

Fonseka urges calm as protests mount

Ex-army chief planned coup, says Gotabhaya Rajapakse

AFP, Colombol Singapore

Sri Lanka's former army chief and defeated presidential candidate Sarath Fonseka has appealed for calm, his wife said yesterday, as violent protests escalated over his arrest on conspiracy charges. "He wanted me to convey to the people and especially the troops to remain calm and not to be provoked by his illegal arrest," said Anoma Fonseka, who met with her detained husband late Wednesday. "They are trying to break his spirit, but they won't succeed," she told reporters. Anoma Fonseka was granted access to her husband at the naval detention centre where he is currently awaiting court martial for conspiring against the government. He was arrested on Monday. Despite his appeal, anti-government protesters clashed with police in a Colombo suburb and in central Sri Lanka on Thursday, a day after violent protests outside the Supreme Court where Fonseka's wife had filed a petition demanding his release.

Riot police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse the crowds. The opposition, meanwhile, said it had enlisted the help of the influential Buddhist clergy in pushing for Fonseka's release. "What we have done is to ask the Buddhist monks to use their influence over the government," opposition leader Karu Jayasuriya told AFP. Fonseka's arrest came just weeks after his failed bid to unseat his former commander-in-chief, President Mahinda Rajapakse, at the ballot box. Rajapakse won the January 26 presidential poll with a comfortable 58 percent of the popular vote. The government has yet to specify the charges Fonseka will face, but Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse said in comments published Thursday that the retired four-star general had clearly been plotting a military coup. "He was planning on military rule. It was very clear," Rajapakse, who is the president's brother, said in an interview with the Straits Times of Singapore.

"In his very last stages as army commander he began bringing his people into Colombo and his regiment, positioning his senior people all over," he said. "All these things were looking like a military coup." Fonseka was removed as the head of the army in July last year and appointed chief of defence staff with no command responsibility. He quit the post in November and announced his intention to run for president. Fonseka's wife told reporters at her Colombo home that her husband had been denied visits by his personal doctor, who has treated him regularly for injuries he received in a suicide bombing in April 2006. "I fear for my husband's life," she said, adding that metal shrapnel lodged close to his heart and kidneys needed to be monitored. She also complained that he had not been formally charged in apparent violation of the Army Act, which requires charges to be brought within 24 hours of arrest.



A Sri Lankan riot police official charges baton on an opposition demonstrator in the eastern Colombo suburb of Maharagama on Thursday. Sri Lankan police used batons and tear gas against protesters demanding the immediate release of defeated presidential candidate and former army chief Sarath Fonseka.

HC order to demolish

FROM PAGE 1 Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, dismissed the petition filed by Jamuna Builders Ltd seeking stay on the February 3 HC order. The apex court also rejected a time prayer moved by Rafique Ul Huq, counsel for Jamuna Builders Ltd, for filing a regular leave to appeal petition with this court against the HC order after receiving its copy. The court also refused to accept his another prayer for 15 days' time so that his client Jamuna Builders Ltd itself can demolish the unauthorised floors of the complex. Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star that after the SC order there is now no bar to demolishing the floors. Earlier on January 13, the Rajuk served a notice upon the

authorities of Jamuna Builders Ltd asking them to demolish the unauthorised floors within seven days. In response, Jamuna Builders filed a writ petition with the HC on January 17 challenging the legality of the notice. The HC summarily rejected the writ petition on February 3. Rajuk moved to demolish the unauthorised top four floors of the shopping complex on February 4. The demolition drive halted as Jamuna Builders Ltd on that very day filed a petition with the SC against the HC order. The SC on Wednesday concluded hearing on the petition and fixed Thursday (yesterday) for its decision. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam appeared for the government while advocate AFM Mesbahuddin for Rajuk.

Move to ensure

FROM PAGE 1 several notices to the stalls, the trend did not stop in last 11 days. At the fair, many stalls were seen selling pirated books and books of other publication houses, which is strictly prohibited as per the rules of fair. Shahida Begum, member secretary to the fair governing body, said the taskforce of the fair will meet publishers and owners of the stalls today to make them aware about the copy rights and other rules of the fair. The taskforce will start its inspection soon to ensure that no stall is violating the rules, she said. The fair witnessed good crowds yesterday in comparison to past few days with a good sale at the stalls. Sellers are expecting a huge crowd as

the two-day weekend begins today. Noted novelist Imdadul Haq Milon and Anisul Haque visited the fair yesterday. Fans of Imdadul were seen taking autograph on his new books. A total of 99 new titles hit the fair yesterday. These included -- Amar Boka Koishor by Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Nayak Aseni by Imdadul Haq Milon, Matal Hawa, Boner Raja and Bhut Montra by Humayun Ahmed, Karagarer Diary by Col (ret) Shawkat Ali, Pai Ba Nahi Pai by Anisul Haque, Mon Chhuye Gelo by Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury. As per regular programme, a discussion on the history of language movement was held at the fair that was followed by a cultural session.

Omar welcomes amnesty for Kashmiri militants

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Jammu Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday welcomed the union government's willingness to grant amnesty to Kashmiri militants who want to return from Pakistan, saying it was a big gift for their families. But the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said the move amounted to a reward for anti-national forces. "It was needed. That's why we had been asking for it," Abdullah said in his immediate reaction to Home Minister P Chidambaram's announcement in New Delhi Thursday that the union government had accepted the idea of granting amnesty to Kashmiri militants in Pakistan administered Kashmir who want to return without weapons and join the mainstream.

BCL men beat up

FROM PAGE 1 Dhaka were taking photographs and footage of the incident, Chhatra League activists led by Jewel, a second-year student of mass communication and journalism department, Rocky, a third-year student of geography department, Ninad, a student of public administration department, Rubel, Tuhin, Rony, Masud along with 20-30 others attacked them. Nine more journalists received injuries as they tried to protect the two. Chhatra League cadres also damaged the camera of Azaharuddin. The injured others are Janakantha reporter Shahidul Islam Khan, The Daily Star reporter AM Jahid, Channel i reporter Opu, BDnews24.com reporters Ismail Hossain and Rubel Pervez, The Editor

reporter Atikur Rahman Tamal, Jugantor reporter Sayem Sabu, sheershanews.com reporter Lutfur Rahman and The Nation reporter Sohel Rana. Following the incident, journalists of Rajshahi University staged demonstrations and held a protest rally on campus demanding punishment of the cadres. They also gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the university authorities and Chhatra League to punish the cadres. Later, they placed a memorandum before Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan. Chhatra League leaders led by Chhatra League Rajshahi University president Awal Kabir Joy and Secretary Mazedul Islam met the journalists and expressed concern over the incident.

Pakistan is my biggest worry, says Biden

AFP, Washington US Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday that his greatest concern was not Afghanistan, not Iraq, not the Iranian nuclear crisis, but Pakistan. "It is not a completely functional democracy in the sense we think about it, and so that's my greatest concern." President Barack Obama's administration has called on Pakistan to see greater urgency in the fight against extremism as the United States pours thousands more troops into Afghanistan to fight al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists.

President of Turkey Gul due today

FROM PAGE 1 President Gul is the first head of state to visit Bangladesh since the Awami League-led grand alliance assumed power in January last year. The president will arrive at Zia International Airport at 2:00pm following a state visit to India. His Bangladeshi counterpart Zillur Rahman will receive him. Turkish media have reported that the president and his wife, Hayrunnisa Gul, are accompanied by a 180-member delegation, including State Minister Mehmet Aydin, Health Minister Recep Akdag, Transport Minister Binali Yildirim, as well as parliamentarians, mayors and business people. In addition to holding talks with his counterpart, Zillur Rahman, President Gul will meet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith and opposition leader Khaleda Zia. The most recent Turkish state visit took place in 1997, when former Turkish president Suleyman Demirel, along with Palestine's president Yasser Arafat and South Africa's president Nelson Mandela attended a public rally in Dhaka celebrating the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence on March 26. President Gul will stay in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel and he will visit Savar National Mausoleum to pay his respects to the martyrs of the Liberation War. After meeting with the finance minister and foreign minister today, President Gul will hold

official talks with President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the evening. Official sources said that trade is likely to dominate the talks, and that bilateral and multilateral issues, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, and the United Nations are also likely to be high on the agenda. After the talks, Rahman and Gul will hold a press conference outlining future plans for cooperation between the two countries. The Turkish president will then attend a state banquet hosted by President Zillur Rahman. On Saturday morning the Turkish president will participate in a joint meeting of the Turkish Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce. The leader of the opposition, Khaleda Zia, will call on President Gul at his hotel suite at 11:30am. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is due to call on the Turkish president at 12:50pm. According to sources at Dhaka University, the Turkish president will visit Dhaka University at 4:00pm and he will be conferred with a Doctorate of Laws. Turkey has increased its imports of various commodities from Bangladesh, such as ready-made garments, jute materials, leather, and frozen foods. According to statistics from the Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh earned \$33 crore from exports to Turkey in the 2008-09 fiscal year. In the previous fiscal year, the amount was \$23 crore.

BCL yet to detect

FROM PAGE 1 secretary and went further to say that Shibir has infiltrated not only the hall units but also the DU unit and the central committee. A kind of mistrust and suspicion has surfaced in the associated student body of ruling AL following Ashraf's comments, some DU unit leaders observe. They suspect the comment might trigger internal clash on the campus as factional leaders would get an opportunity to brand their rivals as Shibir men. "Any president or general secretary can now be blamed as pro-Shibir which is very frustrating for us," said a hall unit leader asking not to be identified. "I can see seeds of doubts in the eyes of many when they look at me since Tuesday. It's really frustrating," said the president of a DU hall unit. BCL Central Organising Secretary Ashrafur Rahman told The Daily Star if the AL general secretary has any specific information in this regard, he should make it

public to save the organisation that has fallen into a critical position for his statement. At least 11 leaders of the central, DU and different hall units are allegedly involved or were once involved with Shibir politics prior to joining BCL on DU campus, according to BCL leaders. Several leaders claim a good number of Shibir men have infiltrated their organisation since the AL assumed power last year as there is "no proper system" for recruiting members. They say most of the alleged Shibir-turned-BCL leaders came from madrasa background. "If madrasa background students are barred from having Chhatra League posts, 90 percent possibility of Shibir infiltration will go," observes a senior BCL leader. Sohel Rana Mithu, international affairs secretary of the organisation, said, "An investigation should be launched immediately to detect and oust the infiltrators after such a remark from the Awami League high-up."

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 9126240-3, 9140056-9; Fax: 9126244; Website: http://www.pksf-bd.org

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
Second Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-II)
Loan No.: 2070-BAN(SF)

1. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is an apex microcredit funding and employment generation organization established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. PKSF is implementing a project titled "Second Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-II)" with financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). PKSF invites sealed bids from related reputed suppliers for procurement of 400 (four hundred) sets of Livestock Kit Box (consisting of 20 items of primary livestock health care apparatus and 1 kit box in each set) under this project.
2. Payments made for this procurement will only be in Bangladeshi Taka. The Bidding Documents are obtainable from the office of PKSF upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 100/- (one hundred) in cash.
3. Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 12 noon on February 28, 2010 and must be accompanied by earnest money of 2% of the bid amount in BDT in the form of pay order or bank draft in favour of PKSF from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.
4. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who might choose to attend at 12:15 p.m. on February 28, 2010 at the office of PKSF, PKSF Bhaban, Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. PKSF reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever and not to award work order to the lowest bidder.

Deputy General Manager (Admin.)

SSC exams begin

FROM PAGE 1 taking Bangla First Paper examination under a new method. Among the expelled students, 48 are from Technical Education Board, 12 from Madrasa Board, 2 from Dinajpur Board, one each from Dhaka and Rajshahi Boards, statistics from the education ministry said. Habibur Rahman, a teacher of Uttar Madhabpur High School of Biral upazila, who was on duty in Dhukurjhari High School centre, was expelled, it said. The number of absentees was 1,922 in Madrasa Board, 551 in Dhaka, 407 in Jessore, 356 in Technical, 253 in Comilla, 248 in Rajshahi, 103 in Dinajpur, 102 in Chittagong, 97 in Barisal and 69 in Sylhet board. But there was no report of disturbance in any centres across the country. Meanwhile, the government introduced the new question method named creative method in two subjects -- Bangla First Paper and Religion. Many guardians in the capital were seen anxious about the method but expressed support for it as they think the method would help stop the practice of memorising and bring quali-

tative changes in the education system. The examinees, however, said they did not feel any problem yesterday as they have been appearing in the school exams with this pattern for the last two years. "The question was easy. The student who have knowledge about the book and did not memorise would not face any problem," said an examinee Zobiaha Haque while leaving the Motijheel Government Boys School exam centre. Some examinees, however, said the question paper should be easier since the method was introduced for the first time. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited two examination centres in the capital and expressed satisfaction over the peaceful atmosphere there. Asked about the creative method, he said preparations on the method were on for the last four years and a large number of teachers were also given training. This year the total number of the examinees is around 1.40 lakh more than the last year. A total of 1,206,019 examinees from 26,192 educational institutions are taking part in the exams in 2044 exam centres across the country.

vf
We Fit Your Life.

VF ASIA LIMITED
Bangladesh Liaison Office

THE WORLD'S LARGEST APPAREL COMPANY

VF Asia Limited is the Regional Headquarters in Asia of VF Corporation, a \$7 billion-plus apparel powerhouse, with an incredibly diverse, international portfolio of brands and products that reach consumers wherever they choose to shop. VF has built a sustainable base for continued long-term success blending the art and science of apparel.

focused on one person
YOU
MERCHANDISING MANAGER
SR. MERCHANDISING MANAGER

as a merchandising manager, you will be

- Monitoring and controlling orders
- Updating Country Manager on orders and market conditions
- Developing products and making presentations
- Developing back-up with new opportunities for non-performing makers
- Assisting Country Manager for selecting best vendor/s through competitive reviews
- Providing training to vendors and suppliers on VF quality standard and on time delivery
- Ensuring all vendors are following VF's Terms of Engagement, Code of Conduct and all necessary guidelines
- Evaluating new vendors on factory quality setup, product capability, production capacity and technical support;
- Planning capital & operating budget with staffing against annual business targets
- Developing future leadership through proper team trainings closely involving HR department

if you are the right person, you should be

- Post Graduate or Graduate from reputable institute
- Experienced for 10 years in merchandising with minimum 5 years supervisory experience with a buying house
- Expert in both woven and knit products

and with

- Proficiency in both English and Bengali
- Excellent in team building and inter-personal communications
- Strong operating knowledge of Microsoft Office, Lotus Note and Internet
- Sense of responsibility with strong leadership capacity

Please write to us along with your full resume and photograph at mahmudul_haque@vfc.com or Human Resources, VF Asia Limited (Bangladesh Liaison Office), House # 10E, Road # 82, Gulshan # 2, Dhaka - 1212 by 20 February 2010 (Saturday).

some of our brands

Wrangler Lee kipling NAUTICA