

Lankan minister quits, vows to pursue anti-UN fast

Demonstrators to continue agitation until withdrawal of UN probe into abuses by government troops

AFP, Colombo

A Sri Lankan minister quit his post yesterday and vowed to pursue an anti-UN hunger strike, as UN chief Ban Ki-moon recalled his top envoy in Colombo and called the world body's besieged offices there.

Housing Minister Wimal Weerawansa had begun a "death fast" Thursday outside the compound of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to protest a UN probe into alleged rights abuses committed in the final stages of Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war.

Weerawansa said yesterday he was resigning his cabinet seat to deflect criticism that his agitation was being orchestrated by the government.

"I have no intention of causing embarrassment for the government," he said in a letter to President Mahinda Rajapakse. "I choose to resign from cabinet and keep up my struggle."

Several government ministers visited Weerawansa, who is camped outside the UNDP office, to express solidarity with his stance.

Demonstrators have held angry protests outside the compound for the last two days, prompting Ban on Thursday to recall his chief representative in Sri Lanka, Neil Buhne, and close the UNDP's regional centre.

"The minister is adamant. He will keep up the fast," Weerawansa's spokesman Anuruddha Bandara told AFP.

"A doctor saw the minister and said he can last only about five days without food and water," Bandara added. Opposition MPs have dismissed the hunger strike by the 40-year-old as a stunt.

The minister's supporters marched to the Russian embassy yesterday to seek Moscow's support in quashing the UN probe into reports of abuses by government troops in the final months of the conflict with Tamil Tiger separatists.

Russia's foreign ministry had criticised Ban for not conferring with the UN Security Council or the General Assembly before convening the investigating panel.

The Tiger guerrillas were defeated in May 2009 and the United Nations has said that at least 7,000 ethnic Tamil civilians were killed in the military's final offensive.

Many observers view the UN panel, headed by Marzuki Darusman, a former Indonesian attorney general, as a precursor to a full-blown war crimes investigation.

The demonstrators in Colombo have promised to keep up their agitation until Ban withdraws the probe.

The protests, which saw UNDP staff held hostage in their offices for nearly seven hours on the first day, have been condemned by the United States, as well

as Ban himself. Through his spokesman, the UN secretary-general urged Sri Lanka to "live up to its responsibilities towards the United Nations as host country".

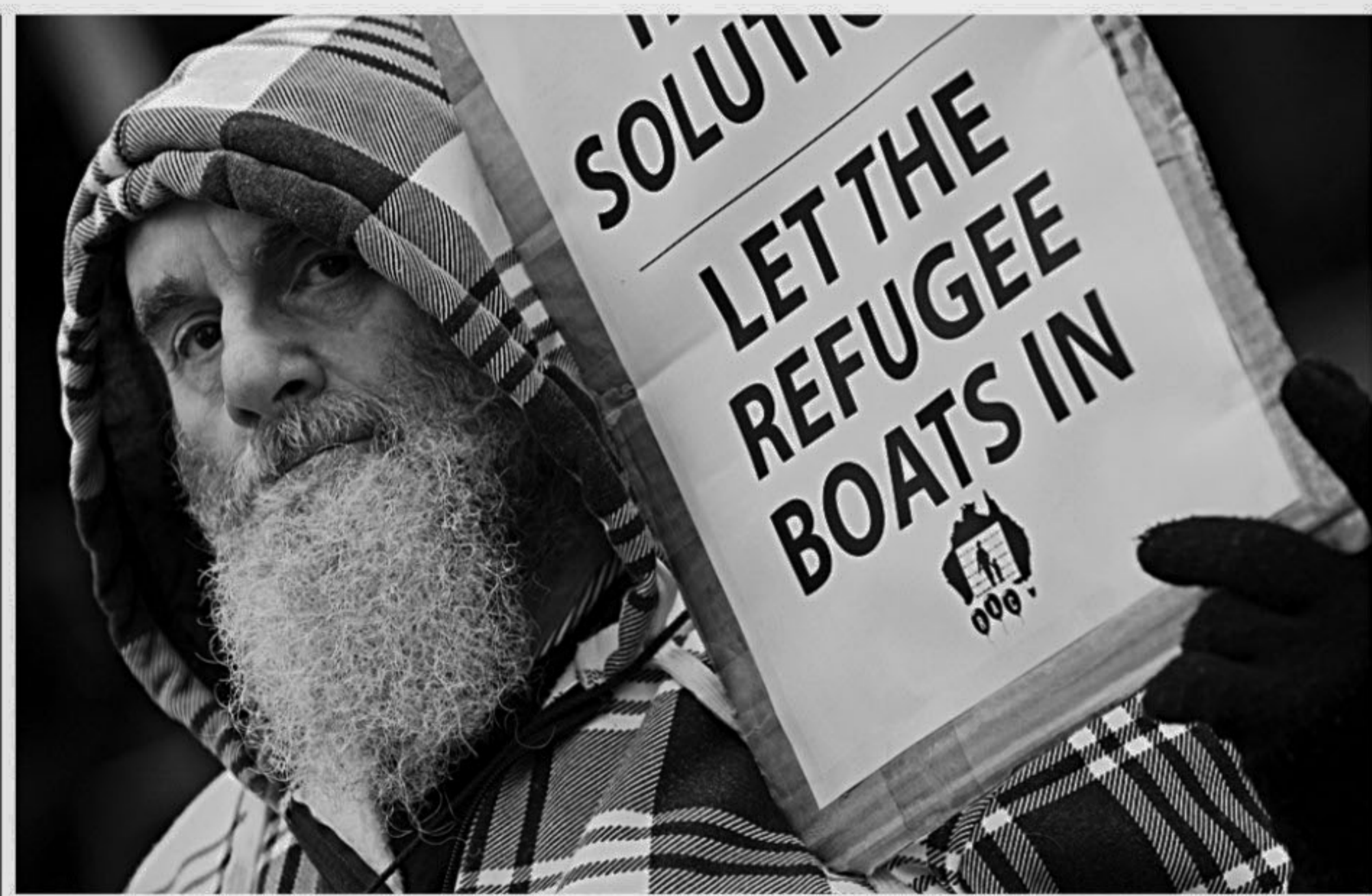
"The secretary-general finds it unacceptable that the Sri Lankan authorities have failed to prevent the disruption of the normal functioning of the United Nations offices in Colombo as a result of unruly protests organised and led by a cabinet minister of the government," Ban's spokesman said.

Diplomatic sources said both local and expatriate staff working for other UN agencies in Colombo had been asked to maintain a low-profile.

"They have been told to stay indoors because of the anti-UN sentiments orchestrated by groups linked to the government," a diplomat close to the UN said.

The private-run media in Sri Lanka has criticised the government for encouraging the protests and warned that it is pushing the country towards international isolation.

"By puppeteering the (NFF) allies for mischief, Sri Lanka has only gone to distance itself from the independent, moderate countries in the international community," the Daily Mirror said in an editorial headlined: "Theatrics of a death fast."



An activist from the "Refugee Action Coalition" holds a placard during a rally in support of refugees in Sydney yesterday. Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard yesterday talked up her plan for a regional refugee centre to tackle people smuggling but backed away from suggestions it should be built in East Timor.

UN condemns sinking of South Korean warship

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council yesterday condemned the sinking of a South Korean warship, but stopped short of directly blaming North Korea despite calls for a UN censure by Seoul and Washington.

The text adopted by all 15 members of the Security Council "condemns the attack which led to the sinking of the

Cheonan" in the Yellow Sea near the disputed border between the two Koreas.

The declaration also "underscores the importance of preventing such further attacks or hostilities against the ROK (South Korea)," while praising Seoul for the "restraint" it has shown in the months following the attack.

But the text does not directly blame North Korea (DPRK) for the March 26 attack

in which 46 sailors died, despite the findings of a multinational inquiry which found a North Korean torpedo had sunk the ship.

Instead, the text read out by this month's council president, Nigeria's UN Ambassador Joy Ogwu, states that in view of the findings of the investigation "which concluded that the DPRK was responsible for sinking the Cheonan, the Security Council expresses its deep concern."

চট্টগ্রাম সমিতি-ঢাকা. চট্টগ্রাম ভবন, ৩২, তোপখানা রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০. ফোন: ৯৫৫৪৭৯৪, ৯৫৬৮৯৫৪, ফ্যাক্স: ৯৫৬৮৯৫৪. E-mail: ctgsamitydhaka@yahoo.com, ctgsamitydhaka@gmail.com. Web: ctgsamitydhaka.org

জাতীয় সম্মিলিত স্বার্থেই চট্টগ্রামের উন্নয়ন অপরিহার্য

বিস্মিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

সূত্র: চস-ঢ/এজিএম (২০০৯)/২০১০ (২৮০৬) তারিখ: ২৬ আষাঢ় ১৪১৭ ১০ জুলাই ২০১০

২০০৯ সালের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রিয় মহোদয়, আসসালামু আলাইকুম। চট্টগ্রাম সমিতি-ঢাকা'র ২০০৯ সালের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা আগামী ২৬ জুলাই ২০১০/১১ শ্রাবণ ১৪১৭, সোমবার, বিকেল ০৪ টায় ৩২ তোপখানা রোডে চট্টগ্রাম ভবন মিলনায়তনে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সভায় সভাপতিত্ব করবেন সমিতির সভাপতি জনাব মোঃ জাহাঙ্গীর আলম খান। উক্ত সভায় উপস্থিত থেকে সভার কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য সম্মানিত জীবন-সদস্যগণকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

- ০১. পূর্ববর্তী সাধারণ সভার কার্যবিবরণী পঠন ও নিশ্চিতকরণ
০২. সমিতি'র ২০০৯ সালের আয়-ব্যয়ের নিরীক্ষিত হিসাব ও আর্থিক বিবৃতি উপস্থাপন
০৩. অর্থ সম্পাদক কর্তৃক ২০১০ সালের সভায় আয় ও ব্যয়ের বাজেট উপস্থাপন
০৪. পরবর্তী বছরের জন্য অডিটর নিয়োগ
০৫. ট্রাস্ট সেক্রেটারি কর্তৃক ২০০৯ সালের প্রতিবেদন পেশ
০৬. ২০০৯ সালের কার্যক্রমের প্রতিবেদন
০৭. সমিতির উপদেষ্টা পরিষদের সদস্য নির্বাচন
০৮. সমিতির ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের সদস্য নির্বাচন
০৯. সাধারণ সম্পাদকের বক্তব্য
১০. সভাপতির অনুমতিক্রমে যে কোন বিষয়ে আলোচনা *
১১. সভাপতির সমাপনী ভাষণ।

ধন্যবাদ ও আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা- (সৈয়দ নূরুল ইসলাম) সাধারণ সম্পাদক

* ১০ নম্বর আলোচনাটির উপর আলোচনার অগ্রাধিকার সম্মানিত জীবন সদস্যগণকে আলোচনার বিষয় (নাম ও জীবন সদস্য নম্বর উল্লেখপূর্বক) সাধারণ সম্পাদক কর্তৃক ২১ জুলাই ২০১০ তারিখের মধ্যে সমিতির কার্যালয়ে জমা দানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

Delhi survey suggests women 'unsafe' in city

BBC ONLINE

Two in every three women in the Indian capital have faced some form of sexual harassment in the last year, a government-backed study has suggested.

Delhi women face continuous and different forms of sexual harassment in crowded and secluded places, it said. Teenage students and women working in the unorganised sector are the most vulnerable, the report said.

The survey by two UN agencies and an NGO is based on a sample of 5,010 women and men undertaken between January and March.

The survey is titled "Safe City Free of Violence for Women and Girls" A BBC correspondent in Delhi said the findings confirm what the people of Delhi have known for a long time, that the city is unsafe for women.

"Women in the national capital feel unsafe in many public spaces, and at all times of the day and night," the survey said. Public transport, buses and roadsides are reported as spaces where women and girls face high levels of sexual harassment.

Most women who were surveyed said buses were the most unsafe form of transport.

Many said the Metro system, which used to be safer earlier, is now equally crowded and unsafe.

The report said the most common forms of harassment are "verbal (passing lewd comments), visual (staring and leering) and physical (touching or groping or leaning over)".

Women of all classes have to put up with harassment in their daily lives, but students between 15 and 19 years old and women employed in the informal sector are specially vulnerable, the surveys said.

Poor infrastructure - including absent street lights, unusable pavements and a lack of public toilets - is one of the main reasons behind the lack of women's safety, the report said.

The survey was commissioned by the Delhi government's department of women and child development.

It was carried out by Jagori, an NGO working in the field of education, health, and women welfare, UN Development Fund for Women (Unifem) and UN Habitat (UN Human Settlements Programme).

Former leaders of Suu Kyi's NLD to form new party

AFP, Yangon

Former members of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) have been allowed to form a new political party to run in upcoming elections, state media reported yesterday.

The activists have been granted permission to create the National Democratic Force (NDF) to stand in the military-ruled country's first polls in two decades, expected sometime this year, according to state TV and radio.

"It's a victory for the people," said Khin Maung Swe, one of the leaders of the new party.

"I'm glad for the people because we can officially strive for democracy," he told AFP by telephone.

The NLD refused to meet a May 6 deadline to re-register -- a move that would have forced it to expel Suu Kyi -- and opted to boycott the vote, which critics say is a sham designed to legitimise the junta's half-century grip on power.

Italian journo strike over Berlusconi's wiretap bill

BBC ONLINE

Journalists across Italy are on strike to protest against a proposed bill aimed at curbing wiretapping.

Newsstands were left without papers and journalists working for news agencies, websites and broadcast media also refused to work.

The government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi wants to restrict the right of police and prosecutors to plant bugs and record telephone conversations.

It also proposes fines for journalists publishing transcripts of recordings.

Mr Berlusconi argues that tightening the law is necessary to protect the privacy of Italian citizens.

Most observers agree that there has been an explosion of media reports based on wiretaps and secret telephone recordings in Italy.

But journalists say that the prime minister wants to protect himself and his allies.

"The real objective of this bill is to prevent the reporting of judicial cases that have a high political impact, the ones that can generate, and have generated, embarrassment," said the head of the Italian journalists union, Roberto Natale.

বাংলাদেশ সংবাদ সংস্থা (বাসস) ৬৮/২ পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা - ১০০০ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি. বাংলাদেশ সংবাদ সংস্থা (বাসস)-এর (ইংরেজি ও বাংলা বিভাগের) নিম্নলিখিত পদসমূহে ৭ম সংবাদপত্র মন্ত্রী বোর্ড রোডেদারের বেতনক্রম অনুযায়ী নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka International Tender Notice. Memo No. E&T/Arms/33-2010/4210(6) Date: 03 July 2010. Sealed tender is hereby invited from the shipping agent in their official pad for shipment of the items required/demand by Formed Police Unit (FPU) which working in different UN Missions, Bangladesh Police and others projects.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT UNFPA. UNFPA Bangladesh invites applications from eligible candidates for the following position: Vacancy No.: Job ID 006-10 Closing Date: Thursday, 22 July 2010 (4:30 pm Dhaka Time) Post Title: Procurement Assistant Contract Type: Fixed Term (1 year Initial Contract) Level: ICS 5 (G-5) Duty Station: Dhaka Organizational Unit: Operations. Under the overall guidance of the UNFPA Representative and the direct supervision of the UNFPA Operations Manager, this post specifically serves the procurement and contracting needs of country office, field offices and project requirements within the country.