Maldives begins 'ban' on smoking

AFP, *Malé*

The Maldives began implementing a smoking ban yesterday on anyone born after January 2007, becoming the only nation with a generational prohibition on tobacco, the Health Ministry said.

The move, initiated by President Mohamed Muizzu earlier this year -- which came into effect on November 1 -- will "protect public health and promote a tobacco-free generation", the ministry said.

"Under the new provision, individuals born on or after January 1, 2007 are prohibited from purchasing, using, or being sold tobacco products within the Maldives," it added.

"The ban applies to all forms of tobacco, and retailers are required to verify age prior to sale."

The measure also applies to visitors to the nation of 1,191 tiny coral islets scattered some 800 kilometres across the equator and known for its luxury tourism.

People release white doves as they mark the first anniversary of the fatal November 2024 Novi Sad railway station canopy collapse, which killed 16 people, triggering nationwide accusations of widespread corruption and negligence, in Novi Sad, Serbia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Stampede at India temple kills nine

AFP, *Mumbai*

At least nine people were crushed to death after a massive crowd surge at a Hindu temple in southern India's Andhra Pradesh yesterday, the state's governor said.

The stampede occurred at the Venkateswara temple in Kasibugga in Srikakulam district, where a crowd of devotees had gathered.

Andhra Pradesh governor S. Abdul Nazeer expressed his "profound grief on the death of nine pilgrims in the stampede".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave his condolences to those "who have lost their near and dear ones". "I pray that the injured recover soon," Modi added.

Deadly stampedes and crowd crushes are a common occurrence at big Indian gatherings and religious festivals.

In September, at least 36 people were killed after a stampede broke out at a campaign rally of popular actor-turned-politician Vijay in Tamil Nadu state. And in June, a sudden crowd surge at a Hindu festival in the coastal state of Odisha triggered a stampede that killed at least three people and injured several others.

The previous month, six people were crushed to death in the western state of Goa after thousands gathered for a popular fire-walking ritual.

In January, at least 30 people were killed in an early morning crush at the Kumbh Mela, a Hindu mega-festival in the northern city of Prayagraj.

Resume nuclear talks

Mediator Oman calls on Iran, US

AFP, *Manama*

Oman, which hosted several rounds of US-Iran nuclear talks that were derailed by the Israel-Iran war in June, urged the countries yesterday to go back to the negotiating table.

"We want to return to the negotiations between Iran (and) the United States," Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said during a panel at the IISS Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain.

Oman, Iran's traditional intermediary, hosted five rounds of US-Iran talks this year.

However, "just three days before the sixth and possibly decisive round of talks, Israel unleashed its bombs and missiles in an illegal and deadly act of sabotage", Albusaidi said.

The talks had aimed for a new agreement that would curb Iran's nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

Western countries, including the United States, have long accused Iran of seeking to acquire atomic weapons, while Iran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

Albusaidi called for fellow Gulf nations to favour dialogue with Iran and others long seen as foes and rivals in the region.

"Over the years, the GCC has at best sat back and permitted the isolation of Iran," he said, referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council regional bloc.

Situation in Sudan 'apocalyptic'

Thousands feared 'in grave danger' in El-Fasher after it falls to paramilitary forces

AFP, *Port Sudan*

Thousands of civilians are feared trapped and in imminent danger in the Sudanese city of El-Fasher after its fall to paramilitaries, Doctors Without Borders said yesterday, as Germany's top diplomat described the situation there as "apocalyptic".

At war with the regular army since April 2023, the Rapid Support Forces seized El-Fasher on Sunday, pushing the military out of its last stronghold in Darfur after a grinding 18-month siege marked by starvation and bombardment.

Since the city's fall, reports have emerged of summary executions, sexual violence, attacks on aid workers, looting and abductions, while communications remain largely cut off.

Survivors from El-Fasher who reached the nearby town of Tawila have told AFP of mass killings, children shot before their parents, and civilians beaten and robbed as they fled.

The UN says more than 65,000 people have fled El-Fasher since Sunday but tens of thousands remain trapped. Around 260,000 people were in the city before the RSF's final assault.

"Large numbers of people remain in grave danger and are being prevented by the Rapid Support Forces and its allies from reaching safer areas," Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said.

The NGO added that only 5,000 people had managed to make their way to Tawila, about 70 kilometres to the west.

Several eyewitnesses told MSF that a group of 500 civilians, along with soldiers from the military and the army-allied Joint Forces, had attempted to flee on Sunday, but most were killed or captured by the RSF and their allies.

Survivors reported that people were separated based on their gender, age or presumed ethnicity, and that many were still being held for ransom.

The UN said Friday the death toll from the RSF's assault on the city may be in the hundreds, while army allies accused the paramilitary group of killing over 2,000 civilians.

Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab suggested on Friday that mass killings were likely continuing in and around El-Fasher.

The lab, which uses satellite imagery and open-source information to document human rights abuses during wars, said fresh images from Friday showed "no large-scale movement" of civilians fleeing the city, giving them reason to believe much of the population may be "dead, captured, or in hiding".

The lab identified at least 31 clusters of objects consistent with human bodies between Sunday and Friday, across neighbourhoods, university grounds and military sites.

"Indicators that mass killing is continuing are clearly visible," the lab said.

At a conference in Bahrain on Saturday, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said Sudan was "absolutely an apocalyptic situation, the greatest humanitarian crisis of the world".

Speaking at the same event, British Foreign Minister Yvette Cooper also described the reported abuses as "truly horrifying".

"Atrocities, mass executions, starvation and the devastating use of rape as a weapon of war, with women and children bearing the brunt of the largest humanitarian crisis in the 21st century," she said.

Canada PM says Xi talks 'turning point' on ties

Apologises to Trump over anti-tariff ad campaign

AFP, *Gyeongju*

Canadian premier Mark Carney yesterday called his talks with China's leader Xi Jinping a "turning point" in restoring their battered ties, adding he raised tricky topics with Beijing like foreign interference.

Carney also confirmed from the APEC summit in South Korea that he had apologised to Donald Trump over an anti-tariff ad campaign that prompted the US president to raise tariffs on Canada.

Canada's relations with China have been among the worst of any Western nation, but on Friday Carney and Xi held the first formal talks between the countries' leaders since 2017, as both manage Trump's trade onslaught.

"This meeting marked a turning point in our bilateral relationship. We have now unlocked a path forward," Carney told reporters.

Xi also invited Carney to visit China.

Ties fell into a deep freeze in 2018 after the arrest of a senior Chinese telecom executive on a US warrant in Vancouver and China's retaliatory detention of two Canadians on espionage charges.

Ottawa and Beijing have since engaged in tit-for-tat tariffs including on Canadian canola, an oilseed crop used to make cooking oil, animal meal and biodiesel.

Trump last Saturday hiked tariffs on Canada by 10 percent after a "fake" anti-tariff ad campaign that featured late US president Ronald Reagan.

The US president flatly rejected any resumption of trade negotiations even after Carney said sorry for the ad.

"I did apologise to the president. The president was offended," Carney said on Saturday, while insisting he was relaxed about when talks would resume.

"After all the noise of this week, Canada still has the best trade deal of any country with the US," he said.

"We can spend our time watching Truth Social worrying about the reactions of individuals. We are staying calm," he said.

Indian Sikhs given visas for festival in Pakistan

AFP, *New Delhi*

Indian Sikh pilgrims have been issued visas for neighbouring Pakistan, the first major allowance after travel between the arch-rival nations was frozen during conflict in May.

There was no immediate response from New Delhi, but Indian newspapers reported yesterday that the government would allow "selected" groups to travel for a 10-day festival to celebrate the founder of the Sikh faith.

Tensions remain high between New Delhi and Islamabad, after deadly clashes between the nuclear-armed rivals in May -- the worst fighting since 1999.

More than 70 people were killed in missile, drone and artillery exchanges.

The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi said it had issued "over 2,100 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India".

Tens of thousands of Sikh pilgrims are expected to flock to Pakistan's city of Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak.

Nankana Sahib lies 85 kilometres west of the border with India. Celebrations are expected to begin on Tuesday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, রংপুর

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৫/২০২৫-২৬ তারিখঃ ২৮/১০/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

"বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার ২০২৫" প্রদানের জন্য আবেদন আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা রংপুর/নীলফামারী/লালমনিরহাট/কুড়িগ্রাম/গাইবান্ধা জেলার জনসাধারণ, শিক্ষা/ধর্মীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান, সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান; ইউনিয়ন/উপজেলা/জেলা পরিষদ; পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন; ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন নার্সারি; বৃক্ষ গবেষণা/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবনে নিয়োজিত সংস্থা/ব্যক্তিবর্গ ও এনজিও প্রধানগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বৃক্ষরোপণে কৃতিত্বপূর্ণ অবদানের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত ০৭(সাত)টি শ্রেণিতে "বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার ২০২৫" প্রদানের নিমিত্ত "বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার প্রদানের নীতিমালা (সংশোধিত)-২০২৫" অনুযায়ী আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানগণের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন/দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনপত্রের ফরম অত্র বন বিভাগের আওতাধীন সামাজিক বনায়ন জোন, রংপুর/কুড়িগ্রাম/গাইবান্ধা এর কার্যালয়; রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, রংপুর সদর/মিঠাপুকুর/ডোমার রেঞ্জ কার্যালয়; ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, আলমনগর/পীরগাছা/নীলফামারী/সৈয়দপুর/লালমনিরহাট/কুড়িগ্রাম/চিলমারী/গাইবান্ধা সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারি ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র (SFNTC) এবং বদরগঞ্জ/মিঠাপুকুর/তারাগঞ্জ/গঙ্গাচড়া/পীরগঞ্জ/কাউনিয়া/ডিমলা/ডোমার/জলঢাকা/কিশোরগঞ্জ/নাগেশ্বরী/ভুরুঙ্গামারী/হাজারহাট/ফুলবাড়ী/উলিপুর/রৌমারী /রাজিবপুর/আদিতমারী/হাতিবান্ধা/পাটগ্রাম/কালীগঞ্জ/গোবিন্দগঞ্জ/পলাশবাড়ী/সাদুল্যাপুর/সুন্দরগঞ্জ /সাঘাটা/ফুলছড়ি SFPC (উপজেলা নার্সারী কেন্দ্র)-তে পাওয়া যাবে। প্রতিটি শ্রেণির জন্য পৃথক পৃথক আবেদনপত্রের ফরম যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার ও সভাপতি, "বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার ২০২৫" প্রদান সংক্রান্ত উপজেলা কমিটি-এর নিকট আগামী ৩০/১১/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে দাখিল করার জন্য বর্ণিত আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিবর্গ/প্রতিষ্ঠান-কে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

জ্ঞাতব্য, অন্যান্য বিষয়াদি উল্লেখিত দপ্তর সমূহ ও নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরের সাথে যোগাযোগপূর্বক জানা যাবে। এছাড়াও আবেদনের ফরমসমূহ বন অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট (www.bforest.gov.bd) এবং অত্র দপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট (www.forest.rangpur.gov.bd) থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।

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GD-2297

You live it on the threats we all face from China's aggression and course of actions in the South China Sea and elsewhere... No one can innovate and scale like the United States of America, and we're eager to share those capabilities with allies and partners.

Pentagon chief **Pete Hegseth** tells allies on China threats

মির্জাপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১।	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	মির্জাপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ
২।	কাজের বিবরণ	গরু ও খাসীর মাংস, মুরগীর মাংস ও ডিম, মাছ, শুকনা রেশন ও শাকসব্জি, তরিতরকারী, ফলমূল ও অন্যান্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ
৩।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শুরু ও শেষ তারিখ	পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে আগামী ১৯ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ (অফিস চলাকালীন ০৮০০-১৪০০ ঘটিকা) তারিখ পর্যন্ত।
৪।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ	২০ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২৩০ ঘটিকা।
৫।	অর্থের উৎস	কলেজ পাবলিক ফান্ড।
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আইএসপিআর/সেনা/৭০১

অধ্যক্ষ
মির্জাপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ

GD-2294

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Home Affairs
Office of the Directorate of Logistics
Bangladesh Coast Guard Headquarters
Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Director Logistics e-GP Invitation no: 44.08.2680.060.50.004.25.1490 Date: 29 October 2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the following procurement:

Ser	Tender ID	Package Name	Method	Date & Time		
				Publication	Last Selling	Closing and opening
1.	1165259	Purchase of 01 Lot Diary/ Notebook, Wall Callender, Desk Callender, Special Diary/ Note Book Box, Pen Drive, Sticker, Bag Big, Bag Small, and Table Organizer Callender/ Year Planner. (10 Lines). Sample of each item is to be submitted along with the tender offer	OTM	02-11-2025 10:00 AM	16-11-2025 13:00 PM	17-11-2025 12:30 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers.

Documents can be downloaded till deadline of Tender/Application/Proposal submission.

MD SHAZZAD HOSSAIN SHAKIL
Lt Commander BN
Asst: Director Logistics (stores)
Bangladesh Coast Guard

GD-2295