

Rethink priorities for 21st century

Modi urges UN

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on the United Nations to reform in line with 21st century realities to ensure the representation of voices that matter, according to an interview published yesterday.

A "mid-20th century approach cannot serve the world in the 21st century", Modi, who will host a summit of the Group of 20 big economies from next weekend, told the Press Trust of India news agency.

Modi, leader of the world's most populous country and aspirant to become a permanent member of UNSC, is seeking to boost India's status and promote its causes, such as relief for unsustainable debt, using global pulpit of G20 summit starting September 9.

He reiterated his support in the interview for the African Union (AU) to become a full member of the G20.

THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

Migrant crossings hit new daily high for 2023: UK govt



AFP, London

The number of migrants crossing the Channel in small boats from northern France to Britain hit a new daily high for 2023, UK government statistics released yesterday showed.

Some 872 migrants aboard 15 different vessels made the perilous journey across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes on Saturday, beating this year's previous 24-hour high of 756 on August 10.

It brings the total number to have arrived on the shores of southeast England so far in 2023 to more than 21,000.

That is less than the levels seen at this point last year, but still presents a major political and practical headache for the UK government.

London promised tighter border controls after the country left the European Union, and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made "stopping the boats" a key priority.

His Conservative government has branded the cross-Channel route "illegal" and passed legislation blocking asylum applications from anyone arriving without prior authorisation.

It also wants to send migrants to Rwanda for processing and resettlement there, but both policies are on hold amid a legal challenge to the African relocation plans.

More than 100,000 migrants have crossed the Channel on small boats from France to southeast England since Britain began publicly recording the arrivals in 2018.

Russian drone attack targets Odesa region

Danube River port infrastructure hit; Ukraine shoots down 22 of 25 Shahed drones

REUTERS

Russia launched a drone attack on southern parts of the Odesa region yesterday, hitting Danube River port infrastructure and injuring at least two people, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukraine's air defence systems shot down 22 of the 25 Iranian-made Shahed drones that Russia launched on the Odesa region in the early hours, the Air Force said on the Telegram messaging app.

The Danube has become Ukraine's main route for exporting grain since the collapse of a UN-brokered deal in July that had allowed Kyiv to ship its grain via the Black Sea.

"Russia's terrorists continue to attack port infrastructure in the hope of provoking a food crisis and famine in the world," the Ukrainian president's chief of staff Andriy Yermak wrote on Telegram. He posted a photo of a firefighter directing water at the burning ruins of concrete structures.

Officials did not give details of which port facility was hit. The military said a fire that resulted from the attack at the facility was quickly extinguished.

Some Ukrainian media reported blasts in the Reni port, one of the two major ports on the Danube that Ukraine operates.

There was no immediate comment from Russia. Reni and Izmail, Ukraine's two largest ports on the Danube River, have been repeatedly attacked by Russian drones in recent weeks.

Some 280,000 people have signed



up so far this year for professional service with Russia's military, the deputy chair of the Russian Security Council, former President Dmitry Medvedev, said yesterday.

Visiting Russia's Far East, Medvedev said he was meeting local officials to work on efforts to beef up the armed forces.

"According to the Ministry of Defence, since January 1, about 280,000 people have been accepted into the ranks of the Armed Forces on a contract basis," including reservists, state news agency TASS quoted Medvedev as saying.

Last year Russia announced a plan to expand its combat personnel more than 30 percent to 1.5 million, an ambitious task made harder by its heavy but undisclosed casualties in Moscow's war against Ukraine.

Some Russian lawmakers suggested Russia needs a professional army 7-million strong to ensure the country's security - a move that would require a huge budget allowance.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian court ordered tycoon Ihor Kolomoisky to be held in custody for two months on suspicion of fraud and money laundering on Saturday, a striking move against one of the country's most powerful businessmen.

The detention of Kolomoisky, who is under US sanctions and is a one-time supporter of President Volodymyr Zelensky whose election he backed in 2019, comes as Kyiv is trying to signal progress during a wartime crackdown on corruption.

INDIA bloc 'hates Hinduism'

India's home minister slams opposition

NDTV ONLINE

The remark on Sanatana Dharma by DMK chief MK Stalin's minister son shows that the Opposition bloc INDIA "hates Hinduism" and is "an attack on our heritage", India's Union Home Minister Amit Shah said yesterday.

Shah was speaking at Dungarpur in poll-bound Rajasthan at the launch of BJP's Parivar Yatra.

The BJP is pushing hard to defeat the ruling Congress and return to power in the upcoming state polls.

The home minister alleged that the remarks by Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, are part of INDIA bloc's "vote bank politics" and "appeasement" tactic.



Sudanese queue outside a passport office in Gedaref yesterday, following an announcement by the authorities of the resumption of issuing passports in war-torn Sudan.

PHOTO: AFP



Farmer Kleanthis Raptis, 56, walks next to debris in his sheepfold as a wildfire burns at the Dadia National Park in the region of Evros, Greece yesterday. While the Greek government has been quick to blame global warming for the summer's devastating wildfires, some experts argue that poor planning is at least as much to blame.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Medvedev: Japan's 'militarisation' complicates situation

REUTERS

Japan's "militarisation" complicates the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, the deputy chair of the Russian Security Council and former President Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday. Russia and Japan have complex relations marked by decades of territorial dispute over a handful of small, Russian-held islands off Hokkaido that Moscow calls the southern Kurils but Japan claims as its Northern Territories. The dispute over the area has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from reaching a peace treaty formally ending hostilities.

Iran sentences two women journos to jail time

AFP, Tehran

Two female Iranian journalists will spend around a month behind bars as part of a three-year partly suspended prison sentence for "conspiracy" and "collusion", local media reported yesterday. Under the sentence, Negin Bagheri and Elnaz Mohammadi will serve one-tenth of the term, or less than a month, in prison, their lawyer Amir Raisian told the reformist Ham Mihan daily newspaper, where Mohammadi works.

Cambodian ex-leader Hun Sen back on Facebook

THE STRAITS TIME ONLINE

Cambodia's former leader Hun Sen returned to Facebook yesterday, claiming the social media giant had "rendered justice" to him by refusing to suspend his account after he posted violent threats on the platform. In a post, Mr Hun Sen said Facebook had rejected a recommendation from its Oversight Board to suspend his account after he had posted a video threatening to beat up his rivals. It is the latest twist in a months-long row that has seen the prolific user quit Cambodia's most popular social media site, deactivate his account, and threaten to ban the platform. "I have decided to use Facebook again... after Facebook rejected recommendations of a group of bad people and rendered justice to me," he wrote yesterday, referencing the Oversight Board. Hun Sen's hugely popular page - which has around 14 million followers - was reactivated in July, but his social media assistant claimed to be running it in his place at the time.

Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited		
(A State Owned Organization)		
116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1205		
www.bscl.gov.bd		
Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Services		
01.	Ministry/Division	Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
02.	Agency	Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company Limited
03.	Name of procuring entity	Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman and CEO
04.	Title of service	Selection of Individual consultant's
05.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
06.	Expression of Interest for Selection of	1 Consultant (Data Analyst), 1 Junior Consultant (Data Analyst) and 2 Junior Consultant (Hardware & Software)
07.	EOI Reference No.	14.39.0000.012.07.004.22.517
08.	Date	31/08/2023
KEY INFORMATION		
09.	Procurement sub-method	Individual Consultant Selection (ICS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget
11.	Development partner (if applicable)	Own funds
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12.	Project/programme code	N/A
13.	Project/programme name	N/A
14.	EOI closing date and time	17 September 2023 12:05pm
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
15.	Brief description of the assignment:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Consultant (Data Analyst): Analyze statistical data, Prepare statistical report, Report analysis and Data visualization. 1 Junior Consultant (Data Analyst): Analyze statistical data, Prepare statistical report, Report analysis and Data visualization. 2 Junior Consultant (Hardware & Software): Software/Module development and upgradation, Database handling, Collaborate with dev team (R&D) and installation team 	
16.	Basic Qualification and Experience (Detailed described in SRFIA):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Consultant (Data Analyst): BSc (Honors) in Statistics/Applied Statistics/Data Science from any recognized university with minimum CGPA of 3.00 with min 5 years' professional experience on statistical data analysis, data visualization tools, R/Python language. Age: Not more than 37 years as of the date of this Publication. 1 Junior Consultant (Data Analyst): BSc (Honors) in Statistics/Applied Statistics/Data Science from any recognized university with minimum CGPA of 3.00 with min. 3 years' professional experience with statistical data analysis, data visualization tools, R/Python language. Age: Not more than 32 years as of the date of this Publication. 2 Junior Consultant (Hardware & Software): BSc in CSE, min. 3 years' Practical experience on MySQL, JavaScript, python, php/Laravel. Age: Not more than 32 years as of the date of this Publication. 	
	Other Details:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Detailed Scope of Work is available on BSCL's website: www.bscl.com.bd ii) Short listing will be made in accordance with the 'Rule-115 of Public Procurement Rule (PPR)-2008' iii) EOI as well as attached forms/supporting documents shall be written in English. iv) EOI shall consist of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Expression of Interest (EOI) (b) Updated Curriculum Vitae (c) Experience Certificate(s) (d) Photocopies of all educational certificates 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v) EOI notice and forms of Expression of Interest (if applicable) are posted on BSCL website: www.bscl.com.bd and hard copy of the same are available from the office in the address given below. vi) Three (3) signed copies of EOI along with 1 (one) original shall be submitted in a sealed envelope mentioning "Selection of Individual Consultants of BSCL" on top of the sealed envelope and shall be submitted to the following address before abovementioned date and time. 	
	EOI submitted by consultants will be screened and consultants will be shortlisted. Only short-listed Consultants will be invited to submit proposals. Interested applicants may obtain further information from the office mentioned below during the office hours (9:00 to 16:00 hours BST).	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
17.	Name of the official inviting EOI	Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood.
18.	Designation of the official inviting EOI	Chairman and CEO, Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL).
19.	Address of the official inviting EOI	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited, SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level: 7 & 8, 116 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
20.	Contact details of the official inviting EOI	Phone: +88 02 41030091-92 E-mail: info@bscl.com.bd , procurement@bscl.com.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

(Signed)
Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood
Chairman and CEO
Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL)

GD-1345