# INTERNATIONAL

### Maldives polls seen as vote on ties with India

AFP, Malé

Maldives leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will seek re-election tomorrow in a presidential vote also serving as a referendum on his pursuit of renewed ties with India, the archipelago's traditional benefactor.

Solih, 61, moved swiftly to repair relations with New Delhi after defeating his predecessor Abdulla Yameen, who banked on China for loans and diplomatic support. Yameen was jailed for 11 years last December after a corruption conviction. He is not a candidate in tomorrow's vote, but is backing a proxy.

During his autocratic tenure, Yameen borrowed heavily from China for construction projects, making the nation - better known for its upscale beach tourism and celebrity travellers – a hotbed of geopolitical rivalry.

Solih's administration has criticised Beijing's lending as a debt trap and worked to restore the Maldives' traditional diplomatic posture after taking office. International diplomacy

would play a crucial role in the vote, former foreign minister Ahmed Shaheed told

Yameen's party is keeping up its "India Out" campaign, his proxy Mohamed Muizzu, the mayor of

the capital Male, has avoided risking his chances by openly criticising New Delhi. "No one can be in power in Male after

defying India," said Shaheed, who is now a law professor at University of Essex in Britain. But a former Maldivian civil servant, who requested anonymity, said he believed

China would regain its hold on the archipelago should Muizzu be elected. Solih was a substitute candidate from his Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) in 2018 when its exiled high-profile leader Mohamed

Nasheed was barred from contesting. Nasheed, a globally recognised climate activist, had helped Solih secure an unexpected landslide win in the last election.

But the pair fell out earlier this year after years of squabbling over political reforms, and after both sought to become the MDP's presidential nominee. Analysts expect Solih to do well, but he could be in trouble if he fails to secure a majority in first round.

A run-off election usually helps the underdog in the Maldives, which has a history of opposition parties successfully uniting against the leading candidate.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken tours farmland that's being cleared of unexploded ordnance, after a building reportedly used by Russian forces to store ordnance exploded, in Yahidne, Ukraine yesterday.

## With G20, US fetes India's rise while accepting differences

AFP, Washington

For two and a half decades, it has been a top and consistent goal for the United States across very different presidencies - encouraging the rise of India.

As New Delhi takes the global stage by leading the Group of 20 summit, President Joe Biden will be there as a cheerleader, even as US policymakers come to accept that India's interests will at times be at odds with Washington's.

The gathering comes the same year that India topped China as the most populous nation and surpassed its former colonizer Britain as the fifthlargest economy, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi being feted on visits to Washington, Paris and elsewhere.

"I think in some ways, Prime Minister Modi has wanted to make it India's coming-out party to the world -- as a major power, with its own independent voice, whose time has come," Tanvi Madan, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said of this weekend's G20 summit.

The US has viewed the fellow across the board.' democracy as a natural ally that can rival an autocratic and increasingly assertive China, which has clashed with India on their disputed border.

But India has stood firm against another US priority by refusing to isolate Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, a nod to its historic ties with Moscow. Heading into the G20, India has sought to play down geopolitics and seek consensus on development issues such as debt relief and climate change.

Rights groups also charge that Western courting of Modi comes despite democratic backsliding under the Hindu nationalist leader, with attacks on minorities and harassment of critical media.

Alyssa Ayres, who helped build relations with New Delhi as a State Department official, said it should come as no surprise that India, a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War, remains "fiercely independent."

She said that India saw no contradiction as it seeks "ties with all

The Biden administration has repeatedly saluted Modi's leadership and said it will work with India to achieve success at the G20, including on reforming international economic institutions.

Aparna Pande, a South Asia expert at the Hudson Institute, said that India, in its quest to boost its own global role, has always favoured a multipolar world rather than one dominated by a single power.

Despite its differences with US, India still offers a strong partner at a time that China is wooing developing countries, she said. When Russia invaded Ukraine, the United States was "very concerned" about India's position but has "grudgingly accepted it," said Michael Kugelman, a

South Asia expert at the nonpartisan

Wilson Center think tank. "I think that Washington may even see India's position as one that could have advantages for the US if there is a desire down the road to try to push for some type of mediated, negotiated end to the war." Kugelman said.

### Tk 37 power bills

consume any electricity, a Nesco official said.

This means the minister's household consumed no brother, electricity in these four months, although locals said at least three caretakers live in this house in Kaliganj upazila's Kashiram village. Also, the minister visits his village home two to three times every month and stays there for two to three days in each visit.

According to Nesco sources, households' monthly bills range from households' Tk 250-800 for using one to three fans, three to seven bulbs, one television and other basic appliances.

Nuruzzaman Awami League lawmaker from Lalmonirhat-2 and also president of Kaliganj upazila AL.

The minister and his close family members received such abnormally low bills over the last four years although they did not pay their bills during this period, documents show.

example, minister's electricity bill was Tk 65 in September 2020, Tk 32 in November 2020, Tk 72 in December 2020, Tk 52 in January 2021, Tk 72 each in February, March and April 2021, Tk 111 each in June, July and September 2021, and Tk 151 each in January and February 2020.

In the last three years, the residence's highest electricity bill was Tk 2,408 in August 2022.

The minister has a separate connection for an irrigation pump whose last four years' bills stand at Tk 61,344, which remain unpaid, according to Nesco officials.

The minister's son, Rakibuzzaman Ahmed, has also been receiving such ghostly bills in much of the last four years.

Documents show that Rakibuzzaman, who is an organising secretary of Lalmonirhat district AL, "used" electricity worth Tk 72 in April 2021, Tk 111 each in September and December 2021, Tk 229 each in October, November and December 2020, Tk 189 each in June, October and November 2021 and in May, June, July, October, November, and December

last four years stand at Tk

The minister's younger other, Shamsuzzaman Ahmed Bhutto, has also receiving

abnormally low bills. He has two connections, one for a brick kiln and another for an irrigation

In each of June and July this year, the bill for the brick kiln was Tk 2,779. In April and March 2022, the bill was Tk 2,327 and Tk

Five brick kiln owners and Nesco officials said a brick field consumes electricity worth at least Tk 30,000 per month.

Bhutto's total bills for the brick kiln and the irrigation pump stand at Tk ,25,144, all of which remain unpaid, according to Nesco locuments.

Asked about such low and unpaid bills, Nesco Managing Director Zakiul Islam said he is not aware of the matter, but will inspect the Kaliganj office next week.

Nesco's Rangpur Regional Chief Engineer Mokhlesur Rahman also said he would look into if there was any "negligence in duties" on the part of Nesco officials in preparing

Shahinur Islam Khokon, the metre reader in the area for the last eight years, said, "I prepared the bills according to the reading on the metre. I can't tell if there was anything wrong with the metres. The Nesco authorities never said anything about this to me."

Shahinur is vice president of Kaliganj upazila Jubo League.

A Nesco official said there are about 50,000 customers under Nesco in Kaliganj upazila, and the officials cannot inspect all the meters every month.

The minister and his son did not respond to our calls and text messages requesting their comments.

His bother blamed the Nesco for the abnormally low bills, and said he will pay the bills soon. He hung up the phone when asked why he did not pay the bills for such a long time.

### Bigger bikes to hit roads from July

home ministry meeting of vears of negotiations between bike manufacturers and the government.

will allow the manufacture and of 350cc distribution motorcycles. From now on, these higher engine power motorcycles can ply the roads," said Home Asaduzzaman Minister Khan Kamal, who presided over the meeting.

Currently, bikes with over 165cc engines cannot be manufactured or imported for the local market. According to the Motorcycle Industry Development Policy 2018, manufacturers can export motorcycles with

up to 500cc engines. The Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission recommended allowable

The government allowed asking for this change since Policy Order-2015-2018.

Star, the home minister here. them.

Asked if the bikes would be suitable for Bangladeshi roads, he said, "There is no relationship between the engine capacity of the bike

meeting The was attended by the senior secretary to the Security Division, the Services Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation chairman, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner, representatives of police

yesterday, the culmination motorcycles with up to 165cc engines with its Import Talking to The Daily the brand's sole distributor

> said law enforcers would also get bikes with higher displacement engines so that suspects cannot outrun

and its speed."

raising headquarters and the Ifad engine Group chairman.

it signed a memorandum of understanding with Royal Enfield in 2021 to become

> smallest displacement engine Royal Enfield makes is 346cc.

Talking newspaper, Ifad Group Vice-Chairman Taskeen Ahmed said they expect to go into commercial operation from July 2024 and will launch four models -- Royal Enfield Bullet, Meteor, Hunter and Classic

Royal Enfield has so far invested Tk 150 crore into production and this is slated to go up to Tk 250 crore, he

Taskeen said permission from the home ministry had been the only hurdle before they could go for commercial production.

Ifad Group had been from the industries and commerce ministries have been received, he said.

> Three manufacturers had written to the government urging it to allow bikes with higher capacity engines on the streets

Rancon Motorbikes Ltd, manufacturer of Suzuki, and Runner Automobiles said they want the withdrawal of the existing engine capacity ceiling.

Kawasaki on December 5 asked the commerce ministry to increase allowable engine displacement to 250cc as it wants to expand its business in Bangladesh.

The approval comes when a sharp and unregulated growth of vehicles, especially motorcycles and threewheelers, over the last few years has contributed to a spike in the number of Permissions crashes and casualties.

#### বাংলাদেশ তাঁত শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট

সাহেপ্রতাপ, নরসিংদী

শ্মারক নংঃ বাতাঁবো/বাতাশিপ্রই/বিএসসি/১০৬/২০১৮-১২৯

তারিখঃ ০৭ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৩খিঃ

বিভাগ অন্যায়ী আসন

সংখ্যা

ফলাফল প্রকাশ ও ভর্তির

#### বিএসসি-ইন-টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনস্ত, বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড কর্তৃক পরিচালিত বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (BUTEX) অধিভূক্ত "বাংলাদেশ তাঁত শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট, সাহেপ্রতাপ, নরসিংদী" এ ৪(চার) বছর মেয়াদি বিএসসি ইন-টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং শিক্ষাক্রমে ২০২২-২০২৩ শিক্ষাবর্ধে লেভেল-১ টার্ম-১ এ ভর্তিচ্ছু প্রার্থীদের নিকট থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচেছ। ১। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলীঃ

আবেদনের

সময়সীমা

ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ সময

ও স্থান

আবেদনের ন্যুনতম যোগ্যতা

কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদন ফিঃ ভর্তি পরীক্ষার আবেদন ফি ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা।

আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা প্রদানের নিয়মাবলীঃ ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম www.bheti.portal.gov.bd বা www.bhb.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। সংগৃহীত ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম স্ব-হন্তে পূরণ করে ১০০০/-(এক হাজার) টাকা নগদে জমাদানপূর্বক জমা রশিদের মূলকপি এবং সকল পরীক্ষার চূড়ান্ত ট্রাঙ্গক্রিপ্ট, মূল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি ও পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৩ কপি রঙিন ছবিযুক্ত করে ১১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ হতে ০৫/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ তাঁত শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট, সাহেপ্রতাপ, নরসিংদী অথবা ওএন্ডএম বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৫ম তলা), ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫-তে আবেদন ফরম জমা দিয়ে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে

ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় নিয়মাবলীঃ ভর্তি পরীক্ষা মোট ২০০ নখরের MCQ পদ্ধতিতে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। পরীক্ষায় ইয়ার্ণ ম্যানুফেকচারিং, ফেব্রিক ম্যানুফেকচারিং, ওয়েট প্রামেসিং এবং গার্মেন্টস ও ক্লদিং টেকনোলজি বিষয়ের উপর মোট (৪×৩০)=১২০ নম্বর এবং গণিত, পদার্থ, রসায়ন ও ইংরেজী বিষয়ের মোট (৪×২০)=৮০ নম্বরের প্রশ্ন থাকবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-জুট টেকনোলজী/ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-গার্মেন্টস ডিজাইন এন্ড প্যাটার্ণ মেকিং টেকনোলজী কোর্সের জন্য বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড কর্ত্তক প্রণীত সর্বশেষ পাঠ্যক্রম অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। প্রশ্নপত্তে ১০০টি প্রশ্ন থাকবে, প্রতিটি প্রশ্নের নম্বর হবে-২, প্রতি প্রশ্নে ৪টি উত্তরের Options থাকবে, পরীক্ষায় সময় হবে ১ ঘন্টা ২০ মিনিট

সংরক্ষিত আসনঃ উক্ত ইনস্টিটিউটে নির্ধারিত আসনের মধ্যে অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং প্রোগ্রাম হতে পাসকৃত ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের জন্য ১০ শতাংশ আসন সংরক্ষিত থাকরে। তাছাড়া, নির্ধারিত আসনের অতিরিক্ত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটায় ০২টি এবং ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী কোটায় ০২টিসহ মোট ০৪টি আসন সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। সংরক্ষিত আসনের জন্য ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় যোগ্য বিবেচিত হলে ভর্তির সময় অবশ্যই ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী প্রার্ঘীদের ক্ষেত্রে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট হতে ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী মর্মে প্রত্যয়নপত্র এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটার ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদন্ত মূল সার্টিফিকেট দেখাতে হবে এবং এর সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে সংরক্ষিত আসনের প্রার্থীদেরও ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় যথারীতি অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে এবং মেধাভিত্তিক নির্বাচন করা হবে।

যোগাযোগ অফিসঃ ০২-২২৪৪৫২৬৯৮ মোবাইলঃ ০১৫৫৮৯৪৮৬৬৪, ০১৯১৫১৬৭২০২



#### Changes will merely be in wording clause-42 that allows law enforcers to frisk and arrest people without warrants. before the House within five punishable under the Journalists had been demanding omission of the clause, but the committee were not fully satisfied with

decided only to bring one change in the clause. As per the committee's decision, a change will be made to clause-42 to give the power to frisk and arrest

a police inspector instead of a sub-inspector. the Once passed. proposed Cyber Security Act will replace the controversial

people without a warrant to

Digital Security Act-2018. The bill was placed in Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday by State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

Later, the bill was sent the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of posts, telecommunications and

workings days. journalists Yesterday, the JS body's decisions.

Meeting sources said wording will be changed in clause-21 of the bill which cites offences relating to conducting any "propaganda and publicity" against the Liberation War, spirit of the Liberation War, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the

national anthem and the national flag. The committee decided and publicity" will be replaced with "publicity with intent to malice, defame, and confuse", they

said. Also, the clause-32 of

information technology for The clause stipulates that scrutiny. The committee was offenders will be punished asked to submit its report for committing offences, Official Secrets Act, in the digital medium.

After the meeting, Law Minister Anisul Huq told reporters that they have brought several changes to the bill.

"We have accepted a recommendation from BFUJ regarding the clause-21. We have omitted clause-32 which incorporated the Official Secrets Act," he said.

Journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul told reporters that they were not satisfied with the change to that the words "propaganda" clause-42 as they stressed the role of the Bangladesh Press Council in this regard.

Jatiya Press Club General Secretary Shyamal Dutta said a few changes will be made to some clauses, the bill will be dropped. including clauses-21 and

42. He said the amended bill will be made available online in a day or two.

At the meeting, a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) placed a 14-point demand. The president of the

BFUJ faction, M Abdullah, said the parliamentary watchdog accepted some of their demands but they were not satisfied with it. He said they told the committee that they will accept the bill only if all

press are dropped. The meeting was chaired standing committee member Rejwan Ahammad Taufiq.

those clauses which create

obstacles to freedom of the

Minister Anisul Law Huq and Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar attended the meeting on special invitation from the committee president.