

## UK hostage killed in Afghanistan

AP, Kabul

A female British aid worker kidnapped during an ambush last month was killed during a rescue attempt by international forces in Afghanistan, Britain's foreign secretary said yesterday.

The aid worker, identified as Linda Norgrove, was killed Friday night during an operation to free her, Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a statement from London.

Norgrove and three colleagues were kidnapped in eastern Kunar province on Sept. 26 after being ambushed. Police fought a gunbattle with the kidnappers near the attack site before the assailants fled.

"It is with deep sadness that I must confirm that Linda Norgrove... was killed at the hands of her captors in the course of a rescue attempt last night," said Hague.

Norgrove's three Afghan colleagues were released shortly after being abducted.



Linda Norgrove

## PAKISTAN TO REOPEN AFGHAN ROUTE

# 29 more Nato tankers set ablaze

AFP, AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's foreign ministry yesterday announced the reopening of the main land route for Nato supplies crossing into Afghanistan from Torkham in the northwest "with immediate effect".

Torkham lies on the main Nato supply route to Afghanistan, where US and Nato forces are fighting a nine-year Taliban insurgency, and is vital to the Afghan war effort.

"After assessing the security situation in all its aspects, the government has decided to reopen the Nato/Isaf supply from the Pakistan-Afghanistan border at Torkham with immediate effect," the ministry said in a statement, referring to Nato's International Security Assistance Force.

"Our relevant authorities are now in the process of coordinating with authorities on the other side of the border to ensure smooth resumption of the supply traffic."

Shafeerullah Khan, the top administration official in Khyber tribal region, told AFP: "We are currently waiting for the government's order about reopening of the border."

Pakistan closed the northwest crossing at Torkham on Sept 30, the same day a Nato air strike killed two Pakistani soldiers along the border. The US has apologized for that strike.

The Foreign Ministry statement said authorities on both sides of the border were working "to ensure smooth resumption of the supply traffic."

The delay had exposed stranded supply trucks to militant attacks.

Gunmen armed with a rocket torched 29 Nato oil tankers in southwestern Pakistan before dawn Saturday, the latest attack on the supply line for international troops in Afghanistan since Pakistani authorities closed a key border crossing amid a dispute with the United States.

Two responding police officers were wounded.

Local government official Abdul Mateen said the attack occurred in the area of Mithri, about 120 miles (200 kilometers) east of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. He said the attackers used guns and fired a rocket to destroy the tankers.

"We are facing problems in extinguishing the fire," he said.

At least 10 gunmen were involved in the attack, police official Jamil Khan said. The oil tankers were parked near a roadside restaurant.

When local police responded, the gunmen fired on them before fleeing. One officer was wounded by a bullet, while another suffered slight burns as he tried to stop the blaze, Mateen said.

The Pakistani Taliban have claimed responsibility for such previous attacks and have demanded that the government permanently bar Nato and the US from using its soil to transport supplies to Afghanistan.

The US has apologized for the cross-border helicopter strike, but Islamabad has yet to open the border crossing at Torkham. A smaller crossing in the south-west has stayed open.

An Interior Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that the government has decided it will reopen the Torkham crossing, but that it had not yet decided when.

## Karzai appeals to Taliban in Kandahar heartland

AFP, Arghandab

Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar yesterday, calling on insurgents to lay down their arms and locals to join the government security forces.

Karzai rarely travels to the provinces. The southern region of Kandahar is the heartland of the nine-year Taliban insurgency and one of the most dangerous parts of Afghanistan, where record numbers of Western troops are being killed.

Thousands of Nato and Afghan troops are fighting to control Kandahar city in Operation Dragon Strike -- considered crucial to a US strategy hoping to beat back the Taliban and strengthen Karzai's government.

Karzai flew by Nato helicopter to the Arghandab district headquarters with US General David Petraeus, the commander of 152,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, US ambassador Karl Eikenberry, cabinet ministers and the Kandahar governor.

He was briefed by Afghan and US generals on the operation, then addressed hundreds of local elders.

"Once again, and from Arghandab, I call on the Taliban to stop fighting, to stop killing their brothers and elders," Karzai told the crowd.

Karzai said young men who fell in with the Taliban should be nurtured by their families and brought back into the fold, rather than disowned.

"Taliban are the sons of this land. When children go astray, no one throws their children away but instead tries to take care of them, treat them and bring them to the right path," he said.

In Kabul on Thursday, Karzai inaugurated a peace council charged with brokering an end to the war amid mounting reports of secret peace talks between Kabul and Taliban.

The Taliban have said publicly they will not enter into dialogue with the government until all US-led foreign troops leave the country.



PHOTO: AFP

Protestors demonstrate to free Liu Xiaobo, who won the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, near the China Liaison Office in Hong Kong on Friday. Despite a warning to the Nobel committee and months of behind-the-scenes pressure, China failed to avert a harsh slap in the face -- the awarding of the Peace Prize to jailed dissident Liu.

## IRAQ'S 7 MONTHS' POLITICAL DEADLOCK PM calls for rivals to return from exile

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki called for national reconciliation yesterday, opening the door for former opponents to return home as he struggles to form a new government seven months after polls.

His remarks were his first on the subject since the March 7 elections, which were marred by many candidates being disqualified for their alleged ties to executed dictator Saddam Hussein's banned Baath party.

They were seen as an olive branch to former party members, many of them living in exile and opposed to the current regime.

"We must... turn a new page with all those who have gone too far and made mistakes," he told a conference of tribal chiefs in Baghdad in a speech broadcast on state television.

"I do not mean those who have blood on their hands, but those who object to the political process," he added.

"We can say that what happened has happened and those who made mistakes made mistakes, but the door to return to the country is open."

"We forgive and turn the page because the country cannot be built on the basis of hatred and rancour," Maliki said.

His comments came amid a political impasse that has persisted since the March elections in which Maliki's Shia bloc finished a narrow second behind the Sunni-dominated Iraqiya group of ex-premier Iyad Allawi.

Since then, Maliki has joined forces with parliament's third party, also Shia, to form a coalition. But he still remains 30 seats short of the legislative majority necessary to form a government.

Allawi, a secular Shia, was himself a member of the Baath party until the late-1970s when he left the party and, subsequently, the country. He survived multiple assassination attempts, allegedly by Saddam.

## Myanmar's junta-backed party announces platform

AP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta-backed political party, almost certain to win the upcoming general election, issued its platform in state media, vowing to practice democracy and protect rights.

The Union Solidarity and Development Party "will practice the multiparty democracy system, market-oriented economic system and independent and active foreign policies," according to a text of the statement by Htay Oo, agriculture minister and the party's secretary general. His statement was published Saturday in the New Light of Myanmar state newspaper.

In his Friday night broadcast, he said his party will guarantee people's "rights and liabilities... in line with the constitution," as well as freedom of religion in Myanmar, whose military government is criticized worldwide for its poor human rights record.

All parties are allowed a 15-minute broadcast, and the USDP's platform echoes the military's claims to be striving for unity and democracy. The party is widely expected to win the election because of its ties with the junta give it easy funding and a nationwide presence.

The general elections on Nov 7 are the first in

20 years. Detained Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory in the 1990 polls but was not allowed to take power by the military. It decided to boycott this year's elections, charging that the process is unfair and undemocratic.

Compared to the party's usual hard tack accusing Suu Kyi and other democracy activists of working in cahoots with foreigner to undermine the nation, the party statement took a softer approach, saying "We will strive to protect the nation against internal and external dangers," without specifying what they might be.

In what could be taken as an oblique reference to Suu Kyi's now disbanded National League for Democracy party, Htay Oo said that the USDP "deem officially registered political parties and individuals as colleagues."

Under the new election law, Suu Kyi's party was legally dissolved because it failed to reregister to run in the election. Her party is seeking a court ruling reversing the party's dissolution.

Suu Kyi has been locked away for 15 of the past 21 years. Her latest term of 18 months' house arrest is due to expire on Nov 13, just days after the scheduled polls.

## India slams 'racist' Australian cops emails; calls ambassador

AFP, New Delhi

India yesterday slammed "racist" emails circulated on top of a train and summoned the country's ambassador.

The foreign ministry had complained about the video to Australian high commissioner Peter Varghese and demanded action, a top ministry official said.

The internet video shows graphic images of a man being jolted by overhead power lines as onlookers screamed, and did the rounds among officers in Melbourne following a series of violent attacks against Indians, Australia's Herald Sun newspaper said on Saturday.

Comments including "this might be a way to fix the Indian student problem" were added as the video was emailed around, the reports said.

"We have sought for an explanation and also want to know what steps will the Australian government take against the racial slur," the Indian official told AFP.

The video was uncovered in a sweeping internal probe into offensive emails launched in March which the Victoria state police chief Simon Overland has acknowledged involves a "large number of police," including some of senior rank.

"This is completely offensive and contrary to the views and values at the heart of the Victorian community -- tolerance and respect," Victoria state Premier John Brumby was quoted as saying. Overland described the material as "disturbing, offensive and gross".

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## Kyrgyzstan prepares for landmark vote

AFP, Bishkek

Kyrgyzstan votes today for the most powerful parliament in ex-Soviet Central Asia, defying warnings the polls risk sparking a resurgence of the violence that has killed hundreds this year.

The Kyrgyz parliament was given new powers in a June referendum that followed a bloody revolution and deadly inter-ethnic violence, and is in contrast to the strongman presidential rule typical throughout the region.

Its new capacities, including appointing the government, have pleased the United States but annoyed Russia, which warned the first parliamentary democracy in Central Asia could be a catastrophe for Kyrgyzstan.

**মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) বিষয়ে সম্মানিত ক্রেতাগণের জন্য সাধারণ জ্ঞাতব্য**

**সবাই মিলে দিব কর দেশ হবে স্বনির্ভর**

- পণ্য ও সেবা ক্রয়কালে মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মূসক) পরিশোধ করুন, দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে গর্বিত অংশীদার হউন।
- পণ্য ও সেবা ক্রয়কালে মূসক চালানপত্র (মূসক-১১/মূসক-১১ক) পণ্য ও সেবা বিক্রেতার নিকট থেকে চেয়ে নিন এবং আপনার দেয়া রাজস্ব সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা নিশ্চিত করুন।
- মূসক চালানপত্রে মূসক নিবন্ধন নম্বর লিপিবদ্ধ আছে কিনা দেখে নিন।
- মূসক চালানপত্র গ্রহণকালে (মূসক-১১/মূসক-১১ক) মূল্য সংযোজন করের তথ্য উল্লেখ আছে কিনা দেখে নিন।
- চালানপত্রে দ্বিমুখী কার্বন ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে কিনা দেখে নিন।
- মনে রাখবেন, আপনি পণ্য বা সেবা ক্রয়কালে যে মূল্য পরিশোধ করছেন তাতে মূল্য সংযোজন করও অন্তর্ভুক্ত রয়েছে। মূসক চালানপত্র না নিলে আপনার প্রদত্ত মূসক ফাঁকি হতে পারে।
- যে সকল পণ্য বা সেবার বিক্রেতা ECR (Electronic Cash Register) অথবা POS (Point of sales ব্যবহার করছে তাদের ক্ষেত্রে মেশিনে মুদ্রিত চালান বুঝে নিন)।
- বিড়ি, সিগারেট, কোমল পানীয়, মিনারেল ওয়াটার, টয়লেট সাবান ইত্যাদি ক্রয়কালে এগুলোর গায়ে/মুখে স্ট্যাম্প/ব্যান্ডরোল সঠিক সাইজে ও যথাযথভাবে লাগানো আছে কিনা দেখে নিন।
- মূল্য সংযোজন কর ফাঁকি দেয়া বা ফাঁকিকে সহায়তা করা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।
- কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মূসক) ফাঁকি দিলে সংগে সংগে নিকটস্থ মূল্য সংযোজন কর কার্যালয়কে অবহিত করুন।
- কর ফাঁকির তথ্য ও প্রমাণ মূসক কর্তৃপক্ষকে প্রদান করে পুরস্কার গ্রহণ করুন।
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