

China executes 2 for tainted milk scandal

AP, Beijing

China executed two people yesterday for their roles in a tainted milk powder scandal in which at least six children died and more than 300,000 became sick.

Zhang Yujun was executed for endangering public safety and Geng Jinping was executed for producing and selling toxic food, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Their sentences were upheld in March by an appellate court in the northern city of Shijiazhuang. China requires death sentences to receive final approval from the Supreme People's Court in Beijing, after which most are carried out by lethal injection.

Xinhua said news of the execution had been issued by the Shijiazhuang Municipal Intermediate People's Court, although a court clerk who answered the phone Tuesday said he was unable to confirm the sentences had been carried out.

The case was one of China's worst-ever food safety scandals, involving tainting of infant formula with the industrial chemical melamine, which can cause kidney stones and kidney failure.

US to announce target for cutting carbon emissions

BBC ONLINE

The US will announce a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions before next month's UN climate summit, according to a White House official.

The target is expected to be in line with figures contained in legislation before the Senate - a reduction of about 17-20% from 2005 levels by 2020.

The absence of a US target has widely been seen as the single biggest obstacle to agreement at the summit.

President Barack Obama has not yet decided whether to attend the talks.

At the weekend, the hosts of the Copenhagen conference announced that more than 60 heads of state and government had pledged to take part in the two-week negotiating session.

Remote-controlled bomb kills 6 in Afghanistan

AP, Kabul

A remote-controlled bomb exploded in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, killing six members of a family, including four children, authorities and relatives said.

The victims were caught in the blast as they travelled in a car on a shopping trip ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid this weekend, a relative, Qimat Khan, told Associated Press Television at the scene of the bombing in the eastern province of Khost.

Initial reports indicated the bomb had been beneath a water truck, but officials later clarified it was planted beneath a water tank in the Matun area of Khost city.

Taher Khan Sabari, deputy governor of Khost, said the dead children included a boy aged about 1 year, and a girl of about 3 years old. The other children were older, he said.

The Interior Ministry initially said two children and a man had been killed and another three people, including two children, had been wounded in the Tuesday morning attack.

Khan, the relative, said the wounded later died of their injuries.

Wazir Pacha, a spokesman for the provincial police chief of Khost, said authorities were investigating what the target might have been.

Taliban violence against US and Nato soldiers and Afghan civilians continues to rise.

A US service member was killed on Monday in an insurgent attack in the south of the country, Nato said Tuesday. It did not give any further details of the attack or where it occurred. The death comes a day after Nato announced four US service members were killed in separate attacks three Sunday and one Monday.

The latest death brings to 16 the number of US troops killed in Afghanistan this month.

British inquiry into Iraq war opens in London

AFP, London

A long-awaited public inquiry into Britain's role in the Iraq war opens yesterday, with former civil servants first to appear in hearings set to climax with Tony Blair taking the stand.

One-time top officials from the foreign and defence ministries will outline Britain's policy towards Baghdad in the early 2000s as a five-member committee begins investigating what lessons can be learned from the US-led war.

Inquiry chairman John Chilcot, a former civil servant, said he was confident of producing a "full and insightful" account of the decision-making that led Britain to join the 2003 invasion against strong opposition at home and abroad.

An appearance by former prime minister Blair, who took Britain into the conflict, is likely to be the highlight of the inquiry, although he and other Labour government figures are not due to give evidence until next year.

Chilcot has said that nobody is on trial in the inquiry, held at a conference centre near parliament in central London, but has also vowed not to shy away from any criticism if the findings warrant it.

He and his fellow committee members have already met with families of some of the 179 British troops who died during the six-year conflict, who raised issues about whether they were properly equipped and trained.



Palestinian children check the damage on a smuggling tunnel following an Israeli air strike on the border between Egypt and Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Three Palestinians were wounded early Tuesday as Israel carried out three air strikes on Hamas-run Gaza in response to rocket fire from the enclave, witnesses, medics and the army said.

Israel hits Gaza with air strikes after rockets fired

AFP, Gaza City

Three Palestinians were wounded early yesterday as Israel carried out three air strikes on Hamas-run Gaza in response to rocket fire from the enclave, witnesses, medics and the army said.

Two of the raids struck smuggling tunnels on the border between Gaza and Egypt and one hit east of Gaza City, witnesses and medics said. The three wounded were caught in the tunnels' strikes, medics said.

An army spokesman said the air strikes were carried out in response to two rockets that were fired from the territory late on Monday, without causing injuries or damage.

He said the strike near Gaza City targeted a "weapons manufacturing facility."

Philippines declares emergency as massacre toll hits 46

AFP, Sanlag, Manila

The Philippines declared a state of emergency in parts of the volatile south yesterday as anger spiralled over a savage political massacre that has left at least 46 people dead.

Police on Mindanao island pulled bullet-ridden bodies from shallow graves in this remote farming area after gunmen allegedly employed by a local political chief abducted then shot dead a group of rival politicians and journalists.

As thousands of troops fanned out across the ultra-tense Maguindanao province, President Gloria Arroyo declared a state of emergency for the area that would allow curfews and road checkpoints to be imposed.

"No effort will be spared to

bring justice to the victims and hold the perpetrators accountable to the full limit of



the law," Arroyo said on national television.

National police spokesman Chief Superintendent Leonardo Espina told report-

ers in Manila that 24 bodies had been recovered on Tuesday, on top of 22 that had been found on Monday.

The top policeman in the southern Philippine province where 46 people were murdered was sacked and detained on Tuesday after three of his deputies were implicated in the massacre, authorities said.

Witnesses said Chief Superintendent Sukarno Dicap, the deputy police chief of Maguindanao province, were present when gunmen allegedly linked to a political kingpin shot dead associates of a rival politician and journalists.

"He (Dicap) was seen at the scene of the crime together with some CAFGUs," national police spokesman Chief Superintendent Leonardo Espina said.

Baby crocodiles go missing

FROM PAGE 1

but to no avail. The search for the baby crocodiles, however, was being continued, the DFO said.

Abdur Rob filed a general diary Monday night in this connection with Dakop Police Station.

In the GD, Abdur Rob stated that around 3:30pm on Sunday while changing water of the cages, where crocodiles are bred, he found 18 of those in a cage missing.

After its emergence in 2000, the centre had bred a total of 128 baby crocodiles, including the 18 missing ones, in eight cages, the DFO said.

Seven staff including the Deputy Ranger of Forest Department were given charge to take care of the

centre.

Assistant Conservator of Forests of the east wing Golam Quddus Bhuiyan has been asked to conduct a probe into the matter and submit a report within seven days, the DFO told reporters.

If anyone among the staffs of the centre is found guilty of negligence, the person would not be spared and departmental action would be taken against him, said the DFO.

This is the first ever crocodile breeding centre set up in Bangladesh with an initiative to save crocodiles from extinction and gradually Karamjal has become a tourist attraction due to its crocodile breeding centre.

Out of 26 species of crocodiles, only three varieties grace

our waterways. Of the three, the variety of fresh water or sweet water crocodiles has become extinct. The remaining two varieties - one is known as Gharial and another as Marsh Crocodile or Indian Mugger - are existing. The Sundarbans has only salt-water crocodiles, which are even on the verge of extinction.

Abdur Rob, who studied about crocodiles in Australia, told a visiting Daily Star correspondent earlier this year that according to a census in 1985, Bangladesh had 150 to 200 salt-water crocodiles in the Sundarbans. Now the number has gone down to below one hundred though the waterways of the forest can house seven thousand crocodiles.

Karamjal Crocodile Breeding Centre is not operating on a commercial basis and yet to start releasing salt-water crocodiles into their natural habitat.

"We will release the baby crocodiles in their natural habitat when they grow at least two metres in length and hopefully by one or two years, we will be releasing them," Rob said.

Romeo and Juliet, the most famous two male and female adult crocodiles at Karamjal named by Rob, bred around 128 baby crocodiles by now.

When Rob calls Romeo and Juliet, they rush to him from wherever they are. Romeo and Juliet are the only adult salt-water male and female crocodiles at Karamjal.

100 school buses

FROM PAGE 16

sources said. It also decided to introduce automatic traffic signalling system at all intersections of the capital within the shortest possible time.

The meeting, after reviewing operation of the ongoing automatic traffic signal system that started from Sunday following a decision of the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry, decided to continue it instead of manual operation.

The system will run in two modes - one during peak hours and another during off-peak hours. It could be readjusted considering speed and flow of vehicles running on the roads.

The automatic traffic signalling system was earlier controlled by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) but from now on it would be controlled by Traffic Department of the DMP, the sources added.

A Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) representative told the meeting that it will introduce 100 specialised buses for students within the next two months to reduce traffic congestion in the city's Gulshan, Banani, Uttara and Dhanmondi areas.

The buses will carry students from selected bus stops and reach their schools and colleges like the Dhaka University transport system.

The BRTC will also procure 400 more buses for the purpose to lessen pressure on private cars for carrying students in those areas, the official added.

According to an official of the home ministry, the government, like developed countries, is contemplating imposing restriction on the use of more than one private car by a family to reduce the traffic congestion.

The government may

impose additional tax on those who will use more than one private vehicle, the official added.

The DMP will launch a weeklong motivational campaign from December 1 to encourage drivers to obey the automatic traffic signalling system, the meeting sources said, adding that the police will take stern actions against the drivers who will violate the signalling system from December 8.

The meeting also laid emphasis on smooth coordination between the DCC and the traffic department of the DMP.

Home Secretary Md Abdus Sobhan Sikder, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and BRTC, director general of Bangladesh Railway, chief engineer of DCC and DMP commissioner, among others, attended the meeting.

US warns against Iraq election 'slippage'

AFP, Baghdad

The US ambassador to Iraq warned yesterday against "slippage" in holding the country's general election, which has been threatened with delays due to a stalled electoral law.

Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi, meanwhile, who vetoed the law passed by lawmakers earlier this month, hinted that he would also oppose an amended version agreed on Monday.

"Some slippage would be ok, but we don't want a lot of slippage, so I hope they'll look very carefully at this and I hope we can get moving," Christopher Hill told reporters at the National Museum in Baghdad.

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Invitation for Bids

Loan No. 2332-BAN: Sustainable Power Sector Development Project (SPSDP)
ICB No.:02/2009 for the Procurement of Package Type Distribution Sub-Station

- 1 The People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of "Sustainable Power Sector Development Project" and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation For Bids (IFB) is issued.
- 2 Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd., (DESCO) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders from the member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery of 11/0.415KV, 750KVA & 500KVA, 3-Phase, 50Hz, Package Type Distribution Sub-Station consisting of 11KV SF6 Ring Main Unit + Transformer + Low voltage switchgear with all connection accessories, fittings & auxiliary equipment in an enclosure to supply Low voltage energy from high voltage System. (Details and specifications are provided in the Bidding Document)
- 3 International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.
- 4 Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from DESCO and inspect the Bidding Document at the address given below from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm on all working days.
- 5 The Bidding Document, in English Language, may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below mentioning the requested delivery procedure and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Tk. 5,000/= (Taka Five thousand) only. The method of payment will be in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order in favour of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd., (DESCO) for this Bidding Document. The delivery procedure is by surface mail or courier or hand delivery for local delivery (no additional cost) and by airmail for overseas delivery for an additional fee of US\$ 150. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery. Bidding Document will be available from the Head Office of DESCO on all working days from the dates shown in the following table. No Bidding Document will be sold on the day fixed for opening of bids.
- 6 Bid must be delivered to the address on or before the closing date and time as mentioned below. Bid must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount specified below in favour of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. Late bid shall be considered as rejected. The Technical Proposals of the Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address, date and time indicated below. The Price Proposals of the Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who wish to attend at the address, date and time to be advised by the Purchaser after obtaining concurrence of ADB on the evaluation of the Technical Proposals. Technical Proposal and Price Proposal shall be submitted separately.

Sl. No.	Package No/Lot No.	Item	Amount of Bid security in US\$	Selling of Documents starts from	Deadline for Bid Submission	Time of Opening of bids
(i)	3/B	11/0.415KV, 750KVA & 500KVA, 3-Phase, 50Hz, Package Type Distribution Sub-Station	15,000.00	23/11/2009	04/01/2010 at 12.00 PM	04/01/2010 at 12.30PM

- 7 DESCO will not bear any costs or expenses incurred by bidder(s) in connection with preparation or delivery of Bids.
- 8 In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.

Company Secretary

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Memo no. DESCO/CS/SPSDP/2009/5665

Dated 24/11/2009