



Indian students set alight a vehicle during a protest at Osmania University in Hyderabad yesterday. Indian police used batons and tear gas against stone-throwing protesters after two students committed suicide in an apparent macabre show of support for the creation of the new "Telangana" state carved from southern Andhra Pradesh.

## Telangana on boil again over statehood demand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Hyderabad

Police fired in the air and caned Osmania University students carrying the body of their colleague Wednesday as Andhra Pradesh's Telangana region was again on the boil with two suicides triggering fresh protests for a separate state.

K Venugopal Reddy, a final year MCA (master of computer applications) student, self-immolated on the campus of Osmania University. His charred body was found in the campus. The same day, Tuesday, a girl student set herself ablaze in Mahabubnagar district, giving a new twist to the movement to carve out a separate Telangana state out of Andhra Pradesh.

In their suicide notes, both Venugopal Reddy and Suvarnamma, a first year BSc student, said they were afraid Telangana state

would not become a reality.

The suicides came a day after the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Telangana students launched a walkathon. The all-party JAC also continued their relay hunger strike to urge the central government to immediately initiate the process of forming Telangana state.

There had been an apparent lull in the region since the central government convened an all-party meeting in New Delhi Jan 5. Pro-Telangana parties expected an announcement on a separate state, but the central government kept mum.

It was expected to be quiet till Jan 28 - the deadline set by the groups for New Delhi to initiate the process - but the two self-immolations in one day altered the situation.

Osmania University, the nerve centre of the ongoing movement, and other universities in the region erupted in anger.

## Yemeni airstrike hits Qaeda leader's home

AFP, Sanaa

Yemeni aircraft carried out airstrikes yesterday on the home of a suspected al-Qaeda leader, Ayed al-Shabwani, whom the government said it had killed last week, a tribal source said.

The attacks, which began in the morning, occurred in the village of Erq Al-Shabwan in Maarib province's Al-Shabwan region and were continuing into the afternoon, said the source, asking not to be named.

Tribal forces in the village were responding with anti-aircraft fire and a number of people had been killed, the source added.

# Iran snubs N-fuel deal

## Say diplomats

AFP, Vienna

Iran has responded to a UN-brokered nuclear fuel supply deal, rejecting some of the conditions called for by the West and insisting on a simultaneous exchange of fuel, diplomats here said yesterday.

One western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Iran gave its response at a meeting between the International Atomic Energy Agency's new chief Yukiya Amano and Iranian ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh earlier this month.

The IAEA refused to say whether the meeting took place or on its possible content.

But, according to the diplomat, Soltanieh reiterated the Islamic republic's earlier position, including the demand for a simultaneous fuel swap, which the West has persistently ruled out as unacceptable.

The Iranians did not give their response in writing, however, the diplomat noted.

Instead, the IAEA drew up the minutes of the meeting and then asked Soltanieh to verify that the memo correctly reflected Iran's position.

"His response was 'yes'," the diplomat said.

Another diplomat also said it was unclear whether Iran had actually delivered a written response. But "certainly

there was no agreement to the TRR (Tehran Research Reactor) proposal," the diplomat said.

Under the terms of a plan, hammered out under the IAEA's auspices last October, the Islamic Republic was to have shipped abroad most of its stockpile of enriched uranium for processing into fuel for a reactor that makes radio-isotopes for medical use.

The proposals, elaborated by the IAEA's then chief Mohamed ElBaradei, were seen as a way of appeasing western fears that Iran was stockpiling uranium for a covert nuclear weapons programme, because it would have seen most of the Islamic Republic's uranium taken out of the country before any reactor fuel was dispatched in return.

But Tehran, which insists its atomic programme is entirely peaceful, declined for months to give any formal response to the offer, with Iranian officials taking seemingly contradictory positions on it.

World powers gave Iran until the end of 2009 to accept the deal but the deadline was ignored, prompting talk of fresh sanctions against the Islamic republic.

In Washington on Tuesday, US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley commented: "I am not sure that they have

delivered a formal response, but it is clearly an inadequate response."

On January 5, Iran repeated its counter-proposal for a staged fuel swap, but left the "details" open to discussion.

"If the other side expresses readiness for the gradual and staged swap, we will discuss the details," foreign ministry spokesman Mehrmanparast said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki insisted that Tehran in fact had until the end of January to reach a uranium swap deal, stressing it will press on with plans to produce highly enriched nuclear fuel if there is no agreement.

Mottaki gave the West a one-month "ultimatum" to accept the Iranian counter-proposal.

Iran is already under three sets of UN Security Council sanctions over its defiance and refusal to suspend enrichment, which lies at the heart of international fears about its nuclear programme.

The process that makes nuclear fuel can also be used to make the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

The United States, Israel and other world powers suspect Tehran is making a nuclear bomb under the guise of a civilian programme, an allegation Iran vehemently denies.



A Haitian family, trying to leave the city, prepare to board a boat on Tuesday in the harbour of Port-au-Prince. Thousands of residents have fled the city in recent days, saying they were tired of sleeping in the street, afraid of being robbed by ruthless gangs, or simply fearful that new powerful aftershocks might destroy buildings that still remain standing.

## Nimhans wants Jyoti Basu's 'agile' brain for research

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

The premier National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans) in Bangalore yesterday said they would like to study Marxist patriarch Jyoti Basu's brain to unravel the mystery of his agility even in old age.

Jyoti Basu was 95 when he passed away, yet until the last moment he was very agile and active. Therefore, we would like to study his brain for research,' D Nagaraja, director of Nimhans, told IANS here.

Basu died Sunday at the age of 95 after battling multiple illnesses. He donated his body for the use of medical science and, after a state funeral, it was handed over to a government medical college in Kolkata Tuesday.

"We have a brain bank and our neuro-pathology department is eager to study the brain of such an active man. Generally, with age the brain also ages, but in case of Jyoti Basu, it's different," explained Nagaraja, who is currently in Delhi.

"We want to study the neuron cells and other parts of his brain to understand the functioning of human brains. We can know the mystery and it would be educative for us as well."

He said his institution is in touch with the Kolkata medical college and would really like to have their cooperation.

## Republicans deal Obama massive blow with Senate polls victory

AFP, Boston

Republicans won a stunning upset in Massachusetts' Senate election Tuesday, dealing a potentially fatal blow to US President Barack Obama's healthcare reforms.

Republican Scott Brown pulled off the surprise victory, capturing the late Democratic icon Edward Kennedy's seat in a stern rebuke of Obama exactly a year after he swept into office.

With nearly all votes counted, Brown had 52 percent to 47 percent for his Democratic rival Martha Coakley.

Coakley originally

## UN mission in Haiti

The UN Security Council voted on Tuesday to send 3,500 extra peacekeeping troops to Haiti

Head of mission: Hedi Annabi (Tunisia) Missing after quake

Edmond Mulet (Guatemala) Temporary head

Troops and personnel: About 7,000 troops, 2,000 police, 2,000 civilian personnel

Additional troops will boost UN presence in Haiti to 14,500

Top troop contributions: Brazil 1,266, Uruguay 1,136, Nepal 1,077, Sri Lanka 959, Jordan 728, Argentina 558, Chile 501, Peru 208, Bolivia 208, Philippines 172

At least 47 UN staffers killed, 500 missing

Source: MINUSTAH \*As of Nov. 2009 200110 AFP

## Rescuers still pulling out miracle survivors

AFP, Port-au-Prince

Rescuers hauled a woman out of the Haiti earthquake rubble after she survived for a week without food or water and barely able to move.

Another elderly woman started singing when she was pulled out of the wreckage of Port-au-Prince cathedral hours before Helene Losana, 25, became the latest of Haiti's miracle survivors.

Despite US military warnings that the operation would soon switch to the recovery of thousands of bodies, rescuers kept up the search into Wednesday for survivors like Helene Losana who defied the deadly odds.

Losana, 25, was pulled from the ruins of a Port-au-Prince shopping centre.

"She is conscious and in good form," Thierry Cerdan of the French group Rescuers Without Borders, which carried out the nine-hour operation with Haitian firemen and American

experts.

Losana had been in an apartment over a supermarket when the 7.0 magnitude quake struck on January 12. The rescuers said she had no food or water, could barely move, and owed her survival to the position in which she was stuck.

"We pulled someone out seven days after an earthquake, that is quite extraordinary," said Bruno Besson, another member of the French team.

Hours earlier, Mexican firefighters rescued Anna Zizi from beneath the ruins of the Roman Catholic cathedral. Zizi, aged about 70, was pulled from rubble two hours short of a full week after the quake struck.

"It seems rescuers were communicating with her and managing to get water to her through a tube. She was singing when she emerged," said Sarah Wilson, of British charity Christian Aid.

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## Dhaka City expansion plan

FROM PAGE 1

While talking about the modernisation of land administration, the premier said once the modernised land survey and management system are introduced, it would reduce people's sufferings.

While replying to lawmakers' queries, she said as part of a modernised land administration the land ministry would prepare a digital map of the entire country.

And besides, her government has finalised a countrywide development project under public-private partnership to mitigate people's sufferings related to land disputes.

"Land records will be digitised at union parishad level so that people can have easy access to information on land records," the premier said.

Under the land ministry's project, a digital archive of the existing mouza map and cadastral survey (CS) records will be developed at all mouzas of 64 districts.

She said the digital land management system will be introduced on the basis of the latest survey conducted in 461 upazilas excepting the upazilas under three hill districts.

MEGA PLANS IN TOURISM

The prime minister told the parliament that her government had taken a huge plan to boost up country's tourism sector.

On the occasion of world cup cricket, the year 2011 will be observed as tourism year to build a positive image of country's tourism sector, she said.

Hasina said her government is preparing a five-year (2009-2014) plan. As part of the plan tourism resorts in the country is being identified in a view to developing them as major tourist attraction.

"Efforts were taken to build exclusive tourism zone for foreigners," she said, adding that the mega plans had been prepared to develop Cox's Bazar and Kuakata tourism spots.

The premier said the government had initiated to enact law on exclusive tourism zone to develop tourism facilities in a planned way under both government, and private efforts.

Another law titled Tourism Board Law will also be enacted to expedite expansion of tourism industries under the concerted efforts of both government and private stakeholders, she added.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Replying to lawmakers' queries, the premier told the House that the government had taken initiatives to increase monthly honorarium of freedom fighters. They will also be allocated abandoned houses and khas land.

In response to a query of a lawmaker over the dispute of the list of freedom fighters, Hasina said a fresh list of freedom fighters is being prepared.

She urged lawmakers to help drop the names of fake freedom fighters prepared during the BNP-Jamaat led alliance government.

## Tigers up against history

FROM PAGE 1

into the final session on the fourth day, leaving the hosts with a daunting task of scoring 415 to win.

Bangladesh finished the day on 67-2 with opener Imrul Kayes (1) and one down Shahriar Nafees (21) already back in the dressing room.

Tamim Iqbal (23) and Mohammad Ashraful (16) will resume the fifth and final day, needing another 348 runs from a maximum 98 overs. It is a target Bangladesh have never successfully chased before.

Like the first innings left-arm pacerman Zaheer Khan and lanky fast bowler Ishant Sharma made the early inroads in the Tigers' batting that once again showed lack of application and technique.

Kayes became the victim of Zaheer when the left-hander offered a tame catch to wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik while ICL-returnee Nafees, who looked like a fish out of the water in the middle, survived twice before Sharma ended his misery with a short-pitched delivery that he fended at gully to Sehwa.

Earlier, when India resumed the day on 122 for one, the intention was very clear that they were hungry for putting up a total in quick time so that their bowlers could get enough time to bowl Bangladesh out.

However, the home bowlers showed lot of grit on a wicket that turned easy for batting under brilliant sunshine. In fact, it was quite an achievement by a Bangladeshi bowlers to take 18 Indian

## Scientists come up with new theory on the origin of primates

ANI, Washington

A team of scientists has come up with a new theory on the origin of primates, which says that each major primate group has evolved locally from a widespread ancestor on the supercontinent of Pangea about 185 million years ago.

Michael Heads, a Research Associate of the Buffalo Museum of Science, US, arrived at these conclusions by incorporating, for the first time, spatial patterns of primate diversity and distribution as historical evidence for primate evolution.

Models had previously been limited to interpretations of the fossil record and molecular clocks.

"According to prevailing theories, primates are supposed to have originated in a geographically small area (centre of origin) from where they dispersed to other regions and continents," said Heads.

In this new approach to molecular phylogenetics, vicariance, and plate tectonics, Heads shows that the distribution ranges of primates and their nearest relatives, the tree shrews and the flying lemurs, conforms to a pattern that would be expected from their having evolved from a widespread ancestor.

## Recruitment of a Gender Equality Specialist

Cowater International Inc. is the implementing agency for a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), "Strengthening Comptrollership and Oversight of Public Expenditures" (SCOPE). This is a capacity-development project, working with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG) of Bangladesh. We are seeking applicants for full-time employment as the Gender Equality Specialist.

The primary responsibilities of the Gender Equality Specialist will be to assist SCOPE, working closely with OCAG counterparts and an international GE Expert to:

- Collaborate closely with other SCOPE specialists and counterparts to identify key entry points for addressing gender equality;
- Act as secretary for the Gender Mainstreaming Advisory Committee (set agenda items, provide background materials and documents, organize meetings, write and circulate the minutes, make recommendations, and provide follow-up on specific actions);
- Conduct gender sensitization training and training on gender equality tools;
- Provide inputs and guidance on the integration of gender considerations into audit manuals and pilot audits;
- Conduct attitudinal and knowledge surveys;
- Ensure gender disaggregated data is being collected in all areas.

Desired qualifications include the following:

- Masters or Ph.D. in a relevant discipline;
- at least 10 years of directly relevant experience working in the gender equality area;
- experience in developing or improving guides, checklists, and other tools;
- experience working in/with senior levels of government;
- experience in gender equality work at the macro-level or policy level;
- demonstrated skills and experience in facilitating workshops or other training events, especially for government;
- experience with donor-funded projects;
- fluency in English; and
- excellent communication and writing skills.

Since this is a full-time position, applications are being sought from individuals only, not from firms and other organizations. Please send your CV and remuneration expectations by 28 January 2010 to:

Peter J. Armstrong  
Field Project Manager  
SCOPE Project  
2nd 12-Storey Government Building  
(9th floor), Segumbagicha, Dhaka-1000  
Applications can also be sent by fax or by email:  
Fax: 88 02 9362447  
Email: parmstrong@cowater.com