

Lift ban on women aid workers

G7 tells Taliban; UN halts some works

AGENCIES

G7 foreign ministers yesterday called on the Taliban to "urgently reverse" a ban on women working in Afghanistan's aid sector.

The ban is the latest blow against women's rights in Afghanistan since the Taliban reclaimed power last year.

The hardline Islamists also barred women from attending universities earlier this month, prompting global outrage and protests in some Afghan cities.

The G7 ministers along with those of Australia, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands said in a joint statement they were "gravely concerned that the Taliban's reckless and dangerous order... puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival".

"We call on the Taliban to urgently reverse this decision," they said in the statement issued by Britain's foreign ministry.

It comes after six aid bodies suspended operations in Afghanistan in response to the ban. They included Christian Aid, ActionAid, Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE.

On Wednesday, the United Nations said that some "time critical" programs in Afghanistan have temporarily stopped and warned many other activities will also likely need to be paused because of the ban.

The end of world is close?

As 2022 ends, climate, nuclear crises spark fears of the worst

AFP, Washington

For thousands of years, predictions of apocalypse have come and gone. But with dangers arising from nuclear war and climate change, does the planet need to at least begin contemplating the worst?

When the world rang in 2022, few would have expected the year to feature the US president speaking of the risk of doomsday, following Russia's threats to go nuclear in its invasion of Ukraine. "We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis" in 1962, Joe Biden said in October.

And on the year that humanity welcomed its eighth billion member, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the planet was on a "highway to climate hell."

In extremes widely attributed to climate change, floods submerged one-third of Pakistan, China sweat under an unprecedented 70 day heatwave, and crops failed in the Horn of Africa -- all while the world lagged behind on the UN-blessed goal of checking warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

The Global Challenges Foundation, a Swedish group that assesses catastrophic risks, warned in an annual report that the threat of nuclear weapons use was the greatest since 1945 when the United States destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in history's only atomic attacks.

The report warned that an all-out exchange of nuclear weapons, besides causing an enormous loss of life, would trigger clouds of dust that would obscure the sun, reducing the capacity to grow food and ushering in "a period of chaos and violence, during which most of the surviving world population would die from

hunger."

Kennette Benedict, a lecturer at the University of Chicago who led the report's nuclear section, said risks were even greater than during the Cuban Missile Crisis as Russian President Vladimir Putin appeared less restrained by advisors.

While any Russian nuclear strike would likely involve small "tactical" weapons, experts fear a quick escalation if the United States responds.



"Then we're in a completely different ballgame," said Benedict, a senior advisor to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which in January will unveil its latest assessment of the "doomsday clock" set since 2021 at 100 seconds to midnight.

Amid the focus on Ukraine, US intelligence believes North Korea is ready for a seventh nuclear test, Biden has effectively declared dead a deal on Iran's contested nuclear work and tensions between India and Pakistan have remained at a low boil.

Benedict also faulted the Biden administration's nuclear posture review which reserved the right for the United States to use nuclear weapons in "extreme circumstances."

"I think there's been a kind of steady erosion of the ability to manage nuclear weapons," she said.

UN experts estimated ahead of November talks in Egypt that the world was on track to warming of 2.1 to 2.9 C -- but some outside analysts put the figure well higher, with greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 again hitting a record despite pushes to renewable energy.

Luke Kemp, a Cambridge University expert on existential

he co-authored noted that even a two-degree temperature rise would put the Earth in territory uncharted since the Ice Age.

Using a medium-high scenario on emissions and population growth, it found that two billion people by 2070 could live in areas with a mean temperature of 29 C (84.2 F), straining water resources -- including between India and Pakistan.

The year, however, was not all grim. While China ended the year with a surge of Covid-19 deaths, vaccinations helped much of the world turn the page on the virus, which the World Health Organization estimated in May contributed to the deaths of 14.9 million people in 2020 and 2021.

Surprising jaded observers, a December conference in Montreal on biodiversity produced a major deal to protect 30 percent of the world's land and seas, with China leading the way.

The world has seen previous warnings of worst-case scenarios, from Thomas Malthus predicting in the 18th century that food production would not keep up with population growth to the 1968 US bestseller "The Population Bomb."

One of the most prominent current-day critics of pessimism is Harvard professor Steven Pinker, who has argued that violence has declined massively in the modern era.

Speaking after the Ukraine invasion, Pinker acknowledged Putin had brought back interstate war. But he said a failed invasion could also reinforce the positive trends.

Biden, in a Christmas address to Americans, acknowledged tough times but pointed to the decline in Covid and healthy employment rates.

"We're surely making progress. Things are getting better," Biden said.



Cambodia casino fire kills 19

Dozens more missing

REUTERS, Poipet

At least 19 people were killed and up to 30 were missing after a huge fire tore through a casino-hotel complex in a Cambodian town on the Thai border, officials said yesterday.

About 400 employees and patrons were in the Grand Diamond City casino and hotel in the town of Poipet when the fire broke out around midnight, and up to 30 were still missing.

"The number of deaths may reach more than 20," said Sek Sokhom, head of the Banteay Meanchey provincial information department.

Sixty people had been injured, he said.

Video footage showed the fire under control by Thursday afternoon. A key part of Cambodia's tourism industry, important for its economy, casinos in the capital of Phnom Penh and on the borders with Vietnam and Thailand are a draw for visitors from Asian nations that ban gambling.

Putin, Xi to speak today

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold talks by video link with Chinese leader Xi Jinping today, the Kremlin said, as Russia seeks to bolster ties with Beijing. Russia and China this month conducted joint naval drills, which Russia's army chief described as a response to the "aggressive" US military posturing in the Asia-Pacific region. Last week, Putin inaugurated a gas field in eastern Siberia that will allow Russia to increase its energy exports to China. China and Russia have drawn closer in recent years as part of what they call a "no-limits" relationship acting as a counterweight to the global dominance of the United States.

US okays \$180m anti-tank weapons sale to Taiwan

AFP, Washington

The US State Department approved on Wednesday the \$180 million sale of vehicle-launched anti-tank systems to Taiwan, the Pentagon said, the latest weapons deal between the self-governed island and its main ally. Taiwan would receive Volcano anti-tank munition-laying systems, cargo trucks, ammunition, logistics support packages and a myriad of other related services under the deal, according to a Pentagon statement. Beijing claims democratically run Taiwan as part of its territory, to be taken one day. US President Joe Biden signed into law a defense spending bill last week that included up to \$10 billion in military grant assistance to Taiwan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Planning, Monitoring & Research
DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
www.dghs.gov.bd

1. Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)
2. Division	Health Services Division
3. Agency	Directorate General of Health Services, Mohakhali, Dhaka
4. Procuring entity name	Line Director, PMR-OP
5. Project code	1270201
6. Procuring entity district	Dhaka
7. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Progress and Situational Survey of Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI) of different OPs under DGHS.
EOI Ref. No.	DGHS/PMR/Survey/34/2021-22/537
9. EOI publish date	30/12/2022
KEY INFORMATION	
10. Procurement method	Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006 & Public Procurement Regulation 2008 of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (Followed by QCBS Method)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
11. Budget & source	As per ADP allocation 2022-23 (GOB-Development), PMR OP.
12. Development partners	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
13. OP code	224021002
14. Project/program name	Planning, Monitoring & Research
15. EOI closing date, time and place of submission	12/01/2023 Time: 2.30pm, Room No. 615, Old Building, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
16. Brief description of assignment title	Progress and Situational Survey of Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI) of different OPs under DGHS ● Citizen feedback system, Budget Planning, Financial Management ● Asset management, Procurement process and procurement and supply management, Availability of midwives for maternal care is increased ● Information system including gender-disaggregated data ● Utilization of maternal health care, Emergency obstetric care Immunization coverage and equity etc.
17. Experience, resources & delivery, capacity required	● Familiarity with the health, nutrition and population sector program. ● Extensive knowledge on health in all policies of Bangladesh and how health system works. ● Knowledge of the relevance of the World Bank's Disbursement Linked to Indicators (DLIs) method and its relevance in the health sector. ● Capacity to conduct a detailed impact analysis of DLIs in the health sector. The applicant shall have to submit the EOI with the following documents. (1) Category of the firm: Research/Survey organization/consulting firm. (2) Brief description of the firm/Organization with proof of working in the relevant areas (3) valid trade license/registration (4) Updated income tax certificate/certificate of VAT (5) Bank solvency certificate (6) Name of the central key personnel with C.V who will be involved with the assignment (7) Relevant documents in favor of organizational strength of the firm.
18. Association with other firms	N/A
19. Association with foreign firms	N/A
20. Name of official inviting EOI	Prof. Dr. Mazharul Islam
21. Designation of official inviting EOI	Line Director, PMR, Directorate General of Health Services, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
22. Address of official inviting EOI	Room No. 615, Old Building, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Email: pmr@ld.dghs.gov.bd, TNT: +880258812195
N.B: Procuring entity reserves the rights to cancel the EOI & may disqualify the organization/firm or the procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all of the EOI.	

Prof. Dr. Mazharul Islam
Line Director, PMR, DGHS

GD-2396

"We have not lost our humanity, although we have endured terrible months. And we will not lose it, although there is a difficult year ahead."

Ukrainian President
Volodymyr Zelenskyy
urges Ukrainians

"Our absolute priority is four new Russian regions. They should become free from the threat of Nazification that they have faced for many years... We are in no hurry."

Russian foreign Minister
Sergei Lavrov

Iran to hold military exercises near Strait of Hormuz

AFP, Tehran

Iran's army was set to begin military exercises in strategic southern regions east of the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, state news agency IRNA reported.

Joint drills involving air, land and naval forces -- including both drones and submarines -- will take place around the southeastern port of Jask "east of the Strait of Hormuz", deputy coordinator of the armed forces Admiral Habibollah Sayyari told IRNA.

The Strait of Hormuz is the strategic chokepoint at the head of the Gulf through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

Exercises will involve "infantry, armoured and mechanised units of the ground forces, defence systems of the air defence force (and) subsurface and surface vessels", he said.

Naval forces with the support of "strategic bombers of the air force" will also take part.

Sayyari said that drones will practice "information-gathering operations against attacking forces as well as reconnaissance operations".

In May, state television broadcast footage of an air base for drones under the western Zagros Mountain range.

Iran's army unveiled its first division of ships and submarines capable of carrying armed drones in July, when US President Joe Biden was touring the Middle East.

In August, the army launched large-scale drone drills across the country involving 150 unmanned aerial vehicles.

The United States and Israel, arch-enemies of Iran, have previously accused Tehran of using drones and missiles to attack US forces and Israel-linked ships in the Gulf.

টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম
বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড
ভানুগাছ রোড, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার

টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম-এর ব্যবহার্য মালামাল ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়।		
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড।		
৩	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থার নাম	টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম।		
৪	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থার অবস্থান	ভানুগাছ রোড, শ্রীমঙ্গল-৩২১০, মৌলভীবাজার।		
৫	আবলানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম-এ ব্যবহারের জন্য মালামাল ক্রয়।		
৬	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।		
৭	দরপত্র নং	টি রিসোর্ট (বিটিবি)-ক্যাফেটেরিয়া-১৩/২০১৬-২৪২১, তারিখ: ২৮/১২/২০২২ইং।		
৮	অর্থের উৎস	টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম-এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।		
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	০১/০১/২০২৩ হতে ১৫/০১/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়, টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম, ভানুগাছ রোড, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার-এর কার্যালয়।		
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও স্থান	১৫/০১/২০২৩, ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, স্থান: পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন ইউনিট, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার-এর কার্যালয়।		
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৫/০১/২০২৩, ১২:১০ ঘটিকা, পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন ইউনিট, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।		
১২	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	সংশ্লিষ্ট সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট এবং টেন্ডার সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, এনুয়াল টার্নওভার ও লিকুইড এসেট এর তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।		
১৩	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	প্রত্যেক লটারের জন্য ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশ) টাকা প্রতিটি।		
১৪	লট নং	অবস্থান	টেভার সিকিউরিটির অর্থ	
(১)	সফট রেশন	টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম, ভানুগাছ রোড, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।	২২,০০০/-	
(২)	ফ্রেশ রেশন	টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম, ভানুগাছ রোড, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।	৩৫,০০০/-	
(৩)	মনোহারী সামগ্রী	টি রিসোর্ট এন্ড মিউজিয়াম, ভানুগাছ রোড, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।	১৩,০০০/-	
১৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ফোন	ড. এ কে এম রফিকুল হক, প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা। Web: tearesort.gov.bd, E-mail: tearesortmuseum@gmail.com, Phone: 08626-71207, Mobile: 01712-071502		
১৬	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্র তফসিল সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		

স্বাক্ষর/প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা

জিডি-২৩৯৩