



Lankan Tamil suspects' rights violated: Rights group

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka should end the indefinite detention of some of the 11,000 people held in its custody for suspected links with the Tamil Tiger rebels, a leading rights group said yesterday.

A report by New-York based Human Rights Watch said the government should identify which detainees with suspected rebel links present a genuine threat and release the rest. Sri Lanka's human rights minister said he had not seen the report, and would respond to it later.

The suspects were detained during and after the Sri Lankan military's final offensive against the Tamil rebels, which ended with the rebel group's defeat in May and brought to a close decades of civil war.

"The government has denied detainees the right to be informed of specific reasons for their arrest, to challenge the lawfulness of the detention before an independent judicial authority, and to have access to legal counsel and family members," the group said.

At the end of the war more than a quarter million Tamils were placed into government-run camps to be screened for rebel ties as their home villages were cleared of mines.

Some 100,000 civilians still live in those camps. Those with suspected Tiger ties are held in separate facilities the government calls "rehabilitation centres."

The group also said it was concerned because a lack of information about the fate of detainees raised the possibility that some may have been tortured or mistreated or may have "disappeared."

Meanwhile, another rights group called on the government to end what it called a crackdown on opposition supporters, political activists and journalists that began after last month's presidential election.

Amnesty International said Monday that journalists have disappeared, been arrested or threatened with death and opposition supporters harassed since the Jan. 26 election.

President Mahinda Rajapakse beat his former army chief, Sarath Fonseka, in a landslide victory. Both men are considered war heroes after ending the country's civil war.

"Victory against the Tamil Tigers followed by an historic election should have ended political repression in Sri Lanka, but instead we have seen a serious clampdown on freedom of expression," said Madhu Malhotra, Amnesty's Asia-Pacific deputy director.

The group said it has received a list of 56 journalists who face serious threats, including some working for state-run media institutions.

Meanwhile, an umbrella of five Sri Lankan media rights organizations wrote to Rajapakse on Tuesday seeking a halt to harassment of the media, warning that such acts could taint his election victory.

No need to prove leader alive: Pak Taliban 'Suicide bombing boss' to replace in case Hakimullah dead

AP, ANI, Mir Ahil Islamabad

The Pakistani Taliban said yesterday that there is no need to release proof that the group's leader is alive to refute reports that he died from injuries sustained in a US drone strike in mid-January.

The comments by Pakistani Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq a reversal from remarks the day before could fuel speculation that militant chief Hakimullah Mehsud has in fact died and that the group is stalling to give it time to determine a successor. His death would be an important victory against an al-Qaeda ally but would be unlikely to deal the organization a killer blow.

A similar situation played out in August when Mehsud's predecessor was killed in a US drone strike in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal area near the Afghan border. The Pakistani Taliban denied his death for almost

three weeks, only admitting it after Mehsud was chosen as his heir.

"We don't feel any need presently to release a video, but whenever we feel a need, we will do so," Pakistani Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location.

The spokesman's comments came a day after a close aide to Mehsud told the AP that the militant group would try to provide proof in a day or two that its leader was alive. The senior Taliban commander spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of government retribution.

If the killing of Hakimullah Mehsud in a US drone attack is confirmed, it could set off a new power struggle within the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, which may conclude with the naming of Qari Hussain, the chief instructor on suicide bombers, as the new Pak-Taliban chief, according to a report published in the New York Times.

Obama proposes substantial jump in aid to Pakistan

THE INDIAN EXPRESS Online

US President Barack Obama has proposed a USD 3.2 billion assistance for Pakistan for fiscal 2011, a substantial jump in American aid to that country.

Noting that Pakistan is a key country in the war against extremism, the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, Jacob Lew, said the budget focuses on improving basic infrastructure, which will enable civilian government to provide better services to the people of Pakistan.

"This is key to improving stability and will also provide the military the tools needed to wage an effective counter terrorist campaign. For Fiscal 2011, funding for Pakistan is USD 3.2 billion," he said, adding that in 2010 it has been USD 1.88 billion.

"For Pakistan, the Budget also increases security assistance and funds a new signature energy project," the White House said in a fact sheet adding the budget expands the number of civilian personnel in Afghanistan and Pakistan in an effort to build government capacity, increase diplomatic engagement, manage expanded assistance programmes, and reduce the potential for fraud and misuse of American funding.

Death toll reaches 24 as Karachi continues to burn

Troops 'capture Taliban base in Bajaur'

ANI, BBC ONLINE, AP, Karachi/Khar

The death toll in continuous political violence in Karachi has touched 24 with six more deaths being reported from different part of the city.

The violence, which had erupted on Friday (January 29), when some activists of the

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) clashed with those of the Awami National Party (ANP) has engulfed the whole of country's financial capital.

In the latest incident, a group of daily wage workers, warning themselves around a fire at a construction site were fired upon by unknown persuasive workers were killed on the spot. A

person, injured by a stray bullet died while on his way to the hospital. According to police, over 74 persons have been killed in political violence in Karachi since the start of 2010.

Officials are worried over the issue getting worse, as they fear that extremists and drug mafia may take advantage of the political tension in the city.

Rahul slams Sena, says India for all Indians

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Patna

Every part of India belongs to every Indian, Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi said yesterday while hitting out at the Shiv Sena for its 'Mumbai for Marathis' slogan and asserted that he would not remain silent if migrant workers in Maharashtra were subjected to violence.

'India belongs to every Indian. Every part of India belongs to every Indian. All Indians have every right to go and work anywhere in the country,' Gandhi told reporters here on the last day of his two-day visit to Bihar.

Shah Rukh Khan stands by his IPL remarks, says India a welcoming place

THE INDIAN EXPRESS Online

Under attack from Shiv Sena for his remarks on the IPL fiasco, Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan said he was not apologetic for favouring the inclusion of Pakistani players and termed the activities of the party as "undemocratic".

Standing by his comments, Shah Rukh asserted he believed that every Indian would agree that India is a "good country" and that "everyone is welcome as a guest", but at the same time said too

much importance was being attached to the words of "just an actor".

"It makes me feel that activities like this are unhealthy, undemocratic, its insensitive but this is the world is and you can only say what you believe in and stand by it and hopefully I will have the strength to do so," Khan told reporters when asked about the Shiv Sena protests back home.

"As an Indian I'm not ashamed, guilty or unhappy about what I said neither am I sorry," he said.

Suu Kyi may be freed during polls period: Thai FM

AFP, Geneva

Aung San Suu Kyi may be freed during the national elections in Myanmar, Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya said yesterday, predicting that the polls could be held during the second half of 2010.

"What is the gut feeling? Maybe at the time of the declaration or the holding of the elections," he said, responding to a question on when the opposition leader, whose house arrest sentence had recently been extended until November 2010, could be freed.

"Around that time... maybe a day after or a day before," added Kasit.

A date has still not been announced for the elections, which will be the first since 1990 when the junta refused to recognise the landslide win of the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Suu Kyi.

But Kasit believes that "the elections most probably will be in the second half of the year." He noted that during ASEAN meetings, Myanmar's prime minister had been "giving us the assurance... that elections will be held this year" and that there will definitely be a "new government."

"He (the prime minister) mentioned about 70 to 80 percent completion of election law and political party law and the completion of the parliamentary site in the new capital and so on, so I predict it will take place in the second half of this year," added Kasit.

The foreign minister also cautioned against sanctions as a way to put pressure on the junta, saying the tactic has "proven to be a failure."

US jury considers Dr Aafia charge

BBC ONLINE

Prosecutors have said a Pakistani woman accused of shooting at US agents was determined to kill them, in the closing arguments of her trial in New York.

The jury has now retired to consider a charge of attempted murder against 37-year-old neuroscientist Aafia Siddiqui.

She is alleged to have used a rifle to shoot at US agents while waiting to be questioned in Afghanistan.

Her defence team claims that there is no forensic evidence the rifle was ever fired.

US terror suspects in Pakistan allege FBI torture

AP, Sargodha

Five American terrorism suspects alleged yesterday in a message on a tissue paper that they were tortured by the FBI and Pakistani police trying to frame them, the latest wrinkle in a case that has added to sensitivities in US-Pakistani relations.

The men tossed the message out to reporters as they were entering their latest hearing in court, where a judge delayed formally charging the suspects for at least two more weeks.

Project Implementation Officer (Environment)

The ADB-Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) was established to assist its Headquarters in the implementation of projects and programs. Its project processing, country programming, and economic and sector work. It also coordinates ADB's activities with other resident diplomatic and donor missions, NGOs, academic institutions, local think tanks, private sector and other members of the civil society.

Description of Responsibilities

To be responsible to support the Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) in the implementation of the environment policy.

For more details about the position, visit www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Country Director.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level bachelors degree in Environmental Engineering, Environmental Sciences, and/or Environmental Management, or related fields, preferably at post-graduate level or its equivalent
at least 5 years of relevant professional work experience
multidisciplinary competence and proven ability to undertake the environmental management of IFIs-financed projects, including natural resource management and pollution control
knowledge of policy and regulatory framework for environmental management, and environmental standards and good practices

www.adb.org/brm

Partners in Population and Development VACANCY FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is an Inter-governmental Alliance of 25 developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East established with a mission to expand and improve South-South collaboration in the fields of family planning, reproductive health, population and development. PPD is seeking an experienced professional in Reproductive Health, Population and Development program conversant with the dynamics of international development assistance to assist the implementation of its South-South exchange initiatives. The position will be for its Secretariat based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The candidate should be fluent in English, while knowledge of French/Arabic would be advantages. The candidate should have an excellent track record and experience of working in the Reproductive Health, Population and Development Sector. Primary Function of the Position: The National Programme Officer's (NPO) primary responsibilities shall be: development of innovative and forward looking projects and programs, securing funding, overseeing implementation, monitoring and evaluation; conducting advocacy for the promotion of PPD vision, mission and objectives; networking with national, regional and international organizations towards achieving PPD's organizational mandate. Professional Competencies: At least ten years experience in the fields of Reproductive Health, Population and Development including five years experience in project proposal development and project/program implementation/management; Minimum five years working experience with Development Agencies and/or Donor Agencies in managing reproductive health, population and development programs at national/regional/ international levels in a midlevel program management position. Academic Qualification: Masters in Medical/ Social Science/ Public Health. Additional postgraduate or other equivalent qualifications would be considered as an added advantage. Remuneration and Benefit package: Competitive compensation package will be offered to the deserving candidate. Applying Procedure: Applicants are requested to send their applications to: The Executive Director Partners in Population and Development (PPD) IPH Building, Second Floor, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh You may also submit your application online to: jobs@ppdsec.org. The Application should include a detailed CV, recent colored photograph with a Cover Letter summarizing key competencies providing rationale for being considered for the position. Application deadline: 15th February 2010 PPD is an equal opportunity employer. For more details please visit - www.partners-popdev.org

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা জানুয়ারি ২০১০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ তারিখঃ মার্চ ১৪১৬ বঙ্গাব্দ টেক্সট নং-এফডিসি/পিডি-বিবিধ/২০০৭-২০০৮/৫/পুনঃ/৫১

অশোধিত রূপা বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশনের কালার ল্যাবরেটরী হতে সংগৃহীত আনুমানিক (৬৯.৫০+৫৪.২০০)=১২৩.৭০ (একশত তেইশ দশমিক সত্তর) কেজি অশোধিত রূপা বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে অগ্রহী প্রকৃত সোনা/রূপা ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিজস্ব লেটারহেড প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অফারের সাথে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও আয়কর সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র আগামী ২৩/০২/২০১০ তারিখ বেলা ০২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত বাক্সে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং যা ঐ দিনই বেলা ০২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র প্রস্তাব উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটির (TOC) সভাপতি উপ-পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ) এর অফিস কক্ষে উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর কোন অফার গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অফারের সাথে টেক্সট সিকিউরিটির টাকা হিসেবে (fixed) ৬৫০,০০০/- (টাকা পঞ্চাশ হাজার) মাত্র (ফেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে (উত্তরা ব্যাংক ব্যতীত) পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে "বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন" এর অনুকূলে অবশ্যই জমা দিতে হবে, অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। অগ্রহী অফারদাতাগণকে বিক্রয়ত্যা অশোধিত রূপা সরেজমিনে অবজারভেশন/কপি পাথরের মাধ্যমে যাচাই করে দেখার জন্য (যদি প্রয়োজন হয়) আগামী ২২/০২/২০১০ তারিখ বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর দপ্তরে উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। কৃতকার্য দরদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে অবশ্যই বিক্রয়ত্যা সমস্ত অশোধিত রূপা ওজন করে উহার মোট মূল্য এবং মোট মূল্যের উপর (উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের অতিরিক্ত হিসেবে) সরকার নির্ধারিত হারে ভ্যাট, আয়কর ও অন্যান্য কর নগদে পরিশোধপূর্বক গ্রেট পাশের মাধ্যমে রূপা সরবরাহ নিতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে সমুদয় অশোধিত রূপা ডেলিভারী নিতে ব্যর্থ হলে কার্যাদেশ বাতিলসহ ও টেক্সটের সাথে দাখিলকৃত সিকিউরিটির টাকা সম্পূর্ণ বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে। দরপত্র খামের উপর দরপত্র নম্বর, বিষয় ও তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

এসএম কায়সার হোসেন মল্লিক উপ-পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ) বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন জিডি-৫৬০