

# India is not what the media shows

## Says Rahul Gandhi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has accused India's BJP government of "threatening" the people and "misusing" the country's probe agencies, and attacked the Indian media for projecting a narrative that suits the saffron party.

Speaking at an Indian diaspora event in Santa Clara, California, on Tuesday, Gandhi claimed the BJP and the RSS are controlling all the instruments of politics in India.

"The BJP is threatening people and misusing government agencies. The Bharat Jodo Yatra started because all the instruments that we needed to connect with the people were controlled by the BJP-RSS," he said.

"We were also finding that in some way, it had become quite difficult to act politically. And that's why we decided to walk from the southernmost tip of India to Srinagar," he said.

Rahul Gandhi alleged India is not what is being shown in the media which likes to promote a political narrative that is far from reality, claiming there is a "huge distortion".

"It was very clear to me in the Yatra that it's in the media's interest to project these things, it helps the BJP. So, don't think that everything you see in the media is the truth," he said.

# EXPULSION OF INDIAN JOURNOS

## China says it took 'appropriate' action

REUTERS, Beijing

China said yesterday it had taken "appropriate" action in response to India's unfair treatment of Chinese journalists, in the latest episode to highlight tense relations between the big Asian neighbours.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday that China and India had ejected nearly all of each other's journalists in recent weeks.

Citing people familiar with the matter, the newspaper said India had this month declined to renew the visas of the last two Chinese state media journalists in India.

Meanwhile, at least two Indian reporters had not been granted visas to return to China and a third was told that his accreditation had been revoked. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, asked about the report, said Chinese reporters had been treated unfairly in India for years.

"What I can tell you is that for a long time, Chinese journalists have suffered unfair and discriminatory treatment in India, and in 2017, the Indian side shortened the visa validity of Chinese journalists to three months or even one month for no reason," the spokesperson, Mao Ning, told a briefing.

# UN COURT VERDICT

## Milosevic aides handed longer jail terms

AFP, The Hague

A UN court sentenced two of late Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic's spy chiefs to 15 years in jail on appeal yesterday in the last major Hague war crimes trial from the 1990s Bosnian conflict.

Judges rejected appeals by former state security service boss Jovica Stanisic and his deputy Franko Simatovic against their 2021 convictions, and added three years to their original sentences of 12 years.

# EVEREST 'DEATH ZONE' RESCUE

## Nepali sherpa saves Malaysian climber

REUTERS, Kathmandu

A Malaysian climber narrowly survived after a Nepali sherpa guide hauled him down from below the summit of Mount Everest in a "very rare" high altitude rescue, a government official said yesterday.

Gelje Sherpa, 30, was guiding a Chinese client to the 8,849 metre (29,032 feet) Everest summit on May 18 when he saw the Malaysian climber clinging to a rope and shivering from extreme cold in the area called the "death zone", where temperatures can dip to minus 30 degrees Celsius (86F) or lower.

Gelje hauled the climber 600 metres (1,900 feet) down from the Balcony area

to the South Col, over a period of about six hours, where Nima Tahi Sherpa, another guide, joined the rescue.

"We wrapped the climber in a sleeping mat, dragged him on the snow or carried him in turns on our backs to camp III," Gelje said.

A helicopter using a long line then lifted him from the 7,162-metre (23,500 feet) high Camp III down to base camp.

"It is almost impossible to rescue climbers at that altitude," Department of Tourism official Bigyan Koirala told Reuters. "It is a very rare operation."

Gelje said he convinced his Chinese client to give up his summit attempt and descend the mountain, saying it was important for him to rescue the climber.



Activists of the All Tribal Students Union Manipur (ATSUM) hold placards during a protest amid ongoing ethnic violence in India's northeastern Manipur state, in New Delhi, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# SOUTH CHINA SEA FIGHTER JET INCIDENT

## Beijing blames US 'provocation'

AFP, Beijing

Beijing yesterday blamed US "provocation" for an incident last week in which a Chinese plane crossed in front of an American surveillance aircraft over the South China Sea.

The incident comes at a time of frayed ties between Washington and Beijing over issues including Taiwan, which China regards as its territory, and the shooting down of an alleged Chinese spy balloon that flew over the United States this year.

"The United States' long-term and frequent sending of ships and planes to conduct close surveillance on China seriously harms China's national sovereignty and security," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said when asked about the latest incident.

"This kind of provocative, dangerous

activity is the cause of the security issues on the seas," Mao said, calling on Washington to "immediately stop this form of dangerous provocation".

"China will continue to take all necessary steps to resolutely protect its own sovereignty and security," she said.

US military said on Tuesday a Chinese fighter pilot performed an "unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" near an American surveillance aircraft operating over South China Sea last week.

Video footage released by US military shows a Chinese fighter plane crossing in front of American aircraft.

The Chinese plane "flew directly in front of and within 400 feet of the nose of the RC-135, forcing the US aircraft to fly through its wake turbulence" on Friday, the Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement.

# Bail for ex-Pak PM extended until June 19

REUTERS, Karachi

The bail for Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has been extended until June 19 in the Al Qadir Trust graft case, his lawyer said yesterday.

Khan's May 9 arrest sparked widespread protests by his supporters, raising fresh worries about the stability of the nuclear-armed country as it struggles with its worst economic crisis in decades. He has denied any wrongdoing.

He was freed on bail on May 12 for an initial two weeks. Yesterday, he got a three-day bail extension from a high court and later a further extension from trial court until June 19.

# COOPERATION TALKS

## Top Chinese intel official visits Myanmar

AFP, Yangon


A top Chinese intelligence official has visited Myanmar to discuss military "cooperation" with the junta, Myanmar state media reported yesterday, the latest high-profile delegation sent by Beijing to its internationally isolated ally. Myanmar has been in turmoil since a 2021 coup that sparked renewed clashes with ethnic rebels and the formation of dozens of "People's Defence Forces" now battling the junta. It is the first publicly reported visit by a military official from China, a major ally and arms supplier of the junta, since the coup. Major-General Yang Yang, acting director-general of the Intelligence Bureau of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission, met the junta's number two official, Soe Win, for talks on "cooperation between the two armies", state media said. The two also discussed "cooperation in peace, tranquillity and development programmes for border areas" at the Tuesday meeting, according to state-run newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar.

# North Korea 'spy satellite' crashes into sea

AFP, Seoul

North Korea attempted to launch a spy satellite yesterday but it crashed into the sea after a rocket failure, with the South Korean military retrieving part of the likely wreckage in a potential intelligence bonanza. North Korea does not have a functioning satellite in space and leader Kim Jong Un has made developing a military spy satellite a top priority for his regime, despite UN resolutions banning its use of such technology. Pyongyang had said in the build-up to the launch attempt that the satellite would be vital to monitoring the military movements of the United States and its allies. But the rocket lost thrust and plunged into the sea with its satellite payload, the official Korean Central News Agency reported. It added that authorities would investigate the "serious defects" revealed by the launch and conduct another test as soon as possible.



**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**

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### Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) For Selection of Individual Consultant

**Memo No: 53.23.0000.001.03.053.23-4650**  
**EOI Ref No: PKSF/SEP/S-15.2**  
**Date: 01 June 2023**


Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services (**Package: PKSF/SEP/S-15.2 - Selection of consultant for documentation of the best practices and lessons learned in the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP)**) by an individual consultant (national). The scope of work and the qualification and experience required for the assignment are detailed in the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) now invites eligible applicants to express their interest and provide information regarding their qualification (complete CV as per the prescribed format) to perform the service. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the *Individual Consultant Selection (ICS)* method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations. The evaluation criteria are Educational qualification, Relevant work experience, Development partner funded project experience, Journal publications, and Capacity to handle assignments. It is expected that the service will be commenced in July 2023 and continued over a period of 06 (six) months. A lump-sum contract will be signed with the awarded consultant.

Interested consultants are required to submit their applications in accordance with the standard CV format. A copy of the TOR and the CV format can be downloaded from the website ([www.pksf.org.bd/tender](http://www.pksf.org.bd/tender)) or obtained from the PKSF office within 10.00 AM to 03.00 PM. EOI shall be submitted by **14 June 2023 at 02.00 PM** at the PKSF office in a sealed envelope to the undersigned and clearly marked **"Expression of Interest (EOI) for the selection of consultant for documentation of the best practices and lessons learned in the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP) (Package: PKSF/SEP/S-15.2)"**. All the necessary documents in support of educational qualifications, experiences, and other criteria mentioned in the TOR have to be submitted with the EOI.

PKSF reserves the right to reject any or all applications at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**AQM Golam Mawla**  
Deputy Managing Director-2, PKSF

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**Memo No. 53.23.0000.001.03.055.23-4656**  
**Date: 01.06.2023**

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES - FIRMS SELECTION)

<p><b>Country:</b> Bangladesh <b>Name of Project:</b> Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE) <b>Credit No:</b> 6841-BD <b>Assignment Title:</b> Selection of a consulting firm for developing curriculum &amp; module for different sectoral (Agriculture, CMSME, Hospitality, ICT) Business Management Training. <b>Reference No:</b> PKSF/RAISE/S-03</p> <p>The Government of Bangladesh has received finance from the World Bank and implementing an economic inclusion program through the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) for low-income, less-educated urban youth, for low-income microentrepreneurs and self-employed in urban areas whose livelihoods have been impacted by COVID-19. In order to develop capacities of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and project participants of the RAISE in designing &amp; managing different Business Management Training in proposed 26 courses under four sectors including Agriculture, Cottage Mini small and medium enterprise (CM-SME), Information and communication Technology (ICT), Tourism and Hospitality sector enterprises effectively and make sustainable business relationships among the actors.</p> <p>I. The consulting firm will perform duties and responsibilities as per ToR, mentionably -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review the project objectives, operation guideline of the project provided by Project Management Unit (PMU), secondary information, curriculum and existing modules of the 26 trades and identify needs of the target participants;</li><li>Conduct kicks off meeting with PMU and share the initial manual development methodology;</li><li>Share the draft process, content and methodology before finalizing the design of the manuals;</li><li>Incorporate the feedback and ensure regular coordination with RAISE PMU;</li><li>Conduct FGD, KII, field test, validation workshop in mentioned 4 sectors with the assistance of the Partner Organizations (PO) of PKSF.</li></ol> <p>II. The shortlisting criteria are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nature of the core business and general experience of the Firm;</li><li>Experience in similar assignments of compatible size, complexity and technical specialty in required areas;</li><li>Financial Soundness, staffing and logistics of the firm;</li></ol> <p>Consultants are requested to <b>submit the following supporting documents</b> in support of the above-mentioned criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to Date Relevant Legal Papers of the Firm's including Trade license, TIN, VAT, Income Tax Assessment Certificate/Acknowledgement;</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>JV Agreement/Letter of Intent (if applicable) along with the proposed JV agreement [Maximum of two (2)];</li><li>Firm's brochure including staffing and logistics (Such as: permanent employees, expert pool, office nos. and space, office equipment, manpower, and other available resources);</li><li>Strong financial capability will be required (Need to submit ONLY signed Income statement and Balance sheet from last 3 years' audit report);</li><li>Any relevant licenses, certification, and accreditation</li><li>All other items necessary to substantiate satisfaction of the shortlisting criteria listed above and/or included in the TOR; However, Key experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.</li><li>The attention of interested IT/Consulting firms is drawn to Section III, paragraphs-3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth with the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.</li><li>Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a Joint Venture and/or a Sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.</li><li>A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the procurement regulations.</li><li>Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 0900 to 1600 hours. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.pksf.org.bd">www.pksf.org.bd</a> website or can be obtained upon request from the address below or either by e-mail or in person during the office hours (Local Time: 09:00 to 15:30 hours).</li><li>Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in-person, or by mail) by <b>15 June 2023 on or before 14:00 hours</b> (UTC+6 hours).</li><li>The Procuring Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.</li></ol>
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