

EU tightens asylum rule with list of 7 safe nations

AFP, Brussels

The European Union yesterday published a list of seven countries it considers "safe", in a bid to speed up migrant returns by making it harder for citizens of those nations to claim asylum in the bloc.

The European Commission said it was proposing to designate Kosovo, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Morocco and Tunisia as "safe countries of origin".

The move is set to allow governments to process asylum applications filed from citizens of those countries more quickly – by introducing a presumption such applications lack merit.

"Many member states are facing a significant backlog of applications, so anything we can do now to support faster asylum decisions is essential," said Magnus Brunner, the EU's commissioner for migration.



Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian boy after he threw rocks ahead of a visit by Ultra-Orthodox Jews to the shrine of Atnaeil Ben Kinaz in the city of Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. Israel's military said it had killed two Palestinians in the West Bank, including one suspected of carrying out an attack that left Israelis dead in January.

PHOTO: AFP

'Will Muslims be allowed to be part of Hindu trusts?'

India SC asks Centre during Waqf hearing

NDTV ONLINE

Hearing the bunch of petitions challenging the Waqf Amendment Act, India's Supreme Court yesterday asked the Centre tough questions on multiple provisions of the new law, especially its provisions for 'Waqf by user' properties.

The court also flagged the provision to include non-Muslims on the Central Waqf Council and asked the government if it would allow Muslims to be part of Hindu endowment boards.

The bench, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice KV Vishwanathan, was hearing 73 petitions challenging the new Waqf Act, which has sparked protests in several parts of the country.

At the outset, the Chief Justice told the petitioners that two questions needed to be addressed. The first was whether the Supreme Court would send the petitions to a high court and what points the petitioners intend to argue.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the petitioners, said many provisions in the new law violate Article 26 of the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom to manage religious affairs.

WHO members strike deal on tackling future pandemics

AFP, Geneva

Years of negotiations culminated early yesterday with countries agreeing the text of a landmark accord on how to tackle future pandemics, aimed at avoiding the mistakes made during the Covid-19 crisis.

After more than three years of talks and one last marathon session, weary delegates at the World Health Organization's headquarters finally sealed the deal at around 2:00 am (0000 GMT) yesterday.

"Tonight marks a significant milestone in our shared journey towards a safer world," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Five years after the emergence of Covid-19, which killed millions of people, devastated economies and upturned health systems, a sense of urgency hung over the talks, with new threats lurking – including H5N1 bird flu, measles, mpox and Ebola.

The final stretch of the talks also took place under the shadow of cuts to US foreign aid spending and threatened tariffs on pharmaceuticals.

Right until the last minute, disagreement lingered over a few thorny issues.

Resist confrontation, protectionism

China's Xi calls on Asian nations amid deterioration of ties with US

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday called for Asian nations to unite in resisting geopolitical confrontation, unilateralism and protectionism, as he aims to consolidate ties with some of China's closest neighbours amid a deterioration of relations with the US.

Xi is in Malaysia as part of a three-nation Southeast Asian trip that includes Vietnam and Cambodia.

China and Malaysia reached a consensus on deepening cooperation in various fields, Xi said after witnessing the exchange of 31 agreements with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, ranging from trade and tourism to railway transportation and agriculture. No details were provided for the agreements.

"In the face of shocks to the current international order and economic globalisation, our two nations will stand united with other countries in the region to

jointly resist the undercurrents of geopolitical and camp-based confrontation, overcome the countercurrents of unilateralism and protectionism, and safeguard the promising prospects for development in our shared Asian home," Xi said at a function with Anwar.

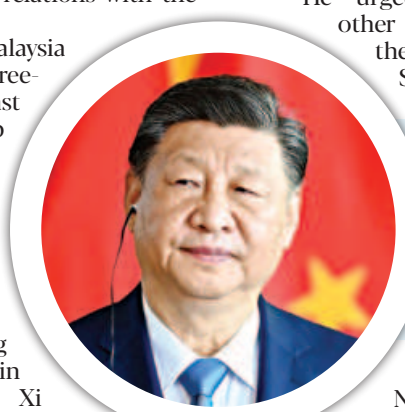
He urged Malaysia and other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian

duties.

Xi did not directly refer to the United States in his remarks in Kuala Lumpur.

As part of his "America First" policy, Trump has also pulled the US out of the World Health Organization, halted USAID and halted international aid.

China has said it is "tearing down walls" and expanding its circle of trading partners amid the trade war.



- Resist supply chain disruptions, excessive tariffs: Xi
- China, Malaysia exchange agreements on trade, tourism

Nations regional bloc to jointly resist supply chain disruptions and "excessive tariffs" with openness and greater cooperation, China's state-run CCTV reported.

Xi's comments come after US President Donald Trump, who took office in January, shocked markets by imposing sweeping tariffs on countries across the world. While some of the tariffs have since been delayed, Beijing faces 145 percent

With an additional tariff of 24 percent on goods shipped to the US, Malaysia was among several Southeast Asian nations facing hefty US levies before Trump announced his 90-day pause. Malaysian officials have begun reaching out to the US for a reprieve.

Anwar said China remained Malaysia's most significant trading partner and continued to be a "rational, strong and reliable" ally during upheaval in global geopolitics.

Iran's right to enrich uranium not negotiable

Says FM Araqchi ahead of talks with US

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran's right to enrich uranium is not negotiable, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said yesterday, ahead of a second round of talks in Oman this weekend with the United States about Tehran's disputed nuclear programme.

Araqchi was responding to a comment made on Tuesday by the US top negotiator Steve Witkoff, who said Tehran must "stop and eliminate its nuclear enrichment" to reach a deal with Washington.

"We have heard contradictory statements from Witkoff, but real positions will be made clear at the negotiating table," Araqchi said.

"We are ready to build trust regarding possible concerns over Iran's enrichment (of uranium), but the principle of enrichment is not negotiable."

Iran and the US are due to hold a second round of talks in Oman on Saturday over Tehran's escalating nuclear programme, with President Donald Trump threatening military action if there is no deal.

Before the talks, Araqchi will deliver a

message from Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to Russian President Vladimir Putin on a trip to Russia, Iranian state media reported yesterday.

The Kremlin on Tuesday declined to comment when asked if Russia was ready to take control of Iran's stocks of enriched uranium as part of a possible future nuclear deal between Iran and the United States.

The Guardian reported that Tehran was expected to reject a US proposal to transfer its stockpile of enriched uranium to a third country such as Russia as part of an agreement that Washington is seeking to scale back Iran's nuclear programme.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and White House envoy Steve Witkoff will travel to Europe this week for talks about ending Russia's war in Ukraine and laying the groundwork for a nuclear deal with Iran.

Rubio and Witkoff are slated to meet with European counterparts in Paris today to discuss the Ukraine war, the State Department said in a statement.

শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়

বাংলাদেশ ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিসিক)

৩৯৮, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮

ই-মেইল: gmpromotion@bscic.gov.bd, ওয়েবসাইট: www.bscic.gov.bd

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২০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫

মৌমাছি পালন প্রশিক্ষণ তিত খাঁটি মধু উৎপাদন করুন

আবেদন ফি: ২০০/- (ভাট প্রযোজ্য)
কোর্স এর মেয়াদ: ৫ দিন

'Harvard is a joke'

Trump's fresh salvo at Ivy League giant

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday doubled down on a funding standoff with top university Harvard that has become a focal point of his war against elite educational institutions.

"Harvard can no longer be considered even a decent place of learning, and should not be considered on any list of the World's Great Universities or Colleges," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

"Harvard is a JOKE, teaches Hate and Stupidity, and should no longer receive Federal Funds."

On Tuesday, Trump threatened to strip the university of its tax-exempt status as a non-profit educational institution, after earlier freezing \$2.2 billion in federal funding.

Trump has demanded that the university change the way it runs itself, including how it selects students and its hiring practices.

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CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 17th April (Thursday), 2025 for Corporate Booking.

From 18th April (Friday), 2025 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

Contact: 01969-910100

Bangladesh Krishi Bank

Estate & Engineering Department
83-85 Motijheel C/A
Head Office, Dhaka.

Invitation for Enlistment

01. Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Finance/Bank & Financial Institute Division.
02. Agency	Bangladesh Krishi Bank.
03. Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Estate & Engineering Department.
04. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
05. Invitation for	Enlistment Category: (for 2025-2026) 1. Civil works. 2. Electrical works. 3. Mechanical works. 4. Supply of Electrical Goods.
06. Invitation Ref No.	HO/EEED-24(1)/2024-2025/1022
07. Invitation for Enlistment No.	43/2024-2025
08. Date	13-04-2025
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
09. Application Closing and Opening (Date and Time)	13-05-2025; Time-12.00 PM
10. Name & Address of the Office (s)	Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Estate & Engineering Department (8th floor), Head Office, 83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
- Application Form Availability	do
- Receiving Application Form	do
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
11. Eligibility of Applicant	a. Must have valid & updated Trade License. b. Must have valid e-TIN Certificate. c. Must have Updated Income Tax Certificate. d. Must have valid VAT Registration Certificate. e. Must have Bank Solvency Certificate showing Minimum amount of Tk. 5.00 Lacs (up-to-date). f. Minimum 3 Years Experience in respective field. g. Affidavit/Article of Association of the Firm for the new applicant of Enlistment. h. Other documents detailed in Application Form for Enlistment. i. Must have up to date dated ABC/BC/C category contractor & supervisory license (for Electrical works only) from electricity Licence Board and must have Minimum 3 Nos of technical personnel in relevant field (BSc/Diploma engineer).
12. Price of Application Form (Tk.)	500/- +vat (Non refundable).
13. Enlistment/Renewal Fee (Tk.) (Should be attached a Payment order (Pay order) in favour of Bangladesh Krishi Bank from any Scheduled bank of Bangladesh at the time of submission of the enlistment application.)	a. Enlistment fee for new Applicant-Tk.5000/- (Non refundable). b. Renewal Fee-Tk.2000/- (Non refundable) as pay order/bank draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Bangladesh krishi bank.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
14. Name of Official Inviting Application	Md. Anowarul Azim Khan
15. Official Designation	Deputy General Manager
16. Contract details of Official Inviting Application	Tel: 02-223384539 Email: dgmengineering@krishibank.org.bd
17. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept/reject all applications.	

(Md. Anowarul Azim Khan)
Deputy General Manager