

News in Brief

Nepal detains protesting govt workers

AFP, Kathmandu

Police in Nepal yesterday arrested around 100 civil servants as they demonstrated outside a government building to demand higher pay, an official said.

Nepalese civil servants have held protests for the past two days outside the government's headquarters, preventing some departments from operating, and threatening to bring the administration to a standstill.

Bolden new Nasa head

AFP, Washington

The US Senate has confirmed former astronaut and Marines general Charles Bolden as the new administrator of Nasa, becoming the US space agency's first African-American chief.

The unanimous late Wednesday vote came shortly after the space shuttle Endeavour successfully blasted off toward the International Space Station (ISS) after five scuttled launch attempts in a month.

Facebook claims 250m users

AFP, San Francisco

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg on Wednesday said the number of people using the online social networking service had climbed to 250 million.

"The rapid pace of our growth is humbling and exciting for us," Zuckerberg said in a message posted at Facebook's official blog.

4 Kashmir cops detained for murders

AFP, Srinagar

Police in Kashmir have arrested four fellow officers for allegedly destroying evidence in the rape and murder of two women that sparked huge anti-India protests, officials said Thursday.

The arrests were made overnight, acting on a directive from the Kashmir high court.



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) and his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani shake hands during a meeting on the sidelines of the 15th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh yesterday.

Without customary bad boys of NAM, summit lacks excitement

ANI, Sharm El-sheikh

Without the presence of 21st century enfant terrible of the Middle East Mohammad Ahmadinejad, the towering personality of Fidel Castro or the biting wit of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the 15th Non-Aligned Movement Summit meet lacks the glamour element.

The media room has journalists wondering which world leader to chase for bites. Ultimately the general consensus is that it can only be India-Pakistan talks, whether they happen or not, that can really be the only 'story'.

Even the once flamboyant Muammar Gaddafi seems like an aged lion dressed in orange robes and purple turban. All he could

say was "We are the world" referring to the over 100 heads of government of mostly developing nations who have gathered here in Sharm el-Sheikh.

Gaddafi called for reforms of the United Nations, which he said should better represent developing countries' interests. "We are facing new challenges and we need to reconsider, reevaluate the international situation in order for the world to benefit from this huge gathering," he said.

Iranian President still smarting from the election fiasco gave this summit a miss. Iran is a member of NAM and the chair of the coming summit in 2012. However, Egypt's relations with Iran are lukewarm as Egypt opposes what it considers Iran's interference in the Arab affairs.

Pak PM says peace with India 'achievable'

AFP, Sharm El-sheikh

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said Wednesday that relations with India were on the right track and that peace between the arch-foes was "achievable."

Gilani was addressing participants at a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh ahead of a key meeting on Thursday with Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh.

"There has recently been some forward movement in our relations with India," Gilani told participants.

"We hope to sustain this momentum and move towards comprehensive engagement. We believe durable peace in South Asia is achievable," he said.

Peace "will be facilitated by the resolution of all outstanding

disputes, including Jammu and Kashmir," Gilani said.

New Delhi and Islamabad's fraught relations worsened after last year's bombings in the Indian commercial capital Mumbai, which killed 166 people.

The attacks were blamed by India on the banned Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Pakistan has acknowledged they were partially planned on its soil.

Singh has voiced hope that Pakistan will promise action against those behind the attacks when he meets Gilani for the second high-level contact between the two sides since the Mumbai raids in November.

The Mumbai attacks left in tatters a fragile peace process launched in 2004 to resolve all outstanding issues of conflict between the neighbours, including a territorial dispute over the divided Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

UN worker, guard killed in Pakistan

AP, AFP, Islamabad/ Geneva

Gunmen killed a UN employee and a guard at a refugee camp in northwest Pakistan yesterday, police said, in a blow to relief efforts aimed at the country's humanitarian crisis.

Local police chief Ghayoor Afridi said the assailants tried to kidnap the UN official and opened fire when he resisted. Two Pakistanis working for the UN were also wounded in the attack at the Kacha Garhi camp near Peshawar, he said.

The chief of the UN refugee agency in Pakistan, Guebre-Christos, said the dead UN worker was a 59-year-old Pakistani who had worked for the UN for 30 years.



Pakistani residents and rescuers gather at the destroyed building of a home-based fireworks factory in Muridke, some 25 km from Lahore on Wednesday. Six persons were killed and 12 others injured, including three young children, when materials used to make fireworks exploded.

Hillary extends hand to Taliban who quit battle

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Wednesday held out an olive branch to Taliban militants willing to lay down their arms, adding her support to an offer of talks from Afghan leader Hamid Karzai.

"Today we and our Afghan allies stand ready to welcome anyone supporting the

Taliban, who renounces al-Qaeda, lays down their arms, and is willing to participate in the free and open society that is enshrined in the Afghan constitution," she said.

"We and our allies fight in Afghanistan because the Taliban protects al-Qaeda and depends on it for support, sometimes coordinating

"In other words, to eliminate al-Qaeda, we must also fight the Taliban."

But in a major foreign policy speech to the Council of Foreign Relations, she added: "We understand that not all those who fight with the Taliban support al-Qaeda, or believe in the extremist policies the Taliban pursued when in

Tipai dam to choke Bangladesh rivers

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be affected if the dam is constructed.

The speakers feared that following construction of the dam, water of some major rivers in Bangladesh would become salty due to penetration of salt water from the Bay of Bengal with a fall in flow of water in the rivers.

Dr SI Khan emphasised the necessity for forming region-based water commissions under the supervision of the United Nations to settle such disputes.

SCF President Fakhruddin Atiq chaired the discussion moderated by its General Secretary Janardan Dutta Nantu.

Meanwhile, speakers at a roundtable urged people to mount pressure on the government for taking measures to prevent construction of

Tipaimukh dam and for not getting connected with the proposed Asian Highway.

The government is trying to serve the purposes of foreign countries especially neighbouring India playing down the country's interests, they told the roundtable on 'Tipaimukh Dam and Asian Highway' organised by National People's Forum at the Jatiya Press Club.

The discussants also alleged that the Indian government has violated the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India by initiating the project on the Borak River.

Mahmudur Rahman, former energy secretary to ex-premier Khaleda Zia and acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, said, "The government is trying to misguide people by deliver-

ing thoughtless remarks on the crucial issues of Tipaimukh dam and Asian Highway. It is clear that the government is hiding actual information about the two issues."

Bangladesh will face extreme environmental disaster if the dam is built at Tipaimukh. But the government is yet to conduct any environmental impact analysis to measure the probable negative effects of the dam, he said.

On inclusion of BNP-proposed expert team in the delegation for visiting the dam site, he said, "BNP has fallen into another trap of the government by submitting the list of experts. The government is applying political strategies to weaken the main opposition."

Referring to Farakka Barrage and the proposed Tipaimukh Dam, former state

minister for law Shahjahan Omar said, "Repeated attempts by the Indian government to construct dams can be defined as India's international river project."

He alleged that the Indian government is trying to turn Bangladesh into a desert through implementation of the long-term project.

Former UGC member Dr Tareq Shamsur Rahman feared that a large number of people in the country would become environmental refugees if the Tipaimukh dam is constructed.

"India's water aggression is a serious threat to the country's freedom and sovereignty," he added.

Dr Mahbubullah of Dhaka University and Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nizami also spoke.

Video shows Jackson's head catching fire

AFP, New York

A US entertainment magazine has released never-before-seen footage of Michael Jackson's hair catching fire while filming a commercial in 1984, an accident it said led to an addiction to painkillers.

Jackson was filming the advert for Pepsi when fireworks were exploded too early, causing the superstar to suffer severe burns as his hair and scalp were engulfed in flames, according to the video Us Weekly magazine released on its website Wednesday.

The "King of Pop," who died on June 25 from cardiac arrest at the age of 50, at first keeps dancing apparently unaware that his head is on fire.



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LEGAL NOTICE

This is to notify for general information of all concern that our client Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Ltd., Mobil House, CWS (C) 9, Gulshan - 1, Dhaka - 1212, are going to enter into sales agreement to purchase and take delivery of possession of land measuring 2.008 acres as mentioned in the schedule below from (1) Md. Sadar Ali, (2) Mr. Sukur Ali, (3) Md. Misir Ali, (4) Md. Amir Ali, all sons of Late Md. Ayat Ali, (5) Mst. Fulu Bibi, wife of late Md. Ayat Ali, (6) Md. Sohrab Ali, son of Md. Momtaz Uddin, (7) Md. Mahfuz Raza, son of Late Tokon Raza, (8) Mr. Shah Alam, son of Late Jalal Ahmed, (9) Md. Shahjahan, son of Late Jakir Ahmed, (10) Md. Mahbubur Rahman, son of Fazlur Rahman, (11) Mst. Rahima Khatun, wife of Late Md. Bakul Mia, (12) Master Md. Salek Mia, (13) Master Md. Rakib Mia, both sons of Late Bakul Mia, (14) Mst. Aklima Begum, wife of Md. Anwar Ali, (15) Mst. Ayesha Akhter, (16) Mst. Shilpi Akhter, (17) Md. Alif Mia, all daughters and sons of Md. Anwar Ali and 4 (four) others, all heirs of Joinal Abedin, all of Mouja Kunia, P.S. Gazipur Sadar, Dist. Gazipur who are the owners of the scheduled property and description of which is as under:

SCHEDULED PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land measuring 2.008 (Two Point Zero Zero Eight) acres under C.S. & S.A. Dag Nos. 651, 650 and 641, 641, S.A. Khatian Nos. 70, 120, 58 and 686
57, R.S. Dag Nos. 1022, 1021, 1007 and 1008, R.S. Khatian Nos. 213, 162, 113, 232 and 85 respectively under Mouza-Kunia, P.S. Gazipur Sadar, Dist. Gazipur.

If anybody has any objection or claim over the scheduled land, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned within 7 (seven) days from the date of the publication of this notice. If no objection or claim within the above mentioned time is received by the undersigned it will be deemed that the owners have got undisputed right, title and interests over the scheduled land and no claim or objection will be entertained after the expiration at the time mentioned above.

For and on behalf of
Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Ltd.

Sd/-

(M.A. Wadud)
Advocate
The Law Society, Ispahani Building 1st Floor,
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Career Opportunity in International NGO



NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice, an international NGO with its Head Office in Germany, is looking for a highly competent professional for its Country Office for immediate employment in the following position.

Programme Officer, Dialogue and Exchange - Responsible person for dialogue and exchange programme and Assistant to the Country Director for administrative and secretarial support.

Location: Dhaka with occasional visits at different locations of Bangladesh.
Salary: BDT 40,000 per month along with one festival bonus and gratuity equivalent to one month's salary. However, salary might be negotiable for highly competent person.

Responsibilities: Lead dialogue and exchange programme of NETZ Bangladesh; contribute to conceptual and strategic development of the dialogue and exchange programme; mentoring of young volunteers from Germany working with Partner-NGOs of NETZ Bangladesh; coordinate and facilitate placement of young volunteers at Partner-NGOs; organise exposure visits from Bangladesh to Germany and Germany to Bangladesh; all organisational and administrative tasks related to the dialogue and exchange program; organise and facilitate review meetings with Partner-NGOs, workshops; administrative and secretarial support to Country Director of NETZ Bangladesh; support to educational development work and fundraising activities of NETZ Bangladesh.

Qualifications: Masters in any discipline from any reputed university.
Experience: Min. 3 years experience in similar position in any reputed national/international NGOs; having excellent language proficiency both in Bangla and English; good computer literacy, including Word, Excel and Power Point.

Eligible candidates willing to work with young volunteers from Germany having ability to work under pressure and commitment for empowerment of the poor, progressive ideals, gender sensitivity, pleasant personality and sound track record of reliability and trustworthiness are encouraged to apply with a CV (max. 4 pages; mentioning results in all public exams) and a recent photo by post to: NETZ, House 40 (1st Floor), Road 4A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209 latest by 31. July 2009.

This recruitment would be completed by 15. August 2009 and only short listed candidates would be invited for written and oral tests.
NETZ is an equal opportunity employer. Any canvassing is treated as disqualification.