



Indian demonstrators shout slogans and wave placards as they stage a protest outside a courthouse in Bhopal on Monday. Indian newspapers vented widespread feelings of outrage and anger June 8, at the two-year prison terms handed down to the managers of the company blamed for the catastrophic 1984 Bhopal disaster. PHOTO: AFP

Bhopal gas verdict slammed, demand for stricter law

REUTERS, Mumbai

Activists demanded reforms of justice system and stricter laws for industrial disasters after a court took nearly 26 years to hand down a verdict for the world's worst industrial accident in Bhopal.

Thousands of people were killed in Bhopal after a plant of US chemical firm Union Carbide accidentally released toxic gases into the air, and many more continue to suffer.

On Monday, a court convicted seven Indian former employees of Union Carbide of "causing death by negligence" and sentenced them to two years in jail.

It also imposed a fine of \$2,100 on each of the seven former employees and convicted the former Indian arm of Union Carbide also of negligence and imposed a \$10,600 fine.

It was too little, too late, said Audrey Gaughran, a director with campaign group Amnesty International.

"These are historic convictions ... but 25 years is an unacceptable length of time for the survivors of the disaster and families of the dead to have waited for a criminal trial to reach a conclusion," Gaughran said.

"Justice delayed, denied" said the Times of India daily on Tuesday.

The government says around 3,500 people died in the accident, but activists say 25,000 died in the immediate aftermath and the years that followed. The company and its chairman at the time, Warren Anderson, have refused to face trial.

The verdict was so long in coming because the case was shunted between courts in India where the backlog of cases runs to hundreds of thousands.

Lanka PM says Tamil rebels re-emerging

AFP, Colombo

Tamil Tiger rebels are re-emerging a year after their defeat, Sri Lanka's prime minister said yesterday, despite the once-powerful guerrilla force launching no attacks.

DM Jayaratne told parliament that remnants of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were planning a comeback with financial backing from Tamils abroad.

"There are hardcore Tigers who are still mingling among civilians," Jayaratne said. "During the month of May alone we have arrested 77 hardcore Tigers who are believed to have been directly involved in terror activities."

He said intelligence agencies reported that Tigers who escaped the military onslaught last year were collecting weapons they had stashed away to resume their struggle.

The Tigers have launched no attacks since being defeated in May 2009, but the government maintains tough anti-terror laws, which are extended every month by parliament.

The opposition accuses the government of using the emergency laws to stifle political dissent.

Mumbai plans world's tallest apartment block

AFP, Mumbai

An Indian property group yesterday unveiled plans to build the world's tallest residential tower in Mumbai, the country's booming financial capital.

Lodha Developers said the tower would be 117 storeys high, and would be built by New York-based Pei Cobb Freed and Partners, the famed architects of the Louvre Pyramid in Paris and the Bank of China building in Hong Kong.

"At 1,450 feet (442 metres), the tower will be the tallest of its kind," Abhishek Lodha, managing director of Lodha Developers, told reporters as he presented a scale model of the complex.

Nato loses 10 troops in deadly Afghanistan day

BBC ONLINE

Ten Nato soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan in the deadliest day in months for the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf).

In the worst of several attacks, five US soldiers died in an improvised bomb blast in east Afghanistan, the US said.

Five other Nato troops were killed in a spate of attacks across the country's restive South and East, where Isaf is battling the Taliban.

The militants have been waging a battle to overthrow the US-backed government.

The UK Ministry of Defence said no British troops were killed in Monday's attacks.

TALIBAN TALKS?

The deaths come as the last of 35,000 extra troops ordered by US President Barack Obama arrives in the country.

They are preparing for a major operation in the southern province of Kandahar - the heart of the Taliban insurgency - later this summer, says the BBC's Martin Patience in Kabul.

India renews Kashmir talks offer

BBC ONLINE

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has renewed an offer of talks with Kashmiri separatists who shun violence.

He made the comments during a visit to a university in Srinagar in Indian-administered Kashmir.

He is on a two-day trip to the state to review development schemes. Separatists have called for a shutdown in protest.

Hundreds of thousands of Indian troops are based in Kashmir, where there has been a two decade-old insurgency against Indian rule.

Manmohan has disappointed those who expected him to announce a political package, the BBC's Altaf Hussain in Srinagar says.

"We felt that the people of the state are not only interested in financial assistance and

development projects, but also desire a political process that meets their aspirations," Manmohan told Monday's gathering at the agricultural university in Srinagar.

"We want to take the dialogue process forward. We are ready to talk to representatives of all sections who are opposed to terrorism and violence," he said.

The prime minister repeated his government's policy of "zero tolerance" for human rights violations.

"The security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have been strictly instructed to respect the rights of the civilians. We'll act to remove any deficiency in the implementation of these instructions," he said.

The prime minister's visit came a day after the Indian army suspended a senior officer accused of killing three civilians in a staged gun battle.



This undated and unplaced handout photo released yesterday by the Australian Department of Defence shows Australian Sapper Darren Smith with his wife and son on their wedding day. Smith was one of two Australian soldiers killed in action when an improvised explosive device detonated on Monday morning, Afghanistan time. PHOTO: AFP



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Estd. 1993

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Our Interest is In You

AL MPs trash

FROM PAGE 16

They urged the opposition leader and her party to abide by the constitution and asked them to talk about the budget in parliament.

The opposition bench was empty yesterday.

The lawmakers also urged the speaker to issue a ruling on the issue, but Deputy Speaker Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali who was presiding over the sitting did not respond.

"Khaleda Zia wants to mislead the nation. Placing budget proposals outside parliament is nothing but an attempt to fish in troubled waters," said Awami League lawmaker Fazle Rabbi.

Abdul Mannan, another AL legislator, accused the opposition leader of breaching the oath she took as a member of parliament.

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, also a presidium member of AL, echoed the view.

Jatiba Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal said the former prime minister has placed budget proposals to make parliament dysfunctional.

He also lambasted Khaleda for not joining parliament while enjoying all benefits as the opposition leader, who has the status of a cabinet minister's.

AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta said people did not give Khaleda Zia the mandate to place budget proposals outside parliament before the finance minister places the budget in the House.

Suranjit tried to begin an unscheduled discussion on a point of order after the question hour was over. He sent a note to the deputy speaker seeking the floor to talk on "constitutional matters".

The deputy speaker however rejected the note and told the senior lawmaker that if he had a serious point, then he should submit a notice following proper procedures.

Suranjit kept pursuing the deputy speaker to have the floor, and finally got it.

By that time, the deputy speaker had given the floor to AL lawmaker Fazle Rabbi, who launched the broadside on Khaleda.

The prime minister was not present in the House. The BNP led opposition lawmakers walked out of parliament on June 2 and did not yet return. BNP REJECTS PM'S INVITE

The main opposition party yesterday rejected the prime minister's invitation for it to present its alternative budget proposals in parliament.

Talking to reporters at the party's Nayapalton headquarters, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said this is nothing but a tactic to confuse people.

"The prime minister is making untrue statements about the opposition. Her government is persecuting opposition leaders and workers and filing false cases against them, and now she invites us to parliament," he added.

"How can we accept her call when she alleges we have called hartal to obstruct the trial of war criminals?"

He, however, said they expect the prime minister to consider their budget proposals.

The BNP secretary general blasted the government for detaining Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman and filing cases against him "one after another".

"The government is torturing Mahmudur in custody for false confessions. Mahmudur's only offence is he had exposed the government's true face," he added.

Party leaders Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Amanullah Aman and Rizvi Ahmed, among others, were present.

No cheers

FROM PAGE 16

of surgery, medicine, cardiology and orthopaedics. As no major operation takes place at the hospital, patients often have to rush to private clinics and count extra money, he added.

Of the total 121 posts of doctors at four upazila health complexes in the district, 61 remain vacant.

The country is also facing a mounting shortage of nurses. "The Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital has only 11 nurses while we need at least 80," said Project Director Dr Samanta Lal Sen.

Every day, more than 200 patients are treated at the unit.

In December last year, the government decided to recruit some 2,627 nurses in different hospitals.

Although government high officials had said the recruitment would be completed by two months, they are still working on this.

Health ministry officials however said they have received acceptance letters from nurses willing to join the service. The ministry is now working on their posting.

Some 9,722 community clinics, which restarted after the ruling party assumed office, are running without designated manpower.

Health assistants and family welfare visitors attend those clinics hampering their duties. Without any training, they are even providing antibiotics to patients.

Staffing of those clinics by some 13,500 community health care providers is yet to start.

However, the written test of some 4,133 doctors was held on February 19 for ad hoc recruitment.

The result was published on May 31, sowing dissatisfaction among the candidates.

A group of aggrieved doctors vandalised the rooms of pro-Awami League doctor-leaders at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on the same day following the publication of the result.

Many of the candidates alleged the recruitment process was not transparent. The mark each candidate scored in MCQ test was not mentioned in the result sheet. No cumulative results were published and the criteria for qualifying in the test are not clear, they added.

In January, the Drug Administration was upgraded to the Directorate General of Drug Administration to control the country's drug market where over 200 pharmaceutical companies are manufacturing drugs. More than four months have passed, but it is yet to recruit employees.

The family planning sector is the most ignored. Some 3,699 posts are left vacant for a long time, tremendously hindering its activities particularly at the field level.

The medical education is hampered too, as 1,500 posts of teachers lie vacant in public medical colleges.

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Written Test	: June 25, 2010 (Friday at 10 AM)
Results of the Written Test	: June 26, 2010
Viva-Voce	: June 28, 2010, (10:00 AM)
Publication of Final Results	: June 28, 2010
Admission of Successful Candidates:	: June 29 to July 6, 2010
Commencement of Class	: July 10, 2010

For any further details please contact with the Institute of Business Administration, JU.
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Sd/- Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Deputy Registrar (Academic)