents, advertisement Notice and of the TOR. The Entity also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without assigning/mentioning reason/reasons.

15/03/2023  
**Engineer Lt Colonel G M Azizur Rahman**  
afwc, psc (Retd)  
Project Director  
Pabna University of Science and Technology  
Development Project  
Pabna University of Science and Technology  
Rajapur, Pabna-6600.  
Mobile: 01911-218988  
e-mail: azizur2007@gmail.com

GD- 485

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Local Government Engineering Department**  
**Office of the Upazila Engineer**  
Sherpur, Bogura  
<http://lged.sherpur.bogra.gov.bd/>

"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo.No.46.02.1088.404.14.002.21-256

Date : 15-03-2023

**e-GP Tender Notice No :09/2022-23 (OTM)**

e-Tender Is Invited in The National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for 1 (One) Package For The procurement of.

Sl. No	Tender ID No	Name of work	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	786342	Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of DHARMOKAMSHATUKAN RPS under PEDP4, Sherpur, Bogura	02-04-2023 03.00 PM	03-04-2023 11.00 PM

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to specified date and time mentioned in the e-GP system. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from egp help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(Md Liaquat Hossain)  
Upazila Engineer  
Sherpur, Bogura.  
e-mail : [ue.bogura.sherpur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.bogura.sherpur@lged.gov.bd)

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