

Protests grow in India over abuse of two minors Schools, internet shut in a town near Mumbai

REUTERS, Mumbai

Internet services were cut off and schools were closed for a second straight day in a town near India's financial capital Mumbai yesterday, as protests over the alleged sexual abuse of two, four-year old girls intensified, media said.

The protests in Badlapur, about 50 km from Mumbai, come amid nationwide demonstrations over the rape and murder of 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata.

A janitor was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing the students in a school in Badlapur on the weekend.

Angry protesters blocked railway tracks for hours on Tuesday, demanding justice for the children, echoing similar protests across the country by doctors and women's groups.



Medical professionals and students holding placards shout slogans during a protest against the rape and murder of a doctor in India's West Bengal state, in New Delhi, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tanker adrift after multiple attacks in Red Sea: agency

REUTERS, Dubai

A Greek-flagged oil tanker was adrift in the Red Sea yesterday after repeated attacks that started a fire on the vessel and caused the ship to lose power, the UK maritime agency said.

The Sounion was first attacked by two small boats and hit by multiple projectiles about 77 nautical miles west of Yemen's port city of Hodeidah on Wednesday morning, the Greek shipping ministry and the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said.

There was a brief exchange of small arms fire during the incident, the UKMTO said, adding in a later update that the ship had reported a renewed attack. That caused the fire and led the vessel to lose engine power and its ability to manoeuvre.

Death 'the only certainty' for Palestinians in Gaza

Says UN official as Israeli strikes continue in enclave

AFP, Jerusalem

In Gaza, death appears to be the "only certainty" for 2.4 million Palestinians with no way to escape Israel's relentless bombardment, a UN official said Tuesday, recounting the growing desperation across the territory.

"It does feel like people are waiting for death. Death seems to be the only certainty in this situation," Louise Wateridge, a spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, also known as UNRWA, told AFP from Gaza.

For the past two weeks, Wateridge has been in the Gaza Strip, witnessing the humanitarian crisis, fear of death and spread of disease as the offensive rages on.

"Nowhere in the Gaza Strip is safe, absolutely nowhere is safe. It's absolutely devastating," Wateridge said from the Nuseirat area of central Gaza -- a regular target of

Israel's aerial assaults.

Since fighting broke out in October, Israeli forces have pounded the besieged territory from the air, land and sea, reducing much of it to rubble.



Now in its eleventh month, the offensive has created an acute humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom have been displaced several times, running out of basic food and clean drinking water.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges when it comes to the spread of disease, when it comes

to hygiene. Part of this is because of the Israeli imposed siege on the Gaza Strip," Wateridge said.

Israel's military campaign has killed at least 40,223 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. Most of the dead in Gaza are women and children, according to the UN human rights office.

Tens of thousands of people have taken refuge in schools across the Gaza Strip, an increasingly regular target of Israeli missiles. Israel's military says these schools have been used as command and control centres by Hamas, a charge the group denies.

"Even a school is not anymore a safe place," said Wateridge. "It feels like you're never more than a few blocks away from the front line now." Tired of reacting to the Israeli military's "continuous" evacuation orders, more and more Gazans are reluctant to keep moving from place to place, Wateridge said.

RIOTS IN BRITAIN Pakistan man charged with cybercrime

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has charged a local man with cybercrime offences for spreading fake online information which fuelled riots in Britain, it said in a statement yesterday.

The riots began after false information circulated online wrongly blaming a migrant for the killing of three young girls in a knife attack in the northern English town of Southport in late July.

Farhan Asif, who ran a web publication, was arrested in eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, a statement from the FIA said.

It said Asif posted an article on his X social media account which said that the attacker was a Muslim immigrant, and also shared pictures of the killings.

America ready for Harris presidency

Says Obama at Democratic National Convention

REUTERS, Chicago

Former US president Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama delivered a one-two punch at the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday night, urging Americans to back Kamala Harris in her 11th-hour presidential bid against Republican Donald Trump.

America's first Black president, Obama has thrown his considerable political capital behind Harris as she seeks to make history herself on November 5 as the first woman and first Black and South Asian person to be elected US president.

"We do not need four more years of bluster and bumbling and chaos. We have seen that movie before, and we all know that the sequel is usually worse," Obama told delegates on Day Two of the Chicago convention.

"America is ready for a new chapter. America is ready for a better story. We are ready for a President Kamala Harris."

He took aim at Trump, the Republican who followed him into the White House in 2017 and praised President Joe Biden, his vice president who was forced out of the 2024 race by Democratic allies who feared he would lose to Trump in November.

"History will remember Joe Biden as a president who defended democracy at a moment of great danger. I am proud to call him my president, but even prouder to call him my friend," Obama said.

Ukraine carries out drone attacks on Moscow

REUTERS, Moscow



Ukraine attacked Moscow yesterday with at least 11 drones shot down by air defences in what Russian officials said was one of the biggest drone strikes on the capital since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022.

The war, largely a grinding artillery and drone battle across the fields, forests and villages of eastern Ukraine, escalated on August 6 when Ukraine sent thousands of soldiers into Russia's western Kursk region.

Russia's defence ministry said it destroyed a total of 45 drones over Russian territory, including 11 over the Moscow region, 23 over the border region of Bryansk, six over the Belgorod region, three over the Kaluga region and two over the Kursk region. Meanwhile, messaging services Telegram and WhatsApp briefly suffered a major outage in Russia yesterday, said the country's media regulator Roskomnadzor, which blamed a cyberattack.

Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Changes
Bangladesh Forests Department
Social Forest Division Rajshahi.

Environment Protection Through Social Forestry in the Rajshahi Barind Tract Region Project

Memo No. 22.01.0000.245.29.011.24. 29 20 Date: 20/08/2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of goods as stated below:

SL No	Tender ID, Package No & Name of Packages	Publishing date and time	Last Selling date and time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	Tender ID: 1007558 WD-01/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Construction of 2 m wide & 2150m length C.C Road at Altadighi.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
2	Tender ID: 1009463 WD-02/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Bill Board with RCC Foundation and MS Angle 5 nos, Construction of Altadighi Ghat 02 nos, HBB at Car Parking Area, Main Gate with toilet, ticket counter and rest room & RCC Seating 30 nos.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
3	Tender ID: 1009469 WD-03/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Construction of Dustbin (2mX2mX2m) 6nos, Over Head Tank (OHWT), Goli Ghor (5nos), RCC Umbrella for 8 nos & Supplying and fitting of Steel Cradle (Dolna) 4 nos.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
4	Tender ID: 1009473 WD-04/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Construction of 2 m wide & 1100m length HBB Road at Sonadighi only & Protection work and Land development work at Sonadighi.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
5	Tender ID: 1009476 WD-05/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Electrification & Lighting at Altadighi.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
6	Tender ID: 1009469 GD-04/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Supply of Computer Equipment & Accessories, LED Monitor, 8GB RAM, Core i-7 Processor, Laser Jet Printer, Modem, UPS, Audio Set, Scanner).	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
7	Tender ID: 1009438 GD-05/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Supply of IPS, Purchase & Installation of Generator, Air Conditioner	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
8	Tender ID: 1009457 GD-07/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Furniture (Office Building, Restroom) (Cots, Secretariat Tables, Half Secretariat Tables, Arm Chairs, Armless Chairs, Tables, Wooden Racks, Steel Cupboards, Steel File Cabinets, Wooden Tools, Wooden Benches, etc.)	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
9	Tender ID: 1009458 GD-08/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Other tools and equipments (Nursery equipments- fountains, spades, buckets, spades, scissers, rakes, shovels, rakes, spray machines, scissers etc.; purchase of crockery, door and window screens and other equipments, jeep car (4 downs) CSG conversion expenses etc.)	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
10	Tender ID: 1009460 GD-09/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Supply of Various Materials for Free delivery, purchase of polypropylene bags for filling voids in strip, palm and other gardens, purchase of soil, dung, chemical fertilizers and other equipment for maintenance of strip gardens.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Rafiquzzaman Shah
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ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Master of Development Economics (MDE) Programme

Admission Open for 3rd Batch (Session: 2023-24)

BIDS Graduate School of Economics (BGSE)

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

A Fully Funded Exceptional Master's Programme

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Master of Development Economics is a one-year programme. It consists of 10 taught courses and a dissertation for a total of 36 credit hours over a 12-month duration. The medium of instruction is English. It is a quantitatively-oriented programme, and classes are held four days a week. This programme is affiliated with the University of Dhaka, and the degree will be conferred by the university.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Admission is open to individuals who have at least a 4-year bachelor's degree in any branch of economics, development studies, statistics, mathematics, finance, business administration, sociology, engineering or any other subject with some background of economics from any reputed university. Candidates already having one master's degree are also eligible to apply. Candidates with a CGPA below 3.00 at the bachelor's are **NOT** eligible to apply. Women, qualified government officials, and professionals from NGOs and the private sector are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- The application form can be downloaded from the BIDS website (www.bids.org.bd) and submitted through email to bgseadmission@gmail.com by **11/09/2024**.
- Qualified applicants will be notified through email for a written test to be held on **14/09/2024**.
- The admission test will evaluate the candidate's quantitative aptitude, language skills, and analytical ability.

FEES

- No tuition fees will be charged. However, a nominal amount of Taka 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand) needs to be paid at the time admission to cover incidental expenses.

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The BIDS Graduate School of Economics (BGSE) is an academic institution within Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) with the affiliation of the University of Dhaka. BIDS has a long tradition of excellence in research and is the country's premier research and policy institute. Over nearly seven decades, it has been the spawning ground of some of the country's leading economists and scholars. BIDS's reputation for scholarship in development economics and policy research is not only nationally, but also globally acknowledged. The Institute is thus uniquely positioned to offer its advanced master's programme through the newly established Graduate School of Economics (BGSE).