

World 'failing to get a grip' on climate change: UN

AFP, Paris

The world is "failing to get a grip" on climate change, the UN warned yesterday, as an assessment of current climate pledges shows only minor progress on reducing emissions this decade.

In a report released just weeks before high stakes climate negotiations, the United Nations climate change organisation said the world was failing to act with sufficient urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

With temperatures soaring and 2023 expected to become the warmest year so far in human history, scientists say the pressure on world leaders to curb planet-heating greenhouse gas pollution has never been more urgent.

The UN found that combined climate plans from nearly 200 nations would put the world on a path for 2030 carbon emissions just two percent below 2019 levels.

That is far short of the 43 percent fall that the UN's IPCC climate panel says are needed to limit warming to the Paris deal target of 1.5 degrees Celsius since the preindustrial era.

"Every fraction of a degree matters, but we are severely off track. COP28 is our time to change that," said UN Climate Change chief Simon Stiell.

He called for climate talks in Dubai this month to mark a "clear turning point" for a world already wracked by increasing floods, heatwaves and storms.

Scientists have warned that humanity is dangerously close to blowing past the 1.5C global heating limit, risking intensifying impacts.



A boy walks with sacks of food supplies through a yard at a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Internally displaced Palestinians have taken refuge at the school amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas.

PHOTO: AFP

'We're listening'

Blinken tells State Dept staff after facing dissent over Biden administration's policy on Israel-Hamas war

REUTERS, Washington

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday moved to address rising criticism within the State Department ranks over the Biden administration's policy on the Israel-Hamas war, as hundreds of US government employees openly and privately have advocated for a ceasefire in Gaza.

At least three cables criticizing the administration's policy have been filed with the Department's internal "dissent channel," which was established during the Vietnam War and allows diplomats to raise concerns about policy anonymously with the Secretary of State, sources familiar with the matter said.

The criticism focuses on President Joe Biden's unwavering support for Israel in the aftermath of the October 7 conflict.

Israel has launched a relentless military campaign on Gaza, killing more than 11,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry, unleashing bloodiest chapter in years in decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Washington has rebuffed calls from Arab and Palestinian leaders and others to call on Israel to halt its assault on the Hamas-controlled Gaza strip, but it has urged for humanitarian pauses to allow more aid in and to evacuate Americans and foreigners.

In an emailed letter to the State Department employees, Blinken, having just returned from a nine-day trip to the Middle East and Asia, acknowledged the emotional toll the conflict has taken on the workforce but also the possible divisions within the ranks over policy.

"I know that for many of you, the suffering

caused by this crisis is taking a profound personal toll," Blinken said in the letter obtained by Reuters.

"The anguish that comes with seeing the daily images of babies, children, elderly people, women, and other civilians suffering in this crisis is wrenching. I feel it myself," he said.

"I also know that some people in the Department may disagree with approaches we are taking or have views on what we can do better. We've organized forums in Washington to hear from you, and urged managers and teams to have candid discussions at posts around the world precisely so we can hear your feedback and ideas. I've asked our senior leadership to keep doing that."

"We're listening: what you share is informing our policy and our messages," he added.

APEC SUMMIT

Biden, Xi to discuss communication, competition

REUTERS, Washington

The White House said on Monday President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping will discuss strengthening communication and managing competition when they meet on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit this week. The face-to-face meeting in the San Francisco Bay Area tomorrow will be the first between Biden and Xi in a year, with the high-stakes diplomacy aimed at curbing tensions between the two superpowers. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Biden believes there is no substitute for face-to-face diplomacy to manage the complex relationship. "We anticipate that the leaders will discuss some of the most fundamental elements of the US-PRC bilateral relationship, including the continued importance of strengthening open lines of communication and managing competition responsibly so that it does not veer into conflict," Sullivan said, referring to the People's Republic of China. "The way we achieve that is through intense diplomacy. That's how we clear up misperceptions and avoid surprises."

Iran's Bahais hit by new wave of arrests

AFP, Paris

Iranian authorities have launched a new wave of arrests targeting members of the Bahai faith, the country's largest non-Muslim religious minority, representatives of the community said yesterday. Activists say Bahais, whose faith is not recognised by the Islamic republic, have faced persecution since the 1979 revolution with a fresh intensification of repression over the last year. At least 19 Bahais were detained in raids on their homes by armed security forces last week in the cities of Hamedan west of Tehran and Karaj outside the capital, the Bahai International Community (BIC), which represents Bahais at the UN, said in a statement. Ten other Bahais were arrested last month in the central city of Isfahan, all of them women, it added, with a total of 32 Bahais detained nationwide since last month. The homes targeted in the raids in Hamedan included those of five women aged between 70 and 90, one of whom suffers from Alzheimer's disease, it added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Chattogram City Corporation
Batali Hill, Tigerpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.31.01.62

Dated: 14/11/2023

Consultancy Services with top supervision for construction of 18-Storied Chattogram City Corporation Nagar Bhaban with 3 basements at Anderkilla, Chattogram.

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
Agency	:	Local Government Division (LGD)
Procuring entity name	:	Superintending Engineer, Chattogram City Corporation
Procuring entity code	:	N/A
Procuring entity district	:	Chattogram City Corporation Area
Expression of Interest for Selection of	:	Engineering & Architectural Consultant Firm (Fixed Budget Selection)
Title of service	:	Engineering & Architectural Consultation Service
EOI Ref. No.	:	
Date	:	
KEY INFORMATION		
Procurement sub-method	:	Selection under a Fixed Budget (SFB)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
Budget and source of funds	:	Own Fund
Development partners	:	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
Project/programme name	:	Consultancy Services with top supervision for construction of 18-Storied Chattogram City Corporation Nagar Bhaban with 3 basements at Anderkilla, Chattogram.
EOI closing date and time	:	06.12.2023
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
Brief description of assignment	:	<p>Providing Consultancy Services for the following items but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed Layout Plan - Architectural Design - Structural Design - Electromechanical Design - Sanitary, Plumbing & Drainage Design - 3D drawing - Cost Estimate - BOQ - Digital topographic survey & Soil Test - Top Supervision.
Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	:	<p>Consulting firms with minimum 20 (twenty) years' experience.</p> <p>Specific experience of at least 1 completed 14-storied building in last 5 years of any government, semi-government or autonomous body and 1 completed 14-storied commercial building in last 5 years of any private sector.</p> <p>Specific experience of designing commercial and office floor spaces.</p> <p>Registration and legal documents of the firm.</p> <p>Experience and qualification of the key professional staff</p> <p>Audited Financial Reports of last 3 (three) years.</p> <p>Experience of working in Chattogram will be given weightage in short listing.</p>
Other details (if applicable)	:	<p>Envelope containing application/proposal (EOI) along with other supporting documents to be marked with Expression of Interest (EOI) is to be submitted to the undersigned person. Plinth height-Above the flood/waterlogging level. Light Natural light from exterior wall and ceiling (clear story if the site/ design permits). Ventilation -Natural ventilation from the exterior wall. Rainwater harvesting system is preferred to use recycled water for cleaning and other similar works. Solid waste management system, Waste collection area preferably separate for dry and wet waste, Provision for waste removal including access for vehicles for waste removal. Inclusion of green building concept is encouraged and making the structure disaster resilience is mandatory.</p>
Association with foreign firms is	:	Not applicable
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
Name of official inviting EOI	:	Engr. Farzana Mukta
Designation of official inviting EOI	:	Executive Engineer (Civil)
Address of official inviting EOI	:	Head Office, Chattogram City Corporation, Batali Hill, Tigerpass, Chattogram.
Contact details of official inviting EOI	:	Phone: 01911598721, Email: ce.ccc.ctg@gmail.com
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		
Engr. Farzana Mukta Executive Engineer (Civil) Division-1 Chattogram City Corporation		

Biden, US scholars accuse Trump of echoing Hitler

AFP, Washington

Former US president Donald Trump faced a furious backlash Monday over Veteran's Day weekend remarks branding his political opponents "vermin," as leading scholars and President Joe Biden accused him of parroting Hitler and Mussolini.

In a social media post to mark the holiday on Saturday, Trump pledged to "root out the Communists, Marxists, Fascists, and Radical Left Thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our Country, lie, steal, and cheat on Elections, and will do anything possible, whether legally or illegally, to destroy America, and the American Dream."

The tycoon later repeated the remarks at a speech in New Hampshire.

"On a weekend when most Americans were honoring our nation's heroes, Donald Trump parroted the autocratic language of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini — two dictators many US veterans gave their lives fighting -- in order to defeat exactly the kind of un-American ideas Trump now champions," the Biden campaign said.

The White House added separately that Trump's remark would be "horrifyingly recognizable" to American veterans who put on their country's uniform in the 1940s."

AI images of white faces are now 'hyper-real': study

AFP, Paris

Images of faces generated by artificial intelligence (AI) can now appear more real than pictures of real people -- as long as they are white, a study said on Monday.

AI is now so good at depicting white people that the images are "hyper-real," said the report in the journal Psychological Science.

But AI tends to depict people of other ethnicities with white features because the data used to train the algorithms is biased, said lead author Amy Dawel from the Australian National University (ANU).

"If white AI faces are consistently perceived as more realistic, this technology could have serious implications for people of colour by ultimately reinforcing racial biases online," she said.

The authors said it was vital to educate the public about the hyper-realism of today's AI to avoid misinformation and online scams.

The researchers used 200 pictures -- 100 AI-generated and 100 real humans -- and asked 124 participants which were AI and which were genuine.

Of the five faces most often identified as human, four were AI. Of the top five judged as AI, four were human.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Bangladesh Police
Central Police Hospital
Rajarbag, Dhaka

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tender are hereby invited from the Suppliers/Local Agents in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka for the financial year 2023-2024.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	Bangladesh Police, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
3. Procuring entity name	Additional DIG, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
4. Invitation for	Purchase of Medical Equipment for Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
5. Invitation Ref No.	CPH/Tender-26/2023/9756
6. Date	14/11/2023.

KEY INFORMATION

7. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB).
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9. Tender publication date	15/11/2023 & 16/11/2023
10. Tender last selling date	16/12/2023
11. Tender closing date and time	At 12.00 Noon, 17/12/2023.
12. Tender opening date and time	12.30pm on 17/12/2023.

Name & address of the office(s)

Selling tender document	Office of the Director (DIG), Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
Receiving tender document	Office of the Director (DIG), Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
Opening tender document	Office of the Director (DIG), Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.

13. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (Bidder must present for avoiding any feature hassle of ensure
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