

Hunger cannot be 'weapon of war'

Says UN chief

AFP, Addis Ababa

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Monday said food must not be used as a weapon of war as world leaders gathered for a food summit in Africa, where 280 million people face hunger and starvation.

The African Union, for its part, urged donors to provide greater support for the world's poorest continent, which is struggling with poverty, unrest and the effects of climate change.

"Hunger fuels instability and undermines peace. We must never accept hunger as a weapon of war," Antonio Guterres told the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa via video link.

"Climate change is disrupting harvests, supply chains and humanitarian aid," he said.

"Conflict continues to spread hunger from Gaza to Sudan and beyond," he warned amid a severely deteriorating crisis in Gaza, whose population of more than two million is facing famine and malnutrition.

The World Health Organization has warned malnutrition in the occupied Palestinian territory has reached "alarm levels" since Israel imposed a total blockade on Gaza on March 2.

In late May, it began allowing a small trickle of aid to resume but more than 100 NGOs have warned that "mass starvation" was spreading in the besieged territory.

The summit takes place against the backdrop of aid cuts by the United States and other Western nations that are badly affecting much of the developing world.

Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, head of the African Union's executive commission, said food insecurity was on the rise across Africa, blaming "climate shocks, conflicts and economic disruptions".

"At this crucial moment, how many children and mothers on the continent are sleeping hungry?" he asked.

"Millions, certainly. The urgency of the situation is beyond doubt."

Youssouf said that more than 280 million Africans were malnourished, with "nearly 3.4 million... on the brink of famine".



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (C), Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet (L), and Thailand's Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai (R) pose for a photo following ceasefire talks in Putrajaya yesterday. Thailand and Cambodia yesterday agreed to a ceasefire.

PHOTO: AFP

Iran rejects talks with West on 'defence capabilities'

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday said that its military capabilities were not up for negotiations, after France called for a "comprehensive deal" with Tehran that covers its missile programme and regional influence.

"Regarding matters related to our defence capabilities, there will absolutely be no discussion," foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei told a regular press briefing.

Iran generally refers to all

military activities, including its ballistic missile programme, as defensive.

On Sunday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told CBS News show "Face The Nation" that Western governments were seeking a "comprehensive agreement" with Iran, in part to avert the "risk" that it could covertly pursue a nuclear weapon -- an ambition Tehran has consistently denied.

Barrot said such agreement would include "the nuclear dimension" as well as the "ballistic component" and "the regional

destabilisation activities that Iran has been conducting", referring to armed groups backed by Tehran across the Middle East.

Baqaei yesterday said: "One cannot expect a country to remain in the treaty while being deprived of its stated rights, particularly the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

He added that Iranian had emerged from the war with its staunch rival Israel "even more determined... to safeguard all their assets, including their means of defence against foreign aggression and hostility".

'July Proclamation likely by Aug 5'

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Though the first draft proposed abolishing the constitution or rewriting it to reflect the spirit of the uprising, the final version calls for constitutional reforms that safeguard human and civil rights.

It also promises fair elections and justice for enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and corruption under the Awami League rule. The proclamation does not credit any individual or party by name.

The final draft begins with language similar to the preamble of the constitution, stating that Bangladesh achieved independence through the Liberation War in resistance to 23 years of colonial exploitation by Pakistan.

The second clause of the draft mentions the ideals of equality, human dignity, and social justice inspired by the Liberation War.

The third clause describes the establishment of one-party BAKSAL rule in 1975. The fourth acknowledges the end of BAKSAL through the soldiers' and people's uprising. The fifth states that the Fifth Amendment of 1979 restored multiparty democracy.

Sixth clause outlines HM Ershad's era of military and autocratic rule. The seventh marks the restoration of democracy in 1991. The eighth identifies the 1/II regime as a result of both domestic and foreign conspiracies.

Clause 14 condemns the government that seized power through three fraudulent elections and took a stance against the people. Seventeenth details the brutal repression of dissent and ordinary citizens during Hasina's rule.

set to discuss the matter within its party forum. The NCP is considering submitting its own draft to the government.

Student leaders at the Central Shaheed Minar on December 31 declared that they would unveil the July Proclamation.

However, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus had told them that in the interest of national unity, the government would prepare and issue the proclamation in consultation with all parties involved in the uprising.

The advisory council on May 10 decided to release the July Proclamation within 30 working days.

The government sent a draft of the proclamation to BNP and NCP on July 13. Following the Jamaat's strong protest over being excluded, the party was sent the final draft.

Sources say the BNP is expected to hold a Standing Committee meeting soon to finalise its position on the proclamation, while Jamaat is also reportedly

making process, and structure of the appointment committee.

The BNP has yet to endorse Jamaat's rank-choice voting proposal, though the commission remains optimistic that consensus might be achieved by this morning.

The National Citizen Party said it would discuss the proposal at its party forum.

"There is broad political consensus on reintroducing the caretaker government system," said Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher, Jamaat nayeb-e-ameer.

"While some differences remain on its structural framework and the appointment process of the chief adviser, we have proposed a new method."

Regarding the PSC formation, both Jamaat and NCP pushed for de-politicisation of appointments. They strongly supported constitutional provisions

outlining the formation, regulation, and appointment procedures at the PSC.

Akhtar Hossen, NCP member secretary, said, "We proposed a selection committee that is non-partisan and includes representation from both the ruling and opposition parties. This is how we can prevent political influence and ensure good governance."

He pointed out that the article 138 allows the president to make appointments based on the prime minister's advice.

In a surprising development, a false fire alarm at the Foreign Service Academy briefly disrupted yesterday's dialogue. Around 12:15pm, the alarm went off, prompting participants to evacuate the building.

By 12:25pm, the alarm was deactivated, and the session resumed. The commission requested a probe into the incident and asked for a report within 24 hours.

Commission, why not for other key institutions?"

Prof Riaz said most parties supported making the ACC a constitutional body. While the BNP and a few others expressed reservations. Discussions are continuing with possible revisions, he said.

Due to time constraints, discussions on women's representation in parliament could not be held yesterday. However, the commission said the topic will be taken up in the next two days.

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Parties still split over caretaker, PSC, ACC setup

FROM PAGE 1

dialogue session yesterday, protesting the tabling of appointment of Ombudsman and formation of three key constitutional bodies.

The party rejoined the talks around 12:30pm.

Briefing reporters, commission Vice-president Prof Ali Riaz said most political parties supported amending article 137 of the constitution to reform the PSC appointment process. However, the BNP and a few other parties preferred legislating the procedure instead of amending the constitution.

"Despite differences on the method of appointment, all parties agreed that the PSC must remain independent and free from political interference," he said.

Regarding the caretaker government set-up, Prof Riaz said while all parties agree on its reinstatement, there remain diverging views about the decision-

making process, and structure of the appointment committee.

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Indian army kills 'three rebels' in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Indian security forces killed three suspected armed rebels in Indian-administered Kashmir yesterday, the army said.

The incident occurred in the mountains of Dachigam, around 30 kilometres from the disputed region's main city of Srinagar.

"Three terrorists have been neutralised in an intense firefight," the Indian army said in a statement on social media.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence from British rule in 1947, and the neighbours -- which both claim the region in full -- have fought two wars over its control.

The clash comes more than three months after gunmen attacked tourists in Pahalgam, a popular resort town in the restive territory, killing 26 people, mostly Hindus.

India accused Pakistan of backing the attackers, a charge Islamabad denied, sparking an intense four-day conflict between the nuclear-armed rivals in May that killed more than 70 people on both sides.

Gunman kills five in 'mass shooting' in Thai capital

AFP, Bangkok

A gunman killed five security guards and wounded three other people in a mass shooting at a popular fresh food market in Thailand's capital yesterday, police said.

The suspect opened fire with a "gun-type weapon" at the Or Tor Kor Market in Bangkok's Bang Sue district at 12:31pm, police said, before taking his own life.

The shooting stemmed from a personal dispute, with the suspect -- a former market employee -- holding a long-running grudge against one of the security guards. "We obtained this information from his wife's testimony," officer Sayam Boonsom told reporters at the scene.

গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল)
প্লট নম্বরঃ ৫৮-১৮/এ, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা
আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এবং অপচয় রোধ করে আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির লক্ষ্যে।

প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এবং অপচয় রোধ করে আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির লক্ষ্যে।

গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল)-এ নিয়ন্ত্রিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে, প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির লক্ষ্যে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন আইনজীবীগণের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

কার্যপরিধি:

কা। জিটিসিএল কর্তৃক প্রেরিত নথিগত/রেকর্ডপত্র পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষাপূর্বক লিখিত আইনগত মতামত প্রদান, দলিলাদি ভেটিংসহ যে কোন আইন সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য কাজ সম্পাদন।

খ। মহামান সুন্নীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ ও আয়ালেট বিভাগ এবং নিয়ম আদালতসহ প্রয়োজন মোতাবেক বাংলাদেশের যে কোন আদালত/ইবানালে জিটিসিএল-এর মার্মলাসমূহ পরিচালনা করা।

গ। লিগ্যাল নোটিশ অথবা লিগ্যাল নোটিশের জবাব প্রদর্শন ও প্রদান।

শর্তাবলী:

১। আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে উচ্চ/নিয়ম আদালতে নিজ দায়িত্বে মামলা পরিচালনা এবং মতামত প্রদান মূলত ১০ (দশ) বছরের পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

২। এলএলবি অনার্সসহ এলএলএম ও বার-এট-ল ডিপ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে।

৩। আবেদনের সাথে আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর মামলা পরিচালনার ফেরে দক্ষতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট ফেরে রেফারেন্স উল্লেখপূর্বক তার সমক্ষে সাপোর্টিং ডকুমেন্ট সরবরাহ করতে হবে।

৪। আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে উচ্চাধিকারে আইনজীবীগণের প্রার্থীদের প্রতিক্রিয়া প্রদান করা হবে।

৫। শারীরিকভাবে সক্ষম এবং কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রয়োজনে ও নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী আইনগত কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ/পরিদর্শনের জন্য ঢাকার বাইরে মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য প্রস্তুত থাকতে হবে।

৬। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নিজস্ব প্যাতে লিখিত আবেদনপত্রে নিয়ন্ত্রিত থাকার উল্লেখ করতে হবে:

(ক) পিতা/স্বামীর নাম; (খ) মাতার নাম; (গ) নিজ নাম; (ঘ) বর্তমান ঠিকানা; (জ) জন্ম তারিখ; (ঝ) স্থায়ী ঠিকানা; (ঞ) এনআইডি; (ঝ) টাইএন নম্বর (সর্বশেষ অর্থবছরের আয়কর ঠিকানা দাখিলের প্রত্যয়নপত্রসহ) (ঞ) শিক্ষাগত যোগায়তা; এবং (ট) অভিজ্ঞতা।

৭। আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে নিয়ন্ত্রিত কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে:

(ক) সম্পত্তি তোলা ০৩(তিনি) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রেজিস্ট্রেশন ছবিঃ (খ) শিক্ষাগত যোগায়তা ও অভিজ্ঞতা স