

MYANMAR CRISIS

India to spend \$3.7bn to fence border

REUTERS, New Delhi

India plans to spend nearly \$3.7 billion to fence its 1,610 km porous border with Myanmar within about a decade, said a source with direct knowledge of the matter, to prevent smuggling and other illegal activities.

New Delhi said earlier this year it would fence the border and end a decades-old visa-free movement policy with Myanmar for border citizens for reasons of national security and to maintain the demographic structure of its northeastern region.

Myanmar has so far not commented on India's fencing plans.

Meanwhile, the leader of Myanmar's ruling military yesterday said the junta is holding power temporarily with aim of strengthening democracy and will forge ahead with plans to hold a fair election.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. In heavy bombardment, Israeli strikes again hit Gaza City and Rafah, where a fireball lit up the sky over the city crowded with up to 1.5 million people, most of them displaced by the offensive.

PHOTO: REUTERS

China to develop strategic infrastructure

Says Sri Lanka PM

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's prime minister said yesterday that China has pledged to develop the island nation's strategic deep sea port and the capital's airport after talks with his counterpart in Beijing.

Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said China -- the island's biggest bilateral creditor -- would "assist" Sri Lanka's restructuring of external debt, a key condition to maintaining a \$2.9 billion IMF bailout.

Beijing's position on debt restructuring has not been made public.

But Sri Lankan officials have said China was reluctant to take a haircut on its loans but could extend the tenure and adjust interest rates.

'Everyone is hungry'

Desperate Palestinians in Gaza fight for food after airdrop deaths

AFP, Gaza City

Gazans waited again Tuesday in their hundreds for food to fall from the sky at beaches in the famine-stalked north, a day after nearly 20 died trying to get to parachutes carrying aid.

Twelve of them drowned trying to wade into the sea to get aid packages that went astray, according to the Hamas government and the Swiss-based Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor. They were "young men and children", witnesses told AFP. "They didn't know how to swim. They went and did not return."

"Everyone is hungry, so there's chaos to get food," said Ahmed Al-Rifi, a mechanic from nearby Gaza City, much of which has been reduced to ruins by months of Israeli bombardment.

"Every day people get hurt or even killed fighting to get basic items like flour, canned food, water, lentils and beans," he added.

Six of those who died amid the dunes and rubble on Monday



were killed in stampedes, the government and Euro-Med said.

"The situation is deeply humiliating," said taxi driver Uday Nasser.

"We are risking our lives just to receive aid. What should be a humanitarian effort has turned into fights and beatings."

"The strong take from the weaker ones. Sometimes they use knives or even shoot."

Even those who manage to get food risk being robbed on the way home, said Nasser.

But such is the hunger in northern Gaza, which the United

Nations warned is on the brink of a "man made famine", that every day people are prepared to take the risk.

"We hear the plane's noise and wait for aid to be dropped with parachutes. We see people gazing at the sky, so we know the plane is coming," said Nasser, 27, who used to live in the Jabalia refugee camp before being forced to flee his home.

"When we reach the drop zone, a large crowd gathers, leading to fights, chaos and injuries. Some people fall to the ground in the stampede."

The aid crates, which weigh around a tonne, can be dangerous in themselves. Five people were killed and 10 injured by an airdrop earlier this month when parachutes malfunctioned, a Gaza medic said.

Several nations have been airdropping aid into northern Gaza, where land deliveries have effectively been blocked, including France, Jordan, the Emirates and Germany.

Three dead, 10 hurt in Russian attacks on Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Russian attacks on eastern and southern Ukraine killed three people and wounded 10 others, officials said yesterday, as Moscow said it had downed a barrage of Ukrainian rockets.

The governor of Ukraine's southern Kherson region, which is partially occupied by Russia, said one woman had been killed in a drone attack on the village of Mykhailivka.

Ukrainian forces retook swaths of the Black Sea territory in late 2022 but Russia has been shelling recaptured towns and villages since.

"A 61-year-old local resident was fatally wounded in her own home," the official, Oleksandr Prokudin, wrote on social media.

Households waste 1bn tonnes of food a day: UN

AFP, Paris

Households around the world threw away one billion meals every single day in 2022 in what the United Nations yesterday called a "global tragedy" of food waste. More than \$1 trillion worth of food was binned by households and businesses at a time when nearly 800 million people were going hungry each night, the UN's latest Food Waste Index Report says. It said that more than 1 billion tonnes of food -- almost one fifth of all the produce available on the market -- was wasted in 2022, most of it by households. "Food waste is a global tragedy. Millions will go hungry today as food is wasted across the world," Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, said in a statement. Such wastage was not just a moral but "environmental failure", the report said. Food waste produces five times the planet-heating emissions of the aviation sector, and requires huge tracts of land be converted for growing crops that are never eaten. The report, co-authored with non-profit organisation WRAP, is just the second on global food waste compiled by the UN and provides the most complete picture to date. As data collection has improved the true scale of the problem has become much clearer, said Clementine O'Connor from UNEP. "The more food waste you look for, the more that you find," she told AFP. The report said that the "billion meals" figure was a "very conservative estimate" and "the real amount could be much higher".

BRIDGE COLLAPSE Baltimore rescuers lose hope for more survivors

REUTERS, Baltimore

Rescuers have lost hope of finding more survivors of the Baltimore bridge collapse, the coast guard said, as efforts yesterday switched to looking for bodies of the missing and more answers to why a container ship smashed into the span. Search divers returned near dawn to the waters surrounding the twisted ruins of the bridge in Baltimore Harbor to search for six workers missing and now presumed dead. The disaster has forced the indefinite closure of the Port of Baltimore, one of the busiest on the US Eastern Seaboard, and created a traffic quagmire for Baltimore and the surrounding region. As the odds of their survival vanished, the search for the missing workers was suspended on Tuesday evening, 18 hours after they were thrown from the fallen Francis Scott Key Bridge into the frigid waters at the mouth of the Patapsco River.



Iran frees 18 Filipino crew of seized oil tanker, says Philippines

AFP, Manila

The Philippines said yesterday that Iran has freed all 18 Filipino crew members of an oil tanker that was seized in the Gulf of Oman in January.

Iran's navy had boarded the Greek-owned St. Nikolas, which was carrying 19 crew, off the coast of Oman. The only Greek crew member was released the following week.

Tehran began freeing the Filipino crew in batches at the end of January after a replacement crew was hired from Russia and other countries, Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Eduardo de Vega told AFP.

"They were not hostages... but they were not allowed to leave without replacements," de Vega said of the Filipino crew.

The last of the Filipino crew returned to Manila last week, he added. The Marshall Islands flagged ship was carrying 145,000 tonnes of oil from Iraq and heading to Turkey when it was seized. It has been anchored in the vicinity of the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.

Iran's state media has said the seizure was in retaliation to the "theft" of Iranian oil by the United States from the same tanker, at the time named the Suez Rajan.

Tehran has responded with tit-for-tat measures in the past after seizures of Iranian oil shipments.

Crippling US sanctions, reimposed following Washington's 2018 withdrawal from a landmark nuclear deal, target Iranian oil and petrochemical sales in a bid to reduce Iran's energy exports.

Manila is still seeking the release of 17 Filipinos taken hostage by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis in November after the rebels seized their ship in the Red Sea.

In a separate incident, two Filipino crew members were killed and three others injured in a Houthi missile attack on their ship in the Gulf of Aden on March 6.



Migrants from Peru and Venezuela walk down a trail on the US side of the Rio Grande river in El Paso, Texas on Tuesday. Four days ago, hundreds of migrants seeking asylum clashed with Texas national guardsmen while waiting to turn themselves in to border patrol agents for processing.

PHOTO: AFP

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
আইসিটি মন্ত্রণালয়
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর
কক নং-১২২, শিক্ষা ভবন (১ম তরফ), ১৬, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন: ৪১০৫০১০৪-০৬
Web: www.ictedu.gov.bd E-mail: pd-ict@dshe.gov.bd & pdict2@gmail.com

স্মারক নং: মাউশি/আইসিটিপি-২/৪৯/২০১৭/১৩১ তারিখ: ২৭/০৩/২০২৪

Invitation for Tenders

Procurement of Office Furniture and Fixtures

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education, Secondary and Higher Education Division		
2	Agency	Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education		
3	Procuring Entity Name	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project (Phase-II, 1st Revised)		
4	Procuring Entity Code	224016600		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Office Furniture and Fixtures		
7	Invitation Ref No.	মাউশি/আইসিটিপি-২/৪৯/২০১৭/১৩১		
8	Date	27/03/2024		
9	Procurement Method	OTM (NCT)		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB		
11	Development Partner	None		
12	Project Code	224016600		
13	Project Name	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project (Phase-II, 1st Revised)		
14	Tender Package No.	GD2		
15	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Office Furniture and Fixtures		
16	Tender Publication Date	28/03/2024		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	18/04/2024		
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date	Time	
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	18/04/2024	01:00pm	
20	Name & Address of the office: Selling Tender Document (Principal) Selling Tender Document (Others)	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project (Phase-II, 1st Revised), Shikha Bhavan, 1st Block, Room No.121, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh		

NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Receiving Tender Document	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project (Phase-II, 1st Revised), Shikha Bhavan, 1st Block, Room No-122, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
Opening Tender Document	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project (Phase-II, 1st Revised), Shikha Bhavan, 1st Block, Room No-122, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	1. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 5 (five) years. 2. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least 3 (three) contracts successfully completed within the last 2 (two) years, with a value of at least Tk.20 (twenty) lac. 3. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 50 (fifty) lac.		
22	Brief Description of Goods	Procurement of 7 Senior Executive Table, 5 Executive Table, 6 Senior Executive Chair, 3 Executive Chair, 16 Cushion Chair (armless), 2 Steel Almirah and 7 File Cabinet.		
23	Brief Description of Related Services	Installation and Commissioning of above goods.		
24	Price of Tender Document	Tk 1000/- (one thousand)		

25	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks
	None	None	Dhaka	50,000/-	4 weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Md. Sahedul Kabir
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project (Phase-II, 1st Revised), Shikha Bhavan, 1 Block, Room No-122, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	02-41050101 pdict2@gmail.com
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

GD-507
Prof. Md. Sahedul Kabir-2114
Project Director