

WAR-HIT SUDAN

Hundreds of children die of starvation

AFP, CAIRO

Starvation has killed at least 498 children and “likely hundreds more” in Sudan four months into a war between rival generals, Save the Children said yesterday.

The conflict between the army under General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo broke out on April 15.

Around 5,000 people have been killed, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, and more than four million have been uprooted.

“At least 498 children in Sudan and likely hundreds more have died from hunger, including two dozen babies in a state orphanage,” Save the Children said in a statement.

The British charity said it had been forced to close 57 of its nutrition facilities since the war began and that stocks were running “critically low” in the 108 it still operates.

“Never did we think we would see children dying from hunger in such numbers, but this is now the reality in Sudan,” said Save the Children’s Sudan country director, Arif Noor.

ALLEGED MIGRANT KILLINGS

Ethiopia unveils joint Saudi probe

AFP, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia will launch a joint investigation with Saudi Arabia into a Human Rights Watch report accusing the kingdom’s border guards of killing hundreds of Ethiopian migrants, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

“The Government of Ethiopia will promptly investigate the incident in tandem with the Saudi Authorities,” the ministry said on X, formerly Twitter, a day after the publication of the HRW report sparked global outrage.

“At this critical juncture, it is highly advised to exercise utmost restraint from making unnecessary speculations until (the) investigation is complete,” the ministry said, noting the “excellent longstanding relations” between Addis Ababa and Riyadh.

The allegations, described as “unfounded” by a Saudi government source, point to a surge in abuses along the perilous route from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians live and work.

One 20-year-old woman from Ethiopia’s Oromia region, interviewed by HRW, said Saudi border guards opened fire on a group of migrants they had just released from custody.



Local residents extinguish a fire in Avanta, near Alexandroupoli, northern Greece yesterday. Eighteen burned bodies, possibly of migrants, were found in the remote, rural area south of the village of Avantas in northern Greece yesterday where wildfires have been burning for days, the fire brigade said.

PHOTO: AFP

Militants kill six Pakistani soldiers: army

REUTERS, Islamabad

Six Pakistani soldiers were killed yesterday in a clash with Islamist militants in a northwestern region near the border with Afghanistan, the army said, adding that four of the militants were killed.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility saying its fighters had ambushed two military vehicles.

“During an intense exchange of fire, six brave soldiers, having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom,” the army said in a statement, adding that the clash took place in North Waziristan.

The rugged border region has long served as a safe haven for militants linked both to domestic Islamists who have been fighting against the state and the Afghan Taliban.

UN STUDY

AI likely to augment rather than destroy jobs

AFP, Geneva

Artificial Intelligence is more likely to augment jobs than to destroy them, a UN study indicated on Monday, at a time of growing anxiety over the potential impact of the technology.

The launch in November of the generative AI platform ChatGPT, which is capable of handling complex tasks on command, was seen as a tech landmark foreshadowing a potentially dramatic transformation of the workplace.

But a fresh study from the United Nations’ International Labour Organization (ILO) examining the potential effect of that and other platforms on job quantity and quality suggests that most jobs and industries are only partially exposed to automation.

Most are “more likely to be complemented rather than substituted by the latest wave of Generative AI, such as ChatGPT”, the ILO said.

“Therefore, the greatest impact of this technology is likely to not be job destruction but rather the potential changes to the quality of jobs, notably

work intensity and autonomy.”

The study meanwhile highlighted that the effects of technology would vary greatly between professions and regions, while it warned women were more likely than men to see their jobs affected.

It found that clerical work was the category of jobs with the greatest technological exposure, with nearly a quarter of tasks considered highly exposed and more than half of tasks having medium-level exposure.

In other occupational groups, including managers and technicians, only a small share of tasks was found to be highly exposed, while around a quarter had medium exposure levels, the ILO said.

The analysis meanwhile indicated that higher-income countries would experience the greatest effects from automation due to the important share of clerical and para-professional jobs in the job distribution there.

It found that a full 5.5 percent of total employment in high-income countries was potentially exposed to the automating effects of generative AI.



Activists hold placards that translate as “Nuclear contaminated water - Stop the discharge” and “The discharger and the one who allows it to happen - Both accomplices” during a protest against the planned release of wastewater from Japan’s stricken Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific, outside the City Hall in Seoul, South Korea yesterday, after Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced the release will begin tomorrow.

PHOTO: AFP

FORMER AFGHAN MILITARY, OFFICIALS

Over 200 members killed since Taliban takeover: UN

REUTERS

More than 200 members of Afghanistan’s former military, law enforcement and government have been killed since the Taliban took over, the UN mission in Afghanistan said yesterday, despite a “general amnesty” for old enemies.

The mission said in a report it had recorded at least 218 extrajudicial killings with links to the Taliban from their takeover of Afghanistan in mid-2021 up to June.

“In most instances, individuals were detained by de facto security forces, often briefly, before being killed,” the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said.

Senior Taliban leaders have said there is an amnesty for former



government officials and members of the military by order of their supreme leader.

The Taliban-led foreign affairs ministry said in response to UNAMA that it had not received reports of any cases of non-compliance with the order and any cases that did occur would be investigated.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk said the killings were a “betrayal of the people’s trust”

since the victims had been assured they would not be targeted. UN rights office spokesperson Jeremy Laurence said the scale of killings was “shocking” and expected the true count to be higher.

UNAMA said about half of the killings it recorded occurred in the four months after the Taliban took over, as US-backed foreign forces were withdrawing, in August 2021, and 70 were recorded in 2022.

“For the majority of violations discussed in this report, there is limited information regarding measures taken by the de facto authorities to investigate incidents and hold perpetrators to account,” UNAMA said, referring to the Taliban administration.

CAMBODIA PARLIAMENT

Hun Sen’s son elected as PM

REUTERS

Cambodia’s newly elected parliament endorsed four-star military general Hun Manet as prime minister yesterday, completing a historic transfer of power in a fast-changing country led by his father Hun Sen for nearly four decades. The Western-educated Hun Manet, 45, had the overwhelming backing of a National Assembly dominated by his Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), following an election in July that was dismissed abroad as a sham that lacked any viable opposition.

Hun Manet told lawmakers that election was free and fair and promised he would implement the CPP’s policies and ensure peace, economic growth, better infrastructure, and wage increases for civil servants and garment workers. He lauded his father and the older generation of politicians for steering Cambodia from years of devastating civil war to an era of peace, growth and better living for its people. Hun Sen, 71, a former Khmer Rouge guerrilla and self-styled strongman has pledged to remain in politics in other roles for at least a decade.



Wagner making Africa ‘freer’

Says chief of the group

AFP, Moscow

The leader of Russia’s Wagner mercenary group Yevgeny Prigozhin said in a video published Monday that his group was making Africa “freer” and suggested he was on the continent. Prigozhin, a former Kremlin ally whose group rebelled against Russia’s military leadership in June, has made few public appearances since the mutiny. The group maintains a strong military presence in Africa, where it has partnered with several nations, including Mali and the Central African Republic. “We are working. The temperature is above 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). Just how we like it,” Prigozhin said in the video, which AFP was unable to immediately verify. The video shows Prigozhin holding an assault rifle, before panning around to reveal military vehicles parked on a large, desert-like plain. “The Wagner Group is conducting reconnaissance and search activities. Making Russia even greater on every continent -- and Africa even freer,” Prigozhin said.

<div></div> <div>Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh</div> <div>Bangladesh Police</div> <div>Police Staff College Bangladesh</div>	
Memo No. 44.01.0400.062.31.001.2023.2578	
Date: 22/08/2023	
Request for Expression of Interest (Eol)	
Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Agency	Police Staff College Bangladesh
3. Procuring entity name	Rector, Police Staff College Bangladesh
4. Expression of Interest for	Conducting and publishing research report
5. Eol Ref. No.	44.01.0000.324.32.003.23.2578
6. Date	22 August 2023
KEY INFORMATION	
7. Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method
FUNDING INFORMATION	
8. Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget Research head for FY 2023-24
9. Development partners (if applicable)	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
10. Selected projects and required documents	Title: 1. SMART Police Stations in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges (in English) 2. নগর এলাকায় আইনের সংস্পর্শে আসা কিশোর: শিশু আইন-২০১৩ এর আলোকে তদন্ত এবং অপরাধ সম্পৃক্ততার ঝুঁকি পর্যালোচনার উপর একটি সমীক্ষা (in Bangla). Researchers/Research institutes interested in conducting any 1 (one) of the above-mentioned research works should collect the Application Format from the undersigned's office (Room-111, Admin Building, Police Staff College Bangladesh, Mirpur 14, Dhaka) during office hours. The price of the Application document is BDT 1000. The filled-up application has to be submitted (in hardcopy) on or before the Eol closing day via mail, courier, or in person. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted and asked to submit the technical and financial proposals on a later date.
11. Eol pre-submission meeting	5 September 2023, Time: 11:30am BST
12. Timeframe of work	Total two years from signing letter of Agreement
13. Eol closing date and time	10 September 2023, Time: 12:30 pm BST
14. Eol submission place	Police Staff College Bangladesh, Mirpur 14, Dhaka.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
15. Name of official Inviting Expression of Interest	Mohammad Shahjahan, ppm (Bar), Ph.D.
16. Designation of official Inviting Expression of Interest	Director, Research and Publication
17. Address of official Inviting Expression of Interest	Room Number 111, Admin Building, Police Staff College, Section 14, Mirpur, Dhaka 1206
18. Contact details of official Inviting Expression of Interest	01755975720, dc_shahjahan@yahoo.com
19. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Eols.	
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