

## Vessel hit by missiles off Yemen’s coast

REUTERS, Dubai

A Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier off the Yemeni coast took on water after being targeted with three missiles, maritime security and shipping sources said yesterday.

The ship issued a distress call, saying it had sustained damage to the cargo hold and was taking on water about 54 nautical miles southwest of Yemen's port city of Hodeidah, British security firm Ambrey said.

Greek shipping sources said the vessel, which bears the name Laax, was sailing to a port nearby to assess the extent of the damage. It was headed to the United Arab Emirates.

Its Greece-based operator Grehel Shipmanagement did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said separately yesterday that it had received a report of an incident 31 nautical miles southwest of Hodeidah.



A Palestinian boy carries a container as he walks on debris at the site of an Israeli strike a day earlier on a camp for internally displaced people in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## S Africa braces for tight polls

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africans yesterday braced for a tight general election that may loosen ruling ANC's 30-year hold on power -- with many fed up with unemployment and corruption.

For a second day, 1.6 million "special voters" including the elderly, essential workers, police and prisoners, were allowed to cast their ballots early. The rest of South Africa's 27-million registered electorate will be called on today to elect provincial legislatures and a new national parliament.

For the first time, the African National Congress is at risk of losing its outright majority and could be forced to negotiate a coalition.

## Israeli spy chief ‘threatened’ ex-ICC prosecutor: report

THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE

Former head of the Mossad, Yossi Cohen, reportedly pressured former ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to close the investigation of Israeli war crimes, The Guardian reported yesterday.

According to the report, Cohen and Bensouda secretly met in the years preceding her decision to open an official investigation in 2021 on suspicion of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Palestinian territories.

The Guardian noted that Cohen's

involvement against the ICC occurred while he served as head of the Mossad. The report cited an Israeli source that noted that the Mossad sought to "compromise the prosecutor or enlist her as someone who would cooperate with Israel's demands."

Another source told The Guardian that Cohen was acting as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "unofficial messenger."

The Guardian quoted Cohen as saying, "You should help us and let us take care of you. You don't want to be getting into

things that could compromise your security or that of your family."

Other reports of intimidation were revealed by The Guardian, which added that the Mossad, under Cohen's tenure, took an interest in the prosecutor's family, even obtaining transcripts of conversations between Bensouda and her husband in an attempt to use these conversations to discredit her.

An individual, quoted by The Guardian, stated that Cohen used "despicable tactics" against the former prosecutor, even likening his behavior to "stalking."

## ‘Modi sent to help Adani not poor’: Rahul

TOI, New Delhi

In yet another sharp retort to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement of feeling "sent by God," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi mocked the PM and said, "God sent Modi to help Adani and not the poor."

Addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Bansgaon with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, he also asserted that the INDIA bloc will "jumpstart" the country's economy once it assumes power at the Centre.

Gandhi's reaction came in response to Modi's remark made during an interview, where he expressed a belief in being divinely ordained rather than biologically born. Earlier, the Congress leader suggested that if the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were to question Modi about corruption post-elections, he might attribute his actions to divine intervention.

"Why is PM Modi weaving tales of divine intervention now? Because when the ED questions him about Adani after the elections, he may claim it was ordained by the Almighty," Gandhi quipped.

## Climate change caused 26 extra-hot days last year: report

AFP, Paris

The world experienced an average of 26 more days of extreme heat over the last 12 months that would probably not have occurred without climate change, a report said yesterday.

The report points to the role of global warming in increasing the intensity of extreme weather around the world.

For this study, scientists used the years 1991 to 2020 to determine what temperatures counted as within the top 10 percent for each country over that period. Next, they looked at the 12 months to May 15, 2024, to establish how many days over that period experienced temperatures within -- or beyond -- the previous range.



Members of rescue teams look for survivors amidst the debris next to a stone quarry that collapsed following torrential rains brought by cyclone Remal on the outskirts of Aizawl, the capital of northeastern state of Mizoram, India yesterday. So far 12 bodies have been found, said deputy commissioner of Aizawl district Nazuk Kumar.

## UKRAINE PEACE SUMMIT Biden missing talks would be ‘applause’ for Putin

REUTERS, Brussels

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that if US President Joe Biden missed a peace summit organised by Kyiv in Switzerland next month, it would be like a standing ovation for Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ukraine hopes to host as many countries as possible in an attempt to unite opinion on how to halt the war and pile pressure on Russia, which has seized almost a fifth of Ukraine's territory. Washington has signalled support but has not said whether Biden will attend.

"I know that the US supports the summit but we don't know at what level," the Ukrainian president said in Brussels on Monday at a joint press conference with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo.

"(The) peace summit needs President Biden and so do the other leaders who look at the reaction of the United States. His absence would be an applause to Putin, a personal standing applause to Putin."

Zelensky on Sunday urged both Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Putin's close ally and a leading



beneficiary of his rift to attend the summit.

Russia, which launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, has said it sees no point in the conference.

Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that Russia has never abandoned peace talks with Ukraine and is ready to return to them, while Ukraine itself has withdrawn from the negotiation process.

He alleged that the West provoked Russia's latest offensive into Ukraine's Kharkiv region by ignoring Russia's warnings not to allow Ukraine to strike the adjacent Russian region of Belgorod.

Strikes on Russian territory by weapons supplied by the West to Ukraine are only possible with the help of specialists from Western countries, Putin said, adding that this could lead to serious consequences.

In a separate development, Kyiv's defence minister said Ukraine will receive its first supplies of F-16 fighter jets "very soon", but around half of its desperately needed foreign military aid is arriving late.


## Iran’s near-bomb-grade uranium stock grows Say IAEA reports as talks stall

REUTERS, Vienna

Iran is enriching uranium to close to weapons grade at a steady pace while discussions aimed at improving its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog are stalled, two confidential reports by the watchdog showed on Monday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency faces a range of difficulties in Iran, including the fact it only implemented a small fraction of the steps IAEA chief Rafael Grossi thought it committed to in a "Joint Statement" on cooperation last year.

"There has been no progress in the past year towards implementing the Joint Statement of 4 March 2023," one of the two reports to member states, both of which were seen by Reuters, said.



**Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Strengthening Development Budget Management Capability through Establishing  
A New Database System (SDBM) Project  
Programming Division, Planning Commission  
Room-13, Bhaban-02, Ministry of Planning, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (For Selection of Individual Consultants)**

1.	Ministry/ Division	Planning Division	
2.	Agency	Programming Division, Planning Commission	
3.	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Strengthening Development Budget Management Capability of Programming Division through Establishing a new Digital database system (SDBM) Project	
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka	
5.	Invitation for	Selection of Individual Consultants (National) for Consultancy Services.	
6.	Invitation Ref. No.	20.06.0000.002.14.008.18-757	
7.	Date	28-05-2024	
8.	Procurement method	Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS).	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
9.	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget, Government of Bangladesh	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
10.	EOI Closing Date and Time	Date: 11-06-2024 Time: 13:00 hours BST.	
11.	Place	Place: Office of the Project Director, Room No. 34, Building-7, Level-3, SDBM Project, Programming Division, Planning Commission.	
12.	Brief Description of Assignment	1. IT Specialist – 03 Persons 2. Junior IT Specialist – 03 Persons Scope of major services included in Standard Request for Application (SRFA) document, which shall be collected from the office of Programming Division, Planning Commission.	
13.	Experience, Resources Delivery Capacity Required	Details, as mentioned on Documents for each position, shall be collected from the Office of the Project Director, Room No. 34, Bhaban-7, Level-3, SDBM Project, Programming Division, Planning Commission.	
14.	Other Details	1. Short listing will be made in accordance of "Rule-115 of Public Procurement Rule (PPR)-2008." 2. The Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted in 4 (Four) sets (One Original & Three Copies) on or before the specified date and time to the office of the undersigned. The Expression of Interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope and clearly marked with name of the assignment to the office of the Inviting official. Interested applicants may obtain further information from the undersigned during the office hours (9:00 to 16:00 hours BST).	
15.	Consultant	Nos	Education Experience
	a) IT Specialist IT Program/System Design-1 nos. b) Program/Database-1 nos. c) Network/Application-1 nos.	3	Master degree in Computer Science and/or Engineering or related degrees. For positions (a) and (b) Minimum 12 years of working experience in large scale, centralized and distributed systems, highly available APIs, and products that impact stakeholders and end users. For position (c) Minimum 12 years of working experience in building, operating and maintaining complex and scalable systems; Min 01 years of working experience in the field of S/W and Application Development.
Junior IT Specialist		3	Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and/or Engineering or related degrees or Masters in other Disciplines.
16.	Name of Official Inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI)	Mr. A. H. M. Anwar Pasha	
17.	Designation of Official Inviting Expressions of Interest	Project Director, Strengthening Development Budget Management Capability through establishing a new Digital Database System.	
18.	Address of Official Inviting the Expressions of Interest	Room No. 13, Block-2, Level-2, Programming Division, Planning Commission.	
19.	Contact details of	Tel: 880-2-48113882 Email: pasha6892@gmail.com, sdhmdpb@gmail.com	

Note: The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EOIs without showing any reason thereof.



28.05.2024  
Mr. A. H. M. Anwar Pasha  
Project Director &  
Joint Chief (Joint Secretary)

GD-885