

Pakistan looks into 500 child abuse cases against clerics

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani police are investigating some 500 cases of alleged child abuse implicating Muslim clerics (Maulvis), a junior minister said yesterday.

Most of the cases were reported in the country's largest province of Punjab within the past six months. Religious Affairs Minister Amir Liaquat Hussain told AFP.

He said 14 clerics were taken into custody accused of child molestation but were released by police for lack of evidence.

"The ministry has been asked to probe with the help of police some 500 cases where children were sexually abused by Maulvis (clerics)," Hussain said.

The alleged victims include both boys and girls mostly under the age of 14, he said.

"Federation of Madrassahs (seminaries) is willing to cooperate with us because the so-called clerics have brought a bad name to madrassahs and Islam."

Hussain said not all reported cases implicated clerics from madrassahs. Some who teach children at home were also in focus, he said.



US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld (L) shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi yesterday. Rumsfeld said he would build stronger defence ties with India, a day after New Delhi warned Washington against selling warplanes and weapons to nuclear rival Pakistan.

US for boosting defence ties with India

Rumsfeld holds talks with Indian leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

On his first trip to India since the reelection of US President George W. Bush, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld yesterday said his country wanted bilateral defence ties to be further "knitted" together.

Talking to reporters emerging from a 90-minute discussion with Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee here, Rumsfeld said "we had excellent discussion and we discussed all kinds of things that are important for our two ministries."

"We intend to see these ties further knitted together in coming months and years," the US Defence Secretary said a day after his arrival here.

Rumsfeld also held talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and National Security Advisor J N Dixit later in the day.

The visit by the American defence secretary is his first since Congress-led government came to power in May this year after general elections.

Rumsfeld's trip to New Delhi takes place in the backdrop of India's concern over the US move to

supply anti-tank missiles and maritime surveillance aircraft to Pakistan saying this could affect Indo-Pak dialogue process which is now at a very "sensitive" stage.

Natwar Singh told Parliament Wednesday that "in case the US supplies the weapons to Pakistan, India will not hesitate to ensure that our defence preparedness is not compromised in any manner."

Rumsfeld said India and US needed to develop "stronger and stronger cooperative relations" which has emerged in the last four years. He cited numerous defence interactions, joint military exercises and exchanges as an indication of growing relations between the two countries.

Mukherjee said the two countries had "useful discussions on issues of mutual interests".

Rumsfeld indicated the US considered India as a key partner by saying that he had chosen to visit the "world's greatest democracy" after attending the inauguration of first elected President in the history of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai. Noting that he was privileged to visit India, the US defence secretary said after

assuming his office the first thing he had done was to meet the Indian representatives.

Rumsfeld and Mukherjee declined to say anything on the issues they discussed at their meeting. But according to officials India and the US are close to reaching an agreement on the US Navy providing assistance to Indian Navy submarines in case of distress in the high seas.

The two countries are also involved in a substantive dialogue over the supply of US controversial missile defence system based on Patriot missiles and Deep-Sea Rescue Vehicles.

The two countries recently agreed to explore cooperation in space research and civilian nuclear programmes.

The External Affairs Minister had told Parliament Wednesday that India had not given any commitment about its participation in the missile defence. The left parties, which provide key support to Manmohan Singh government, have strongly opposed to India's joining the American missile defence shield.

Maoists bomb bldg in Nepali capital

AFP, Kathmandu

Maoists rebels set off a bomb fitted with a timer device yesterday at the Agriculture Marketing Company offices in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu shortly before the start of business, police said.

"Had the bomb blast occurred after the arrival of the office staff, several company employees would have been killed or injured," a police official said.

No one was injured and damage was not severe when the device went off before a police bomb squad arrived.

Meanwhile, students in Kathmandu continued protests against the rule of King Gyanendra and called for repeal of an anti-terrorist law giving the police and military sweeping arrest powers.

The students began a second day of protest at different campuses, burning tyres and shouting anti-monarchy slogans while disrupting traffic.

The students, who belong to the Nepali Congress and the pro-leftist All Nepal Free National Independent Student Union, want an annual two-day meeting of the

State Council cancelled.

The king is scheduled Thursday to inaugurate the meeting of the council, an advisory body to the monarch.

All eleven ministers of the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist Leninist, a major coalition partner of the government led by Sher Bahadur Deuba, have boycotted the inauguration as a mark of protest against the king.

The king dissolved parliament on the advice of then-elected Prime Minister Deuba in May 2002 in response to rising Maoist violence. Deuba was sacked by the king in October 2002 and reappointed in June 2003.

Since then Deuba has been urging the Maoists to enter talks and to take part in new elections with the support of the Nepali Congress Party-United Marxist Leninist.

The opposition Nepali Congress wants parliament restored immediately before any new elections.

More than 10,000 people have died since the Maoists took up arms in 1996 to topple the king of the Himalayan nation.

Rebel factions clash in Manipur: 10 killed

AFP, Guwahati

At least 10 tribal separatists were killed and several wounded in factional fighting over territory in India's northeastern state of Manipur, a separatist leader said yesterday.

He said two factions of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland had been locked in a gunbattle since Wednesday near Aijoram village in Manipur's Tamenglong district, about 70km southwest of the state capital Imphal.

One faction is chaired by guerrilla leader S.S. Khaplang and the other is headed by self-exiled leaders Isak Chishi Swu and Thunigaleng Muivah.

"We have killed 10 cadres belonging to the Isak-Muivah group since fighting broke out Wednesday," Khaplang Mulatou, a leader of the Khaplang faction, told AFP by telephone from Nagaland's state capital Kohima.

"Heavy fighting is continuing with both sides using small weapons."

Police in Manipur confirmed the attacks.

"Some confrontation appears to be going on in the area between the two factions. Army columns have moved into the area," Manipur's police chief, C. Dabas said.

However, an Isak-Muivah faction leader said, "We are not aware of any such attacks in Manipur."

The two rebel factions are both fighting for an independent Naga tribal homeland in the Christian-majority northeastern state of Nagaland and parts of surrounding areas. They have a running feud over territorial supremacy although both have adopted a ceasefire with New Delhi.

Isak and Muivah are currently in New Delhi for peace talks and met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday.

More than 25,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in Nagaland since India's independence in 1947. The state has a population of two million but an estimated three million Naga tribespeople live in the region.

India resumed talks with the separatists following discussions in Bangkok in October when the two sides said they were committed "to finding an early and mutually satisfactory solution to the Naga issue."

A series of meetings between the two sides have taken place in Europe and Asia since the NSCN agreed to a ceasefire with New Delhi in 1997.

The NSCN's call for a "Greater Nagaland" has met fierce opposition from adjoining states which have Naga populations.

India receives Tagore's Nobel Prize replica

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Eight months after the original one was stolen from Vishwa Bharati University, India yesterday received from Sweden the replicas of poet Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel Prize medals to be kept at Santiniketan.

The replicas were handed over to External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh by Swedish Secretary of State Hans Dahlgren at a function here.

Vishwa Bharati had requested Sweden for the replicas after the original medallion, along with some other priceless artifacts, were stolen from Uttarayan, where the poet had lived, and could not be traced so far despite vigorous investigation.

The theft of the medals and the artifacts had raised a national outcry particularly about the security lapses and the then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had gone to Vishwa Bharati to spur the probe.

The Indian prime minister is the ex-officio chancellor of Vishwa Bharati University. Dahlgren said it was an honor for Sweden to present the replicas of the medals to India.

The Swedish Ambassador to India will go to Vishwa Bharati in Santiniketan in January and formally hand over the replicas of the Nobel medals.

Lanka parliament in uproar again

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's national parliament resumed after uproar for a third straight day yesterday as minority Tamil legislators protested the passage of budget allocations for ministries without a debate.

The Tamil National Alliance, a proxy of Tamil Tiger rebels, blocked Speaker W.J.M. Lokubandana entering the well of the assembly and created a din that forced the suspension of the proceedings for over an hour.

Tamil legislators shouted slogans denouncing the assembly for skipping debates before voting on ministry budgets on Wednesday.

"This is not democracy," the Tamil legislators shouted while carrying placards denouncing the government.

The Tamil party has 22 members in the 225-member assembly.

Speaker Lokubandana apologised to the Tamil MPs and said he had not heard their request for a debate on ministry allocations Wednesday.

"I am sorry about what happened yesterday and I will ensure that there is no repetition," Lokubandana told the assembly after reconvening the assembly.

However, he was yet to give a ruling on a request by jailed legisla-

tor S.B. Dissanayake to attend the proceedings.

The rush to approve money for the ministries Wednesday was prompted by opposition protests against the assembly going into session without their jailed colleague Dissanayake being allowed to attend.

Opposition legislator Mahinda Wijesekera said Dissanayake, who was jailed Tuesday for two years for contempt by the Supreme Court, could carry on as an MP despite being put behind bars.

Wijesekera argued there was no constitutional provision to stop Dissanayake from carrying out his work as a parliamentary member despite the sentence that has pitted the legislature against the judiciary.

Opposition legislators demanded parliament exercise its authority over the Supreme Court and allow the MP to continue sitting.

Parliament was suspended twice Wednesday and eventually wound up work three and a half hours ahead of schedule.

Dissanayake was charged with making a speech in November 2003 in which he was accused of defaming the Supreme Court and its judges.

World Buddhist confce opens in Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

A world Buddhist summit opened in Myanmar amid pomp and ceremony on Thursday despite a boycott call, with the military regime's new premier using the occasion to call for an end to "the bullying of the weak".

An estimated 1,500 people, including monks and officials, were at the ornate venue in Yangon for a ceremonial ringing of 108 bells to open the three-day event that lost its main sponsor after the sacking of the regime's then-premier Khin Nyunt in October.

Myanmar said the fourth summit of its kind would still be a "landmark in the history of Buddhism" with Senior General Than Shwe, the head of the ruling State Peace and Development Council, making a rare public appearance on Thursday.

In a conference venue filled with columns and gold leaf, Myanmar's new premier, Lieutenant General Soe Win, said the conference could help promote Buddhist teachings to prevent the things that are "appalling us all".

"In the international arena, men are frightened and shocked by arms rivalry, the gap between rich and poor and bullying of the weak by the strong," he said.



Nepalese soldiers and a policeman stand guard outside a bomb damaged building in the Kuleswori District of Kathmandu yesterday. A powerful bomb went off at the offices of the agriculture marketing private company, badly damaging the three-story building, but without injury to anyone.

Asia looks to S America for solutions to pollution

AFP, Agra

Colombia may conjure up images of drug running and endemic corruption, but for many Asian cities its capital Bogota could offer lessons on how to better manage mass transport and cut choking air pollution.

Enrique Penalosa, a former mayor of the Colombian capital, told delegates to a Better Air Quality conference in the Indian city of Agra that Asia could learn from one of the most violent drug-ridden cities in the world.

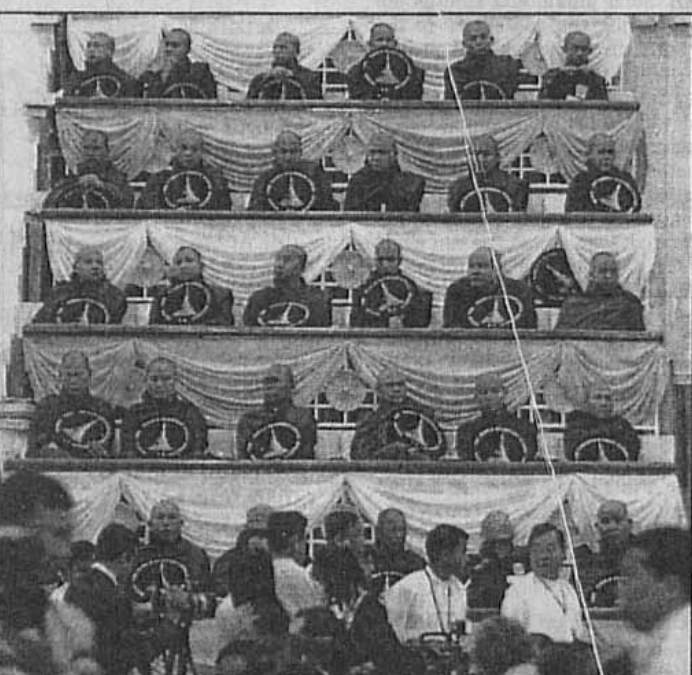
Penalosa started a three-year term as Bogota's mayor by nearly being impeached. "No, I didn't have an affair with an intern," the tall salt-and-pepper-haired Penalosa joked with journalists.

"I was almost impeached for

getting cars off sidewalks that the car-owning upper classes had illegally appropriated for parking. But I went ahead with building a city not for business or cars but for children."

"A civilised city is one where a child can go anywhere on a bicycle, play outside and have clean air to breathe," said the ex-mayor who is writing a book on urban development and is visiting scholar at New York University.

Since Bogota mayors can only serve one three-year term, Penalosa had to move fast to achieve his dream. During his stint between 1998 and 2001, Penalosa declared a virtual war on cars. He restricted traffic during peak hours and persuaded Bogota's city council to hike the tax on gasoline.



Buddhist monks from different countries attend an inaugural session of the three-day World Buddhist Summit in Yangon yesterday. An estimated 1,500 people, including monks and officials, were in the capital Yangon for the opening ceremony.

আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪

অবৈধ সংযোগ ও গভীর নলকূপ বৈধ করার বিশেষ মুযোগ গ্রহণ করুন

ঢাকা ওয়াসা লক্ষ্য করছে যে, ঢাকা মহানগরীর কোন কোন আবাসিক, শিল্প ও বাণিজ্যিক হোল্ডিংয়ে অবৈধ পানি ও পয়ঃ সংযোগ এবং অবৈধভাবে স্থাপিত গভীর নলকূপ রয়েছে। অবৈধ সংযোগের মাধ্যমে পানি ব্যবহার ও পয়ঃ নিষ্কাশন সুবিধা ভোগ এবং ঢাকা ওয়াসার অনুমতি ব্যতীত গভীর নলকূপ স্থাপন করা ঢাকা ওয়াসা আইন, ১৯৯৬ এর পরিপন্থী ও শাস্তি যোগ্য অপরাধ। এ ধরনের অবৈধ পানির সংযোগ বা গভীর নলকূপ বৈধ করার বিশেষ মুযোগ ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে।

সমান্বিত গ্রাহকদের মধ্যে যারা অবৈধ পানির সংযোগ গ্রহণ করেছেন বা অবৈধভাবে গভীর নলকূপ স্থাপন করেছেন, তাদেরকে আগামী ২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪ তারিখের মধ্যে জোনাল রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা/প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক এর কার্যালয়ে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন করে অবৈধ পানি ও পয়ঃ সংযোগ এবং অবৈধভাবে স্থাপিত গভীর নলকূপ নিয়মিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানান যাচ্ছে।

আবেদনপত্র ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার বিনিময়ে জনতা ব্যাংকের ফকিরাপুল শাখা, পোস্তা শাখা, মোহাম্মদপুর শাখা, মিরপুর সেকশন-১ শাখা ও মহাখালী কর্পোরেট শাখা এবং জোনাল রাজস্ব অফিস থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

নির্ধারিত সময় সীমার মধ্যে অবৈধ পানি ও পয়ঃ সংযোগ বা অবৈধ গভীর নলকূপ নিয়মিতকরণে ব্যর্থ হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট গ্রাহকের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ এবং অবৈধ পানি ও পয়ঃ সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হবে বা গভীর নলকূপ বন্ধ করে দেয়া হবে। ভবিষ্যতে এ ধরনের গ্রাহকদেরকে পানি ও পয়ঃ সংযোগ বা গভীর নলকূপ স্থাপনের অনুমতি প্রদান করা হবে না।

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত
ঢাকা ওয়াসা

GD-775

Tarabo Pourashava					
Rupganj, Narayanganj					
Memo No-Ta.Poura/Engg.Div/2004-2005/Poura.Bha.Nir-129/810			Date: 04.12.2004		
Re-Tender Notice					
Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender document for the work as per terms & conditions stated below:					
1.	Source of fund:	Government Development Assistance Fund and Pourashava's Revenue Fund.			
2.	Eligibility of tenderers:	Qualified & skilled contractors and firms as per conditions of "The Public Procurement Regulations-2003" clause-12.			
3.	Name & address of the office(s) of selling tender document:	(i) Deputy Commissioner, Dist. Narayanganj. (ii) Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Rupganj, Narayanganj. (iii) Assistant Engineer, Tarabo Pourashava, Rupganj, Narayanganj.			
4.	Name & address of the office(s) of receiving tenders:	(i) Deputy Commissioner, Dist. Narayanganj. (ii) Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Rupganj, Narayanganj. (iii) Assistant Engineer, Tarabo Pourashava, Rupganj, Narayanganj.			
5.	Name & address of the office of opening tenders:	Assistant Engineer, Tarabo Pourashava, Rupganj, Narayanganj.			
6.	Last date & time for selling tender document	Date: 04.01.2005 & Time: 4:00 PM.			
7.	Last date & time for submission of tender document	Date: 05.01.2005 & Time : 1:00 PM.			
8.	Date & time for tender opening:	Date: 05.01.2005 & Time: 3:00 PM. Tenderers or tenderer's authorised representatives are allowed to attend.			
9.	Special instructions:	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders prior to acceptance. Detail information are available in the office of undersigned: Tenders must be accompanied by all relevant papers and tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Chairman, Tarabo Pourashava from any schedule bank.			
10. Brief description of works:					
Group No	Name of works	Location	Price of tender document in Taka	Tender security amount in Taka	Time of completion
01.	Construction of New Pura Bhaban of Tarabo Pourashava (civil, sanitary & electrical works).	Khadun	5000/=	2,00,000/=	40 weeks
					Md Rafiqul Islam Miah Assistant Engineer Tarabo Pourashava Rupganj, Narayanganj
C-3003					