

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 'only certainty' for people 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.

Over Tk 1cr found

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510 Turkish lira, 200 British pounds, a pistol, two magazines and 50 bullets were recovered during the raid," Anisur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star.

The staffers alleged that the raid was conducted when no staffers were present there.

However, police said the staffers did not cooperate, forcing them to seek assistance from the fire service to break open the vaults.

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan, Additional District Magistrate of Dhaka AKM Hedaitul Islam, coordinator of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement Sarjis Alam, another coordinator Hasnat Abdullah, and Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur were present during the drive.

On Tuesday, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) ordered the freezing of bank accounts of several individuals, including Nasrul and former Dhaka Metropolitan Police joint commissioner Biplob Kumar Sarkar.

Meanwhile, the BFIU yesterday asked banks to freeze the accounts of former lawmaker Shamim Osman, his brother and former lawmaker AKM Salim Osman and their family members.

The banks were also instructed to suspend the locker facilities for the members of the families for the next 30 days.

Besides, the banks were asked to suspend the transactions through their privately owned institutional accounts. The BFIU sought an update on the accounts in the next five working days.

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
Project Director
Environment Protection Through Social Forestry in the
Rajshahi Barind Tract Region (1st Revised) Project
and
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division Rajshahi.

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.

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.

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.

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).