

China satellite launch prompts Taiwan alert

REUTERS, Taipei
Taiwan's government issued an island-wide alert yesterday, saying a Chinese satellite had flown over its southern airspace, which Taiwan's foreign minister described as part of a pattern of harassment days before a pivotal election. The security alert was sent by the defence ministry to mobile phone users in Taiwan after 3:00 pm (0700 GMT), around the same time Chinese state media confirmed the launch of a science satellite. The "presidential alert" described the projectile as a "satellite" in Chinese, and a "missile" in English. The defence ministry later blamed "negligence" for the mistaken reference to a missile. It also said the rocket



People ride a boat in the polluted Yamuna river laden with foam during a cold winter morning in Mathura of Uttar Pradesh, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Over 6,000 migrants vanished trying to reach Spain in 2023

Says migrants rights group

AFP, Madrid

At least 6,618 migrants died or disappeared while trying to reach Spain by sea in 2023, when record numbers headed for the Canary Islands, a migrants rights group said yesterday.

This "shameful" figure is almost three times the number recorded in the previous year -- 2,390 -- and the highest since charity Caminando Fronteras, or Walking Borders, began keeping a tally in 2007, its coordinator, Helena Maleno, told a news conference.

The total includes 384 children, according to the organisation, which compiles its figures from families of migrants who died or went missing and from official rescue statistics.

Maleno blamed the rise in migrant deaths and disappearances last year on a lack of resources for rescuers.

Nearly half involved migrants who had departed for Spain from Senegal, where



political unrest along with a lack of jobs, rising food prices and depleting fish stocks have caused thousands to flee the country.

The vast majority of fatalities -- 6,007 -- took place on the Atlantic migration route from Africa to Spain's Canary Islands.

As control tighten in the Mediterranean, the seven islands have become a favourite destination for people fleeing poverty and conflict in Africa, mostly on overcrowded, barely seaworthy vessels that lack enough

food and water for the journey.

"The Atlantic route has become the deadliest route in the world," Maleno said.

The number of migrants arriving illegally in Spain in 2023 nearly doubled from the previous year, reaching 56,852, according to interior ministry figures.

That was the highest number since 2018, when 64,298 migrants entered the country.

The majority, about 70 per cent, arrived in the Canary Islands, which, at their closest point, are barely 100 kilometres from the northwest coast of Africa.

Boats -- often long wooden fishing vessels -- depart from Morocco, as well as Mauritania, Gambia and Senegal further south. The direct journey from Senegal to the Canaries usually takes a week of difficult upwind sailing of 1,600 kilometres.

To avoid controls, smugglers take longer, more dangerous journeys, navigating west into the open Atlantic before turning north to the Canaries.

Trump presses immunity claim

Says he could prosecute Biden if re-elected

REUTERS, Washington

Donald Trump warned yesterday that he could prosecute Joe Biden if he returns to the White House, as Washington appeals court judges expressed skepticism at the former US president's claims that he is immune from criminal charges for trying to overturn the 2020 election. The Republican's lawyers were trying yesterday to convince the three judges that a federal criminal case charging Trump with election subversion should be dismissed before it goes to trial in March. With the Republican state-by-state presidential nominating contest due to kick off next week, Trump is using the hearing as an opportunity to claim he is the victim of political persecution. The US Justice Department has long held that sitting presidents cannot be prosecuted for actions they take in office, and Trump says that should apply to former presidents as well. If the case is allowed to go forward, Trump said, he could prosecute Democrat Biden if he wins the November presidential election. "If I don't get immunity then crooked Joe Biden doesn't get immunity," Trump said in a video posted on social media. "Joe would be ripe for indictment," he added.

MICROPLASTICS Bottled water contains thousands of bits: study

AFP, Washington

Bottled water is up to a hundred times worse than previously thought when it comes to the number of tiny plastic bits it contains, a new study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences said Monday. Using a recently invented technique, scientists counted on average 240,000 detectable fragments of plastic per liter of water in popular brands -- between 10-100 times higher than prior estimates -- raising potential health concerns that require further study. "If people are concerned about nanoplastics in bottled water, it's reasonable to consider alternatives like tap water," Beizhan Yan, an associate research professor of geochemistry at Columbia University and a co-author of the paper told AFP. But he added: "We do not advise against drinking bottled water when necessary, as the risk of dehydration can outweigh the potential impacts of nanoplastics exposure." There has been rising global attention in recent years on microplastics, which break off from bigger sources of plastic and are now found everywhere from the polar ice caps to mountain peaks.



had passed at high altitude over Taiwan airspace. Taiwan holds presidential and parliamentary elections on Saturday. Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory and has cast elections as a choice between peace and war across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's government rejects China's sovereignty assertions. Chinese state news agency Xinhua said China had launched "a new astronomical satellite" called the Einstein Probe from the southwestern province of Sichuan.

China had not previously announced the satellite launch and did not offer any details on its flight plan. China made two satellite launches on consecutive days in early December from a launch site in Inner Mongolia.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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Memo No. CSS/DRS/2023-2024/53 Date: 08/01/2024

e-Tender Notice
(Open Tendering Method)

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Manisar Chowdhury, Civil Surgeon Sylhet, for the Procurement of:

| Tender ID | Name of goods | Tender/proposal publication date & time | Tender/proposal last selling date & time | Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time |
|-----------|--|---|--|---|
| 917333 | Procurement of Medicine for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet. | 09-Jan-2024 12:00 | 23-Jan-2023 16:00 | 24-Jan-2023 13:00 |
| 917334 | Procurement of Surgical Instrument for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet. | 09-Jan-2024 12:00 | 23-Jan-2023 16:00 | 24-Jan-2023 13:00 |
| 917335 | Procurement of Gauze, Bandage & Cotton for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet. | 09-Jan-2024 12:00 | 23-Jan-2023 16:00 | 24-Jan-2023 13:00 |
| 917336 | Procurement of Medical Furniture for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet. | 09-Jan-2024 12:00 | 23-Jan-2023 16:00 | 24-Jan-2023 13:00 |
| 917337 | Procurement of Linen for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet. | 09-Jan-2024 12:00 | 23-Jan-2023 16:00 | 24-Jan-2023 13:00 |
| 917338 | Procurement of Chemical Reagent for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Sylhet Civil Surgeon Office, Sylhet. | 09-Jan-2024 12:00 | 23-Jan-2023 16:00 | 24-Jan-2023 13:00 |

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Dr. Manisar Chowdhury
Civil Surgeon, Sylhet

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বাংলাদেশ তীত বোর্ড
বিটিএমসি ভবন (৫ম তলা)
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স্মারক নং: ২৪.০৫.০০০০.৫১১.১১.০০৫.২৩-১২ তারিখ: ২৫ পৌষ ১৪৩০ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৯ জানুয়ারি ২০২৪ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

প্রাথমিক বাছাই পরীক্ষার নোটিশ

বাংলাদেশ তীত বোর্ডের রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত ১৩ হতে ২০তম গ্রেডের ১৬ ক্যাটাগরির মোট ৫৪টি স্থায়ী শূন্যপদ পূরণের লক্ষ্যে ৩০.০৩.২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখের ২৪.০৫.০০০০.৫১১.১১.০০২.২২-১৯৩ নং স্মারক মোতাবেক টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে এবং গত ০৪.০৭.২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখের ২৪.০৫.০০০০.৫১১.১১.০০২.১৮-৩১০ নং স্মারক অনুযায়ী অনলাইন ব্যতীত ম্যানুয়ালি প্রাপ্ত আবেদনসমূহের বিপরীতে জারিকৃত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত ১৬ ক্যাটাগরির পদে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীগণের প্রাথমিক বাছাই (MCQ) পরীক্ষা ঢাকার বিভিন্ন কেন্দ্রে নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

| ক্র. নং | পদের নাম, বেতন গ্রেড | তারিখ ও সময় |
|---------|---|---|
| ০১ | অফিস সহকারী [গ্রেড-১৩] | ১৯ জানুয়ারি ২০২৪খ্রিঃ, রোজ শূন্যবর বিকাল ০৩:০০ হতে বিকাল ০৪:০০ টা পর্যন্ত |
| ০২ | উচ্চমান সহকারী [গ্রেড-১৩] | |
| ০৩ | হিসাব সহকারী [গ্রেড-১৩] | |
| ০৪ | নিরীক্ষক [গ্রেড-১৩] | |
| ০৫ | সীটলিপিকার-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর [গ্রেড-১৩] | |
| ০৬ | সীটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর [গ্রেড-১৪] | |
| ০৭ | ক্রাফটসম্যান [গ্রেড-১৬] | |
| ০৮ | অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক [গ্রেড-১৬] | |
| ০৯ | কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক [গ্রেড-১৬] | |
| ১০ | ক্লার্ক-কাম-টাইপিষ্ট [গ্রেড-১৬] | |
| ১১ | দক্ষ তীতী [গ্রেড-১৬] | |
| ১২ | অফিস সহায়ক [গ্রেড-২০] | |
| ১৩ | বার্তাবাহক [গ্রেড-২০] | |
| ১৪ | সাহায্যকারী [গ্রেড-২০] | |
| ১৫ | নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী [গ্রেড-২০] | |
| ১৬ | পরিষ্কারকর্মী [গ্রেড-২০] | |

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