

Indian PM undergoes heart tests

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh underwent medical tests Tuesday and also yesterday for heart-related problems at a government-run hospital in New Delhi, officials said.

The tests included an angiogram that revealed some arterial blockages in his heart, and doctors were debating the next course of action, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Singh, 76, was advised to take the tests after he complained of chest pain, the report said, quoting unnamed sources.

Deepak Sandhu, Singh's spokeswoman, told AFP he had visited the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Tuesday for an "overall medical checkup."

She did not confirm the nature of the procedures but added some "diagnostic tests" were scheduled for Wednesday.

A statement on the premier's website said Singh "is likely to be discharged" from hospital later Wednesday.

"Treatment procedures which have been recommended would be undertaken after a few days. During this period, the Prime Minister would resume his normal duties," it added.

Lanka urges civilians to move to 'safe zone'

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military yesterday asked civilians living in the last remaining rebel-held areas in the island's northeast to move into a declared safe zone ahead of a major showdown.

The army said in a statement that it had declared a "safe zone" for tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the district of Mullaitivu, the last stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"The military appeals to those besieged civilians to move into those areas," the army said, giving a list of villages in rebel-held territory that it says will not be targeted by advancing security forces.

'3 civilians die' in Pakistan clash

BBC ONLINE

At least three civilians have been killed in fighting between troops and Islamic militants in north-western Pakistan, officials and witnesses say.

Locals say some militants also died in the clashes in Mohmand district but it is unclear how many. Official claims of 60 militants killed are unconfirmed.

Troops used artillery, helicopter gunships and jets to pound the area.

Pakistan has thousands of troops in its tribal regions, but Western and Afghan officials say militants are undeterred.

Fighting broke out when troops in Mohmand district attacked villages where militants were said to be hiding.

A statement from the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) on Tuesday evening said more than 60 "hardcore militants" had been killed in the day-long operation.

Residents reached by the BBC could not confirm the numbers, but said some militants had been killed.

Witnesses said ground troops, backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers, demolished more than 25 houses and shops along a local road to render it safe for troop movement.

At least three civilians were also killed when a restaurant was hit by mortar shells, residents said.

The targeted villages, located in the Lakaro and Pandiyali sub-districts, are believed to be the stronghold of militants in Mohmand.

Earlier this month, suspected militants killed six paramilitary soldiers in pre-dawn attacks on some check posts in the nearby Mamad Ghat area of Mohmand.

The army at that time said the attack was launched by more than 600 militants, mostly foreigners who had crossed over from Afghanistan.

It said it had killed 45 militants in retaliatory fire.

The communications infrastructure in Mohmand has been badly damaged and it is difficult to obtain independent confirmation of such claims.



Malaysian police stay guard in front of Myanmar refugees staging a protest outside the UNHCR office in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Scores of Myanmar refugees assembled to hold a peaceful demonstration demanding better living conditions and implementation of basic human rights for all refugees.

Nation goes to polls

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functions, which has given hopes for changes. People again dream about a strong local government system to ensure decentralisation of power to end shallow political culture centring local development, which is largely controlled by partisan lawmakers and party men to ensure win in parliamentary polls.

With the fresh hopes, as many as 7,32,58,950 people are entitled to cast votes to choose 480 chairmen and the same number of vice-chair and women vice-chair of the parishads from over 8,000 constituencies.

The government and the Election Commission (EC) have made all-out preparations to hold the crucial polls peacefully, a large number of law enforcers including the army have been deployed, but apprehension for violence still exists. And for the first time, a voter list with photographs and transparent ballot boxes are being used in the upazila elections.

The EC has also made various efforts to ensure a free and fair election so that people can choose competent and honest candidates for the upazila parishads, which will work for their welfare.

After three-week-long hectic electioneering, the contenders, mostly grassroots level leaders of political parties, are now waiting for the people's verdict.

Those who get elected will have to resign from their party posts, if they hold any, before taking oath to the offices as per the new law made to free the local government bodies from the influence of partisan politics.

Experts on local government said if the central government does not ignore the constitutional provisions and allows the upazila parishads to work uninterrupted, it would change the picture at local level administration by establishing people's participation in it.

"The functions of upazila parishads are very significant. The parishads are considered mini-parliament to address the local issues," Prof Tofail Ahmed, a member of Local Government Commission, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said new leadership would come out if the upazila parishads are strengthened and allowed to function properly. People will also get better services as the upazila itself is a service delivery institution in nature, he added.

"It is not possible for the central government to effectively solve the local problems. But the local government bodies can do it smoothly," Tofail said.

Introduced in an ordinance in 1982 by the then military ruler in efforts to decentralise power, the first election to upazila parishads was held in 1985 and the second in 1990. Since its

introduction, conflict between upazila chairmen and local MPs emerged as a major obstacle to strengthening the new system.

The then BNP government in 1991 favoured lawmakers' interests by dissolving the upazila parishads instead of taking steps to reduce the conflicts.

In line with electoral pledges, the Awami League (AL) government in 1998 revived the upazila system by enacting a law but it empowered lawmakers to interfere in the upazila parishads' activities by making them advisers to the parishads of their constituencies.

However, the election to upazila parishads was not held during the AL's five-year tenure.

Then the BNP-led alliance government passed its 2001-2006 tenure dillydallying to decide the fate of the upazila parishads, which ultimately served the lawmakers' interests.

The caretaker government made the new upazila parishad law in June 2008, curtailing MPs' authority to interfere in the parishads' activities and returned the jurisdiction of fixing timeframe for the polls to the EC.

Now, if the central government really believes in democracy, it has no alternative to strengthening the local government system by ensuring effective participation of people through their elected representatives in administration at all levels in line with the fundamental principle of state policy laid down in the constitution.

FORMATION AND FUNCTIONS  
Comprised of a chairman, two vice-chairpersons, chairmen of all union parishads and mayor of municipality, if there is any under a given upazila, and a certain number of women members from reserved seats, an upazila parishad will sit at least once a month to review the ongoing activities and decide the next course of actions.

As per article 59 of the constitution, the upazila parishads are designated to perform significant functions relating to administration and the work of public officers, maintenance of public order, preparation and implementation of plans relating to public services and economic development.

According to article 60, to give the provisions of the previous article full effect, parliament shall, by law, confer powers on the local government bodies, including power to impose taxes for local purposes, to prepare their budgets and maintain funds.

The upazila parishad ordinance put local wings or departments of 12 ministries under the jurisdiction of upazila parishads.

The ministries are local government, home, agriculture,

health and family affairs, education, primary and mass education, fisheries and livestock, social welfare, rural development and cooperatives, youth and sports, women and children affairs, and food and disaster management.

Almost like parliament the upazila parishads also have a committee system for discharging functions properly.

Each upazila parishad will have to form at least nine standing committees on various subjects, including law and order, education, health, agriculture, communications, sports and culture, and finance and accounts, to ensure transparency and accountability of its functions.

Govt plans

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candidates got landslide victory.

Complying with the new ordinances the AL leaders elected to offices of the local governments, resigned from their party posts before their induction in offices, with a nod from their party leadership.

Although the elected local government representative of AL initiated steps to challenge the provision in the High Court back then, the party top brass refrained them from doing so with assurances that the party would take appropriate measures in time, the AL sources said.

According to the sources, although the AL leaders elected to the local governments resigned from their party posts in August last year, the party has yet to accept their resignations.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday over the phone, Sylhet City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, who resigned from a post in the Sylhet city unit of AL before taking his oath of office, said the party has yet to inform him about its decision regarding his resignation.

"We did resign, but we don't know whether our resignations have been accepted," Kamran said.

The upazila parishad ordinance also took away parliamentary members' control over the parishads.

Now, the AL-led government wants to give some of that power back to the lawmakers in connection with development projects in upazilas, by amending the upazila parishad ordinance.

The last AL government in

1998 revived the system of upazila parishads with a provision allowing lawmakers to become advisers of the parishads in their constituencies, and the parishads were made to take suggestions of the lawmakers for carrying out local development activities.

The LGC at yesterday's meeting with the LGRD minister argued that the new ordinance should be left untouched at least for a year. If any problem arises it can be amended then, the commission suggested.

The commission also argued that the lawmakers can still be involved in upazila parishads' development activities by engaging themselves centrally in preparing a five-year national development plan, the meeting sources said.

Emerging from the meeting held in the office of the LGRD minister, Muhammad Faizur Razzak, chairman of the LGC, said the ordinances were promulgated to strengthen the system of local government.

Asked whether the local government system particularly the system of upazila parishads will be weakened if lawmakers are empowered to get involved in their functioning, the LGC chairman said, "We won't want the local government institutions to become weak."

"Decisions will be taken based on the reality," he added.

After the meeting, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam said the lawmakers and upazila chairmen both should be able to contribute in local development works as both are elected representatives.

**BCIC RE-TENDER NOTICE**  
(বিসিআইসির পুন্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক)

Managing Director, Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polash Narsingdi, Bangladesh, invites sealed quotation (Single Envelope System) for appointment of C & F agent T/E No: COM 8.370/08-09/ C&F agent (Air) Dt: 14/01/2009 Tenders will be received up to 11.30 a.m. on 04/02/2009 in the Tender Box kept in the office of General Manager (Commercial), Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polash Narsingdi, Bangladesh and will be opened immediately thereafter on the same day in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representative (if any). The Tender Documents will be available on payment of Tk. 100.00/- only per Set (Non - refundable) from (1) Accounts Division, BCIC Head Office, 30-31 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka- 1000. (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (3) PUFFL's Accounts Dept. Tk. 5,000.00/- only to be submitted along with the bid as Tender Security in the form of DD/Pay Order/Unconditional Bank Guarantee (Specimen Enclosed) in favour of Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polash Narsingdi, Bangladesh.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the Tender is not received/opened on the Date & Time mentioned above, the same will be received/opened on the next working day. No Tender Documents will be sold on the Date of its Opening. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

(Kazi Shahadat Hossain)  
General Manager (Commercial)  
For Managing Director.

**Bangladesh Power Development Board**  
**Invitation for International Re-Tender**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).	
3	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	Supply of mechanical spares for CI & overhauling of Sylhet 20 MW GT Power Station, BPDB, Sylhet.	
7	Invitation Ref No.	Pur-334/2007.	
8	Date	13-01-2009.	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget (cash foreign exchange allocation) of BPDB.	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
14	Tender package no.	168 (FY 2008-2009).	
15	Tender package name	Supply of mechanical spares for CI & overhauling of Sylhet 20 MW GT Power Station, BPDB, Sylhet.	
16	Tender publication date	13-01-2009.	
17	Tender last selling date	22-02-2009 during office hours.	
18	Tender closing date and time	23-02-2009 at 11.00am (BST).	
19	Tender opening date and time	23-02-2009 at 11.30am (BST).	
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.	
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of mechanical spares for CI & overhauling of Sylhet 20 MW GT Power Station, BPDB, Sylhet.	
24	Brief description of related services	As per tender document.	
25	Price of tender documents (BDT)	Non-refundable BD Taka 5,000/- (five thousand) only in the form of Pay Order in favour of Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
26	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount
Lot-1	Supply of mechanical spares for CI & overhauling	Sylhet 20 MW GT Power Station, BPDB, Sylhet	USD 14,000.00 or BDTk 10,000,000/-
			150 days from date of LC opening
27	Validity of tender and tender security	As per tender document.	
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md Abduhu Ruhullah.	
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director.	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
30	Address of official inviting tender	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 7126144, Fax: 7126151.	
32	Special instruction	Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender, to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contract award.	
33	This tender will be performed according to	The Public Procurement Rules-2008.	

Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

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Probes irk PM

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who is also investigating the incident, said it is impossible to conduct an investigation into the Railway Bhaban break-in incident without the help of railway officials.

Meanwhile, the police headquarters transferred the case to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from Shabbagh police.

"So far we have found nothing strong enough to make comments on," said Additional Inspector General of Police and chief of the CID Zaved Patwary.

The authorities beefed up police patrol around Railway Bhaban following the prime minister's directives.

The prime minister asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to take prompt actions against the people who were in charge of ensuring security to the important government establishment.

"Take fast-track actions against the people before carrying out any investigation," she told Home Minister Sahara Khatun at the National Implementation Committee on Administrative Reforms (NICAR) meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Hasina expressed her surprise at how a group of miscreants carried out apparently a night-long raid at the railway headquarters in the capital.

"She [Hasina] said police are

now not being used for political purposes like it was during the previous regime. So why they failed to prevent it," the Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said while briefing newsmen after the meeting.

PROBE STATUS  
Joint Director General (engineering) of Bangladesh Railway Habib Ahmed, who heads a probe committee formed by Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star, "We have so far taken statements of all 13 security guards on duty that night.

Besides, about 30 officials of various ranks, including additional director general, director and deputy director, have submitted their written statements."

Nasrin Akhter's committee also quizzed the security guards, lift operator and a number of office assistants.

Our Chittagong office reports: Assistant Transport Officer (ATO) Omar Faruk, who heads the probe committee investigating the break-in at a Chittagong railway office, said he has so far found nothing special. He thought the break-in was a simple theft since no important documents were stolen.

He, however, said they could not identify the people involved in the break-in.

Faruk hoped to submit the probe report today.

**BPDB's Local Tender Notice**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.	
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	Procurement of guy with fittings.	
7	Invitation for tenders Ref No.	Pur-2.023/2008-09/Project/RAJ	
8	Date	11.01.2009	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB.	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
12	Project/programme code	Emergency Procurement of Materials & Equipment for Renovation & Augmentation of Distribution Lines and Sub-Stations under Rajshahi Zone of BPDB.	
13	Project/programme name	Emergency Procurement of Materials & Equipment for Renovation & Augmentation of Distribution Lines and Sub-Stations under Rajshahi Zone of BPDB.	
14	Tender package No.	RAJ-19 of APP (FY:2008-2009) (Rajshahi Zone).	
15	Tender package name	Procurement of guy with fittings.	
16	Tender publication date	11.01.2009	
17	Tender selling date	13.01.2009 to 16.02.2009	
18	Tender closing date and time	17.02.2009 at 11.00am.	
19	Tender opening date and time	17.02.2009 at 11.30am.	
20	Name & address of the office	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (other)	Not applicable.	
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Renowned manufacturer/supplier.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of guy with fittings.	
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.	
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	Tk 1,000.00 (one thousand) only. As a Pay-Order (non-refundable) from any schedule bank in Bangladesh in favour of the Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
26	Lot	Identification of lot	Location of delivery
	1	Procurement of guy with fittings-4,263 set (Package No. RAJ-19)	BPDB's Central Store at Ishurdi, Pabna
			Tender security amount in Tk
			Completion time in weeks/days
			90 days (75 days for manufacturing and 15 days for testing & delivery) from the date of contract signing
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
27	Validity of tender & tender security	Minimum 120 days & 148 days respectively from the tender opening date.	
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abduhu Ruhullah.	
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
30	Address of official inviting tender	WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
31	Contact details of official inviting	Tel: +88 02 9550532, 7120089 Fax: +88 02 7126151	
32	Special instruction	NOA & signing of contract will depend on the approval of the DPP.	
33	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.		

Md Abduhu Ruhullah  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

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