

Half of the world's countries are suffering democratic decline, ranging from flawed elections to curtailed rights including freedoms of expression and assembly, an intergovernmental watchdog group said yesterday.

In its annual report, the Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) said 2022 was the sixth consecutive year in which countries with net declines outnumbered those with net advances, the longest consecutive fall since its records began in 1975.

"In short, democracy is still in trouble, stagnant at best, and declining in many places," IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora said in the report.

The think-tank said the deterioration of democratic guard-rails such as elections, parliaments and independent courts had led to problems in safeguarding the rule of law and holding politicians to account.



A young man carries aid parcels on his bicycle as others reload fallen boxes onto a truck carrying humanitarian aid that entered the southern Gaza Strip from Egypt via the Rafah border crossing yesterday, as battles between Israel and Hamas continue. *Inset*, Palestinians react at the damages at a UN-run school sheltering displaced people, following an Israeli strike, in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

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Pakistan to hold delayed polls on February 8

Pakistan will hold delayed national elections on February 8 next year, the electoral commission said yesterday, as the country grapples with overlapping political, economic and security crises.

"It was unanimously decided that the election will be held on Thursday, February 8," the election commission said in a statement, after its members met with President Arif Alvi. The development comes hours after Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa had directed the commission to confer with Alvi on poll date.

The order was issued after a bench comprising the CJP heard a set of petitions calling for holding elections within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly and the provincial legislatures.

UN will 'stay with Palestinians in Gaza'

Says top aid official; Israeli strikes on refugee camp could be war crimes: UN rights office

The United Nations will remain steadfast in supporting Palestinians in Gaza, a top aid official said during the first such trip to the territory since the war with Israel erupted.

"I was shocked by the fact that everyone there was asking for food, was asking for water," Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), told journalists in Gaza on Wednesday.

The most senior UN official to visit the territory since the war began said he had “never ever seen” anything like it before in Gaza.

He said all those who he met in Gaza were

concerned about shortages in food, water and fuel. "They were drawing my attention today about the real lack of food, the lack of water, the lack of fuel," he said.

"Fuel here in Gaza is absolutely everything because without fuel we do not have generator, we do not have functioning bakery, we do not have functioning hospitals and you cannot pump water.

"UNRWA will stay with the Palestinian refugees in Gaza, with the Palestinians here in Gaza," Lazzarini added.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Office said the deadly Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip's largest refugee camp "could amount to war crimes"

PHONE TAPPING

India probes opposition allegations

India's cyber security unit is investigating allegations by opposition politicians of attempted phone tapping after they reported receiving Apple iPhone warnings of "state-sponsored attackers", media reported yesterday.

India's Computer Emergency Response Team has opened a probe into the complaints, the PTI news agency reported.

"Apple will cooperate in this probe," S. Krishnan, secretary for the electronics and information ministry, was quoted as saying.

US, Canadian warships cross Taiwan Strait



China said yesterday its troops were “on constant high alert” after US and Canadian warships passed through the Taiwan Strait, their second joint passage in two months. The USS Rafael Peralta, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, and the Royal Canadian Navy’s Halifax-class frigate HMCS Ottawa conducted a “routine” transit through the strait on Wednesday, the US Navy said. “Troops in the theatre remain on constant high alert, and will resolutely protect national sovereignty and security as well as regional peace and stability,” Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesman for China’s Eastern Theatre Command, said in a statement. Shi slammed the latest transit as a “public hype” and said its naval and air forces had “trailed their entire course.” The ships’ passage comes after two warships belonging to the US and Canada sailed through the narrow waterway separating the island and mainland China on September 9.

Myanmar rebels seize vital border town

Myanmar's military has lost control of a strategic northern town on the Chinese border following days of clashes with three ethnic armed groups, a junta spokesman said. "Government, administrative organisations and security organisations are no longer present" in Chinshwehaw town, which borders China's Yunnan province, Zaw Min Tun said in a statement late Wednesday. Fighting has raged since Friday across a swathe of Myanmar's northern Shan state – where a billion dollar rail link is planned as part of Beijing's Belt and Road global infrastructure project. The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) say they have seized several military posts and key roads linking Myanmar with China, its biggest trade partner.



Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of CHT Affairs

Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council

Head Office- Rangamati
Chittagong Hill Tracts, BANGLADESH
Phone: +880-2333371641, PABX: +880-2333371646, FAX: +880-2333371640
E-mail: chtrc@yahoo.com; Website: www.chtrc.gov.bd

- Computer literacy in MS Word, MS Excel.
- English language proficiency and computer literacy must.
- Preferably an IP/small ethnic community of CHT region (as per related provision of the CHT Accord).
- Applicant should know at least one ethnic community language of CHT.
- Sensitive to the ethnic diversity in the project area.

Memo. No: 29.32.8400.106.14.002.23-1904
Date: 01/11/2023

Vacancy Announcement

Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CRLIWM-CHT) Sector Project Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of Bangladesh (GoB) under the Ministry of CHT Affairs with the CHT Regional Council as Lead Implementing Agency is inviting application from Bangladesh nationals for the following posts on competitive basis:

Project Management Office (PMO), Rangamati

- Name of the Post: Project Director (PD)**
Number of the Post: 01 (One)
Grade: 03
Salary: 90,000.00 (Consolidated)
Duty Station: Rangamati

Qualification and Experiences:

- Post Graduate in Economics/Development Administration/Management or any other relevant discipline.
- Minimum 20 years of working experience with Government or Non-government Organizations in executive capacity dealing with Development Projects/Programs/Administration/Financial Management.
- Demonstrated ability to provide leadership and management quality.
- Preferably an IP/small ethnic community of CHT region (as per related provision of the CHT Accord).
- Applicant should know at least one ethnic community language of CHT.
- Sensitive to the ethnic diversity in the project area.

Responsibilities/Accountabilities:

- Overall responsible for all activities of the Project including those of LGED.
- Sole operation of the Imprest Account and will have overall financial authority.
- Identifying national and local policy issues and bringing these issues to the notice of the Project Implementation Committee and Project Steering Committee.
- Providing project performance status to the Project Implementation Committee and Project Steering Committee.
- Managing relevant financial allocation of the project.
- Responsible for recruitment, appointment and transfer of supporting staffs.
- Allocate works among the supporting staffs regarding implementation of the project.
- Reporting to MOCHTA, CHTRC and other relevant agencies and close coordination with CHTRC, HDCs, DPMOs, PD (Rural Roads), PISC and other relevant stakeholders.
- Monitoring and evaluation for recording and assessing the project performance and its impact.
- Selecting the relevant NGOs and Training Institute(s) to participate in implementation of the project component.
- Supervising and monitoring activities and performances of the consultants and NGOs.
- Procuring equipment and vehicles for the project.

- Name of the Post: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer**
Number of Post: 01 (One)
Grade: 06
Salary: 60,720.00 (Consolidated)
Duty Station: Rangamati

Qualification and experiences:

- Post-Graduate in Statistics/Economics/Development Administration/Management or any other relevant discipline.
- Minimum 5 years of working experience in planning under any social development project.
- Preferably working with development project in monitoring and evaluation system.

Responsibilities/Accountabilities:

- Responsible for designing plan activities on the project component.
- Developing project monitoring and evaluation system.
- Organizing the collection of monitoring and evaluation data.
- Preparing program status reports based on activities performed of the project.
- Responsible for preparing monitoring and evaluation report on the complete activities of the project.
- Responsible for preparing relevant reports and preserving documentation; and
- Perform any other duties assigned by the Project Authority.

District Project Management Office (DPMOs), Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban:

- Name of the Post: Deputy Project Director (DPD)**
Number of the Post: 03 (Three)
Grade: 05
Salary: 69,905.00 (Consolidated)
Duty Station: Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban Hill District.

Qualification and Experiences:

- Post Graduate in Social Science/Agriculture Science/ Development Administration/ Management or any other relevant discipline or BSc Engineering (Civil).
- Minimum 12 years of working experience with Government and Non-government Organizations in dealing with Administration/Monitor and evaluation of development projects/programs.
- Demonstrated ability to provide leadership and Management quality.
- Computer Literacy in MS Word, MS Excel.
- Preferably an IP/small ethnic community of CHT region (as per related provision of the CHT Accord).
- Applicant should know at least one ethnic community language of CHT.
- Sensitive to the ethnic diversity in the project area.

Responsibilities/Accountabilities:

- Responsible for specific activities under the project in the concerned project area with particular emphasis on activity planning, appropriate monitoring and implementation.
- Responsible for backstopping the Project Director and Project Coordinator in coordinating the project activities with the relevant agencies, such as, PMO, Hill District Council, CHTDB, District Administration, relevant government agencies and NGOs in the concern Districts and other development agencies.
- Responsible for collecting, organizing and summarizing project related information, preparing report to comply with the project needs for the Project Director.
- Responsible for assisting Project Director and Project Coordinator in preparing work plan.
- Perform any other duties as assigned by the Project Authority.

Application and Conditions:

- Interested candidates meeting the above requirements are requested to apply with forwarding letter, details CV along with two recent passport size photographs to the Chairman, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Head Office- Rangamati, CHT Region mentioning the name of the post on the A4 size envelope **within 10 (Ten) days** of publication of the advertisement.
- The applicant must be accompanied by non-refundable Bank draft of Tk. 500.00 (Five Hundred) from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Chairman, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Head Office- Rangamati, CHT Region.
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.
- Authority will not be liable for cancelling the application if it does not fulfil the above mentioned requirements.
- Authority preserves the rights to reject any application without any explanation.

Signed/-
(Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma)
Chairman
Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
Head Office- Rangamati.
CHT Region.

GD- 1689