



PHOTO: AFP

Members of Australia's Tamil community wave Tamil and Australian flags as they demonstrate outside the Australian Governor-General's residence 'Admiralty House' and near the Australian Prime Minister's residence 'Kirribilly House' on the northern foreshore of Sydney Harbour yesterday.

Pak Taliban urge lawmakers to back Swat deal

AP, Islamabad

Pakistani lawmakers who do not support a peace deal with the Taliban that imposes Islamic law in a northwestern trouble spot will be considered apostates, a spokesman for the extremists warned Monday.

Muslim Khan did not say whether the Taliban would punish legislators opposing the deal other than to say a militant council would discuss the matter. Apostasy, or abandoning Islam, is a serious

charge that in some quarters carries the death penalty.

The provincial government in northwestern Pakistan agreed in February to impose Islamic law in the Swat Valley and surrounding areas in exchange for a cease-fire with Taliban fighters who have terrorized the area for some 18 months, killing hundreds.

But Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has delayed signing the agreement. The federal government said over the weekend that he wanted opinions from members of

Parliament first. A floor debate was expected later Monday, though it was not clear whether lawmakers would vote on the issue.

The deal is unpopular in the West and among many Pakistanis, who consider it a surrender to the extremists.

Zardari's delay has angered northwestern Pakistan leaders, who say an Islamic legal system meets the demands of local residents for a more efficient legal system and is the best hope for ending the bloodshed in Swat.

Farmers harassed

FROM PAGE 16

Dakop upazila. Taibur himself was not even present during the demonstrations on March 11.

Mamata Sarkar, wife of Anjan Sarkar from Radhanagar village under Paikgachha upazila alleged that Mantu Sheikh filed brought rape charges against her husband Anjan, 32, and also her 80-year old father-in-law Amulya Sarkar.

Amulya Sarkar told The Daily Star, "I owned about 20 bighas of land back in the 80s and Mantu Sheikh has devoured most of it. He has been using them for shrimp farming."

He said he was now being victimised again by the filing of such false cases against him.

Alhaji Nesar Ali Gazi of Hanirabad village under Lata union alleged that former Jatiya Party leader, late Wajed Ali took 15 bighas of his land for shrimp cultivation.

"At least 25 farmers leased 240 bighas to Wajed Ali in the

nineties for five years. They have not yet got their land back though the contracts have all expired," Nesar said.

Wajed Ali has passed away and his son Saiful Islam Doel runs his father's enclosures.

Talking to this correspondent, Bijon Kumar Sarkar of Dighulia village under Paikgachha upazila said the shrimp farmers and their goons, locally called the 'saline water terrorists' have spoiled Boro rice crops on two bighas of his land which he cultivated at a cost of Tk 4000.

He asked the government to take immediate measures against the forcible flooding of their land with briny water as they try to return to growing rice because of the environmental damage caused by shrimp cultivation.

Prof Pradip Moholder of Abu Hossain College at Soladanga under Paikgachha upazila, president of 'Laban Jal Birodhi Krishi O Paribesh Sanrakhan Committee (Anti Saline Water, Agriculture and

Environment Protection Committee), said, "Though different political leaders pledged before the polls that they would take up the issue, no one other than lawmaker Noni Gopal had stood for them in parliament."

"We will continue our movement until shrimp cultivation is completely stopped in the upazila," he said.

Another villager, Kamalakanta Roy from Kamarkhola village, said, "Another gher owner Rafiqul Haque hired goons who are now sending letters with threats to those demonstrating against use of saline water."

Haque, however, denied the allegations.

The villagers complained about the indifference of the police in this connection, but the

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Dakop Thana Shamsul Haque told The Daily Star that the police have not yet received any directions from the government in this regard.

Lanka strips Norway of peace-broker role

Military halts offensive as truce begins

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday stripped Norway of its role as broker of the island's moribund peace process, a government official told AFP.

The decision comes as the Sri Lankan government says it is on the verge of totally crushing Tamil Tiger rebels, and ends a decade-long effort by Norway to bring an end to one of Asia's longest-running ethnic conflicts.

"The government of Sri Lanka perceives that there is no

room for Norway to act as (peace) facilitator," the official said, adding that a formal letter was handed over to Norway's ambassador to Colombo, Tore Hattrem, on Monday.

The dismissal of Oslo as peace broker followed an attack against Sri Lanka's embassy in Norway by Tamil demonstrators. Colombo said repeated appeals to the local authorities to protect the diplomatic compound had been ignored.

The Sri Lankan government decision also removes

an important conduit for communications with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- either from Colombo, the United Nations or other countries promoting the peace process.

Sri Lanka has recently taken exception to Norway arranging a telephone conversation between a senior LTTE leader and a UN envoy to discuss the island's humanitarian crisis.

Sri Lanka had formally invited the Scandinavian nation to act as peace broker in January 2000, and Oslo

managed to secure a ceasefire which came into force in February 2002.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan security forces began a two-day ceasefire yesterday, as the government called for the Tamil Tiger rebels to allow trapped civilians to flee the conflict zone.

The United Nations estimates that 100,000 people are packed into the small strip of coastline in the northeast that is the last remaining territory held by the rebel fighters, who have been pushed close to defeat.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION 2009



Indian EC worried over polls code violation

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's Election Commission has expressed "deep anguish" at large-scale violations of the model code of conduct for political parties and candidates in the coming elections to Lok Sabha and some state legislatures.

The commission said if this continued unchecked it would seriously damage the election process. A majority of the complaints relate to alleged hate speeches or personal slander.

In a communication to the parties, the commission asked the parties and their candidates to adhere to the letter

and spirit of the code of conduct, which has taken effect with the announcement of election schedule.

"The commission is pained to observe that many important leaders of political parties at the national level and state level are in their election speeches at public meetings and rallies making intemperate and derogatory remarks attacking the personal character or personal conduct of leaders and candidates of rival parties or making highly provocative and inflammatory statements that have the effect of inciting communal hatred or ill will....", the poll watchdog said.

As one of 165 million Dalits, the lowest rung in India's rigid caste hierarchy, Ram belongs to a community whose votes could swing the result of the national polls that begin on April 16.

Ostracised by much of society, most Dalits -- or

Low-caste Indians hold high cards in election

AFP, New Delhi

Omprakash Ram spends his days cleaning the streets of New Delhi. Passers-by usually shun him, but this is election season and that means Ram is suddenly getting a lot of attention.

As one of 165 million Dalits, the lowest rung in India's rigid caste hierarchy, Ram belongs to a community whose votes could swing the result of the national polls that begin on April 16.

Ostracised by much of society, most Dalits -- or

"untouchables" as they used to be known -- live in rural areas and lag behind upper-castes in education, employment and housing, often performing menial tasks such as cleaning sewers and collecting garbage. But come election time, they find themselves courted by politicians of all stripes with promises of job quotas, free schooling and food subsidies.

Ram, 21, said he is doubtful that the election results will improve his quality of life.

"I don't think much will change," he said. "Politicians are all the same."

But although the first-time voter professes to have little faith in the mainstream political parties, he is adamant that his ballot will be counted.

"It's the only time I will ever be important," he told AFP.

In recent years, Dalit consciousness has risen to the point where they and other minorities turn out to vote in higher numbers than middle- and upper-class citizens.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian Bollywood film actor Salman Khan (2L) and Congress party parliamentary candidate for south Mumbai, Milind Deora (L) greet supporters during a pre-elections road show in Mumbai Sunday. Indian voters are set to go to polls in five phases across the country for general elections from April 16 to May 13.

Sonia should apologise, says Advani

ANI, Thiruvananthapuram

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader L K Advani on Monday asked Congress President Sonia Gandhi to apologise for her critical remarks on the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in a recent election meeting in Jharkhand.

Addressing a press conference here, Advani said that he was shocked to hear Gandhi's statement that, "we are in greater danger from people

inside than from foreign terrorists entering India."

Although Sonia Gandhi did not particularly mention a party's name, Advani said it "substantially accuses us and the comments were clear".

Accusing Gandhi of having meagre knowledge about her own party's history, Advani asserted that there has been a tradition in India of leaders appreciating the role of Jan Sangh in the nation's development.

15 people killed in Indian Maoist attack

AFP, Bhubaneswar

At least 15 people including 11 security men were killed in India in an overnight gunbattle with Maoist rebels who had stormed a mine, police said Monday.

About 100 Maoists took employees hostage at the complex in the eastern state of Orissa, where Asia's biggest bauxite mines are located.

Police said they suspected the rebels were aiming to

steal explosives.

The attack came as the region prepares to vote on Thursday in the first phase of India's five stage April 16-May 13 national polls.

"Eleven paramilitary personnel lost their lives during the exchange of fire," senior Orissa police officer Manmohan Praharaj told AFP.

"Four dead bodies of the Maoists have also been recovered, but all the civilian captives are safe."

Wasa bigwigs

FROM PAGE 16 irregularities and nepotism, sources added.

Wasa Chairman Abdullah Harun Pasha and its MD Maj (Retd) Raihanul Abedin tendered their resignations on April 8.

Engineer Dr Golam Mostafa was appointed as the chairman of Wasa the next day. Raihanul (MD) was called in the local government rural development and cooperatives (LGRD) ministry on April 8 and asked to resign immediately, said official sources.

Joint Secretary (Water Supply) to the LGRD ministry Shahjahan Ali Mollah said that he was not aware of any government pressure for resignation.

A new MD might be appointed within the current week, said Mollah, adding that the government will appoint the MD as per the proposal of the Wasa Board chairman.

"I resigned on personal and health ground," said Abedin while Pasha said, "I resigned thinking that the new government would need a new set-up for the organisation."

The allegations against Abedin include occupying a palatial residential house of Wasa, corruption and nepotism in appointment, promotion and transfer; unauthorised use of official transport; use of staff for personal purposes.

He has allegedly recruited 331 fourth and third-class employees on muster roll in exchange for bribes and

because they were all from greater Comilla region, as he himself hails from Chandpur.

Two deputy managing directors out of four, two additional chief engineers, two out of ten superintending engineers and most of those on muster roll are from greater Comilla, added sources.

The MD is entitled to use one vehicle while Abedin used two for his family members at the cost of Wasa.

Regarding the house he occupied Abedin said, as per the Wasa act of 1996 chief executive of the organisation is entitled to it.

But as per the act the chairman of the Wasa is the chief executive not the MD, officials said.

He claimed that he took initiatives during the caretaker government to retrieve a six-bigha palatial house of Wasa in Gulshan, which had been rented out to people without any legal authority.

"A government residential house cannot be rented out," he added.

As for the unauthorised use of transport Abedin said, "It has been a practice for long." Regarding recruitment he said employees were appointed on the basis of merit. Wasa was expanded from six to 11 zones during his tenure and it was in need of more manpower, which is still staff-starved.

Abedin got a three-year contractual appointment to Wasa in August 2007 during the caretaker government regime.



Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Limited

Notice for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Joint Collaboration/Partnership

With the approval of BCS Board of Directors, Managing Director is pleased to invite application for interested investors both local and foreign for joint collaboration/partnership business with Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Limited (BCSL), Khulna by using its existing infrastructure i.e. land, buildings, machineries and manpower.

1. Background: Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Limited, Khulna was established in the year 1967 with the nomenclature of Cable Industries of Pakistan under a joint venture agreement between the then Government of Pakistan and M/S. Siemens AG, West Germany. After the independence of Bangladesh, Cable Industries of Pakistan was incorporated as a limited company with its present name Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Limited, Khulna under the Companies Act 1913. From beginning BCSL was engaged for producing different types of Telecommunication Copper cables. With the technological developments in communication sectors the demand of Copper cables has been reduced substantially and as a result BCSL requires diversification in its products as well as in trade. For the interested investors the following information is given below;

- Highlights:**
 - Authorised Capital : Tk. 120.000 million
 - Paid up capital : Tk 63.200 million
 - Total No. of shares of Tk. 1,000/- cash : 1,20,000 Shares, 63220 Shares held by Govt. of Bangladesh & 1 Share by Managing Director, BCSL, Khulna.
 - Factory Hall Area : 9,500 sq. Meter (Approx)
 - Workshop Area : 1,250 Sq. Meter (Approx)
 - Drum Yard Area : 5,000 sq. Meter (Approx)
 - Total Office Area : 1,100 Sq. Meter (Approx)
 - Warehouse Area : 3,200 sq. Meter (Approx).
 - Machineries : Many heavy duty machineries i.e. Heavy Drawing, Tandem Wire Insulating Line, Pair/Quad Twisting, Unit Stranding, Sheathing Line etc.
 - Equipment : 10 M/T Mobile Crane, 5 & 3 MT. Fork Lifters etc.
 - Generators : 3 X 500 KVA Diesel Generators.
 - Total employees : 232 (including 36 officers).
- All interested parties are invited to submit a preliminary proposal preferably from Telecom related companies of both local and foreign. The proposal should include brief information about the following:
 - Company profile of the applicant and all its partners or joint venture associates.
 - Company profile of the consortium members (if any).
 - Company profile of the telephone Optical Fiber cable/accessories/equipment producing company.
 - Ownership management.
 - Business proposal with prospects.
 - Management structure.
 - Sales and marketing strategies.
 - Tentative time frame.
 - Launching (MoU, contracts etc).
- Proposal should be submitted to the Managing Director, BCSL in duplicate at the latest 15 June 2009 at 12:00 hours (Bangladesh Time). Final proposals will be invited after the evaluation of the Eoi. All interested partners are requested to contact for any query by e-mail to mdbcs@btcl.net.bd or by phone to + 880 41 785299, + 880 41-785150, or by Fax to + 880 41-785375.
- All interested parties may physically visit Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Limited, at Shiromoni, Khulna before submitting their proposal for the Expression of Interest (Eoi).
- BCSL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director
Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Ltd

GD-1887

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

খাদ্য ও দুর্গোপ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয়

খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর, সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা, ঢাকা

পুনঃ বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং সমপনি/৮৭৬/০৮/১৯৫

তারিখঃ ২৯/১২/৮১৫ বাংলা

১২/০৮/২০০৯ খ্রিঃ

সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা, ঢাকার অস্থাবর সম্পত্তি (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) লট ভিত্তিক খোলা দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয়ের জন্য অভিজ্ঞ দরদাতাদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রত্যাগোঁতামূলক দর পুনঃ আবেদন করা যাচ্ছে।

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	খাদ্য ও দুর্গোপ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয়।
২	এজেন্সী	খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর
৩	দরপত্র প্রদানকারী কার্যালয়ের নাম	সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা ঢাকা।
৪	যে পণ্য বিক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র আবেদন করা হয়েছে	সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা ঢাকার অস্থাবর সম্পত্তি (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে-৩ ও ৮ নং লট)।
৫	দরপত্রের স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-সমপনি/৮৭৬/০৮/১৯৫ তারিখঃ ১২/০৮/২০০৯।
৬	বিক্রয় পদ্ধতি	খোলা দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে (প্রতিটি লটের জন্য দরদাতা/দরদাতাগণকে পৃথক দরদাতা হিসাবে গণ্য করা হবে)।
৭	দরপত্র প্রাপ্যক্রেতার নাম	সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা ঢাকার যাবতীয় অস্থাবর সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে-লট ভিত্তিক)।
৮	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	তারিখঃ ০৮/২০০৯ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
৯	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ৮/০২/২০০৯ইং দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১০	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ৮/০২/২০০৯ইং বিকাল ৩:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	১। প্রধান মিলারের দপ্তর, সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা ঢাকা ও ২। পরিচালকের দপ্তর, হিসাব ও অর্থ বিভাগ, খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর, ১৬, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	১। প্রধান মিলারের দপ্তর, সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা, ঢাকা ও ২। পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, প্রশাসন বিভাগ, খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর, ১৬, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	সভাকক্ষ, ২য় তলা, খাদ্য ভবন, ১৬, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা।
১৪	দরদাতা বাজিত/প্রতিদানের যোগ্যতা	প্রকৃত দরদাতা/ক্রেতাকারী প্রতিদান এর হালদানাদান আয়কর পরিশোধ সনাক্ত সনদ, হালদানাদান ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এবং VAT রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, অর্থিক সচ্ছলতার ব্যাংক প্রত্যায়নপত্র (দরপত্র খোলার অনধিক ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত) থাকতে হবে। তাছাড়া দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা।
১৫	দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্য	২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা।
১৬	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত	"প্রধান মিলার, সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা ঢাকা" এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে পে-অর্ডার অথবা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে প্রতি লটের জন্য পৃথকভাবে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% টাকা দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।

১৭	মাল্যমালের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	লট-৩ (Lot-3)	সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিলের ব্যবহারযোগ্য টোলের যন্ত্রপাতি।
		লট-৮ (Lot-8)	সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিলের মিলভবন, কর্মকর্তাগণের বাসভবন, ক্যাফিন, ক্লাবঘর, ভাড়াভের কক্ষ ইত্যাদি।

১৮	দরপত্র আবেদনকারী কর্মকর্তা বিষয়ক বিবরণ	নাজিম উদ্দিন আহমেদ, প্রধান মিলার, সরকারি ময়দা ও পত খাদ্য মিল, পোস্তগোলা, ঢাকা, ফোন-৭৪৪০০৮৪৪
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কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

নাজিম উদ্দিন আহমেদ
প্রধান মিলার

জিডি-১৯৩০