

Suu Kyi's emotional reunion with son

AP, THE NEW YORK TIMES, AFP, Yangon

In an emotional moment at the Yangon airport, 10 days after her release from detention, Myanmar's Democracy leader Suu Kyi was reunited with her youngest son Kim Aris after a decade-long separation.

Kim Aris, 33, was finally granted a visa by the military regime after waiting for several weeks in neighbouring Thailand.

Just before walking into the airport terminal, the 65-year-old Suu Kyi, who was released Nov 13 after more than seven years under house arrest, told reporters, "I am very happy."

Tears welled up in Suu Kyi's eyes when she first saw her son.

A smiling Suu Kyi slipped her arm around his waist as the two posed briefly for photographers and then they walked out of the airport holding hands.

On greeting his smiling and excited mother, Aris immediately took off his outer shirt to reveal the symbols of her now-disbanded National League for Democracy (NLD) party tattooed on his arm. Suu Kyi looked at it closely and smiled. The flag and symbol feature a fighting peacock and a star.

Through her lawyer Nyan Win, Suu Kyi thanked the authorities for issuing the visa to her son, who resides in Britain and last saw his mother in December 2000. He has repeatedly been denied visas ever since by the ruling junta.

Tuesday's reunion underlined the personal toll of the political campaign Aung San Suu Kyi has waged during the past two decades. During that period she was detained for 15 years and only rarely allowed visitors or communication with the outside world.

She has always been free to leave Myanmar, according to her lawyers,



Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi (C) holds the hand of her younger son Kim Aris (R) after his arrival at Yangon airport yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

but chose to stay because she was afraid she would be denied re-entry.

Under house arrest, the democracy champion had no telephone or Internet access and only limited contact with the outside world. It has been about 10 years since she last saw Aris or her elder son, Alexander.

The daughter of Myanmar's assassinated independence hero General Aung San was released less than a week after the first election in

20 years, dismissed by many as a sham for cementing the military regime's grip on power.

When her freedom was granted, crowds of jubilant supporters gathered outside her home to glimpse the charismatic activist, seen by many as the best hope for democratic change after almost five decades of army rule.

Suu Kyi, who won the 1991 Nobel Peace prize for her non-violent struggle for democracy, was first arrested in 1989 when Kim was 11 and elder son Alexander 16. She has been detained for 15 of the past 21 years.

In an interview last week with The Associated Press, Suu Kyi acknowledged that her years of political work had been difficult for her family.

"I knew there would be problems," she said of her mid-life decision to go into politics. "If you make the choice you have to be prepared to accept the consequences."

Suu Kyi, who was largely raised overseas, married the British academic Michael Aris and raised their two sons in England.

But in 1988, at age 43, she returned home to take care of her ailing mother as mass demonstrations were breaking out against military rule. She was quickly thrust into a leadership role, mainly because she was the daughter of Aung San, the country's martyred founding father.

Elder son Alexander accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on his mother's behalf in 1991 while she was serving an earlier term of house arrest and reportedly lives in the United States.

Michael Aris died of prostate cancer in 1999 at age 53, after having been denied visas to see his wife for the three years leading up to his death. Suu Kyi has never met her two grandchildren.

While her family supported her, she said her sons had suffered particularly badly.

Afghan EC to release final result today

REUTERS, Kabul

Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission will announce final results from a September 18 parliamentary election today, an official said, after long delays while fraud complaints were investigated. "The final results will be announced," IEC spokeswoman Marzia Siddiqi Salim said yesterday. The IEC has called a media conference on Wednesday to announce the results, she said.

A UN-backed election watchdog said on Sunday nearly one in 10 winning candidates had been disqualified for fraud.

Karzai still against Nato night raids

Top Taliban negotiator a fake

AP, Kabul

The responsibility for finding peace after more than nine years of war rests with the Afghan people and not with the foreigners, the Afghan president said yesterday.

Hamid Karzai maintained his opposition to night raids targeting insurgent leaders, a stance that has caused friction between the Afghan leader and Nato.

Meanwhile, he is denying he met with a senior Taliban leader.

Hamid Karzai told a news conference on Tuesday that he never met Akhtar Mohammad Mansour. He says the ranking Taliban did not travel from Pakistan to Kabul.

Karzai however, didn't say if the man reportedly involved in talks with the Afghan govern-

ment was an impostor. He said that the overall reports were not acceptable but did not elaborate further.

An Afghan familiar with reconciliation efforts between insurgents and the Afghan government says a man involved in the talks who claimed to be Mansour was an impostor. The Afghan spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to jeopardize his contacts with both sides.

Karzai spoke at a news conference in Kabul after returning from a weekend summit with Nato leaders in Lisbon, Portugal, where the alliance embraced the president's goal to have Afghan security forces be in the lead by 2014.

"This is our time to prove ourselves," Karzai said, expressing confidence that Afghan soldiers and policemen would be able to protect and defend the nation within four years.

Lanka probes mass grave of soldiers

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday began investigating a claim that Tamil Tiger rebels executed 26 captured government soldiers at the height of fighting between the two sides last year, an official said.

Military spokesman Udaya Madawala said forensic experts and police investigators had been sent to the northeastern district of Mullaitivu Monday following reports of the grave.

Madawala said Tiger suspects had told investigators that the 26 prisoners were shot dead in the final stages of fighting, which finished in May last year.

"The information we have is that these security personnel were shot dead, cremated and their ashes were buried in a mass grave," Madawala said. He said a judicial medical officer as well as other experts were also sent to the area.

Both sides have accused each other of war crimes, which they deny.

Dalai Lama wants to give up his role as ceremonial leader

AFP, New Delhi

The Dalai Lama intends to retire as head of the Tibetan government in exile next year as he looks to reduce his ceremonial role and scale back his workload, his spokesman told AFP yesterday.

The Tibetan movement in exile, based in the northern Indian hill station of Dharamshala since 1960, directly elected a political leader in 2001 for the first time.

"Since then, His Holiness has always said he has been in a semi-retired state," spokesman Tenzin Taklha said.

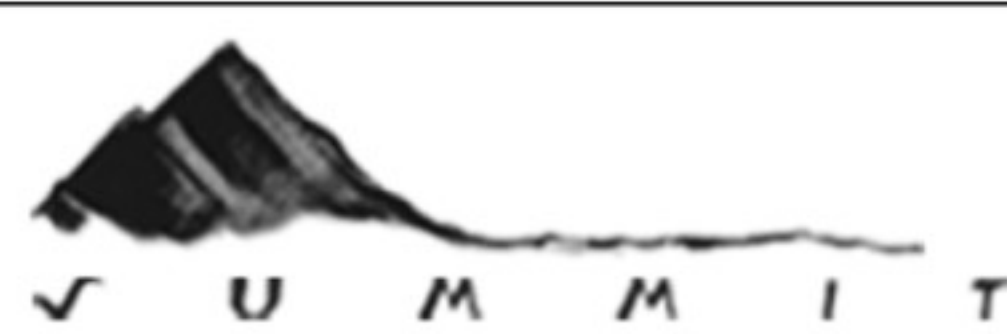
"In recent months, His Holiness has been considering approaching the Tibetan parliament in exile to discuss his eventual retirement."

Taklha stressed that his "retirement" would be from his ceremonial responsibilities as head of the government, such as signing resolutions, not his role as spiritual leader and figurehead for Tibetans.

"This does not mean that he will withdraw from leading the political struggle. He is the Dalai Lama, so he will always lead the Tibetan people," he said.

The 75-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner is the global face for the Tibetan struggle against Chinese rule in Tibet, as well as a leading promoter of human rights, dialogue between religions and Buddhist values.

In the past few months he has kept up his frenetic travel schedule, visiting Canada, the United States, Poland and Japan, among other countries.



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"Head of Legal" has to assist the management in providing legal advice and representation involving all matters where the Company, including its subsidiaries and affiliates is, or would be, a party.

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Place of work: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Please address until November 30, 2010 your expressive application folder to:

Ms. Ayesha Aziz Khan.

Director

Email: ayesha.khan@summit-centre.com

Summit Group, Summit Centre, 18, Karwan Bazar C/A., Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

Request for Expressions of interest (Firm)

For

Consultancy Services for Selection of Human Resources [HR] firm for selection of candidates for recruitment at national level positions Project: Empowerment & Livelihood Improvement "Notun Jibon" Project BANGLADESH (IDA Credit no. 4450-BD)

1. This request for expressions of interest follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for the **Empowerment & Livelihood Improvement "Notun Jibon" Project** that appeared in the Development Business, issued On-line publication, Dated May 04, 2010

2. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the **International Development Association (IDA)** towards the cost of the **Empowerment & Livelihood Improvement "Notun Jibon" Project** which will be implemented as part of the short-term Social Investment Program Project (SIPP) in the selected districts of northern & southern part of Bangladesh, and will focus on this-term to medium term employment generation through infrastructure investment, sustainable livelihoods, and the empowerment of poor communities.

3. Social Development Foundation (SDF) is a not-for-profit agency that promotes socio-economic development activities. It was established as a fully autonomous organization by the GOB in 2000 and registered under the Companies Act of 1994 on 28 June 2001. SDF's programs focus particularly on enabling poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized people and communities in Bangladesh to improve their access to basic social, economic, and environmental services and to pursue gainful livelihoods.

4. Social Development Foundation (SDF) decided to engage 1 (one) **Human Resources [HR] firm (national)** which would undertake recruitment of staff at National level under one contract package. The HR firm will assist SDF in selecting the staffs for around 50 persons in different positions. The firm will be mainly responsible for designing & fixing the methodology of whole process of selection of relevant staff as well as screening, conducting different level of selection tests (e.g. mass test, psycho and socio-metric test etc.) to assess suitability for the position of the candidates

5. Social Development Foundation (SDF) now invites eligible consultants to indicate Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in providing the services mentioned above. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the assignment. The consultant organization should be experienced and reputed in the similar field having considerable experience in similar kind of assignment particularly with development Organizations. Interested firms should submit the following information in sufficient detail including brochures, description of experience in similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, summaries of firms' technical and managerial organization, availability of appropriate skills among key staffs with short biographies, availability of resources and snapshots of relevant transactional experience etc.

The EOIs will be reviewed on the basis of the following:

- Registration of firm (at least 5 years);
- Availability of key professionals (CVs with signature & date and their confirmation letter);
- Availability of resources;
- Experience of the firm(s) in similar task;
- Support services of the firm(s);

6. This notice for EOI is for short-listing of **HR firm**. On preliminary selection, Request for Proposal will be issued to the selected short-listed firms for submission of technical and financial offer. Proposals will be evaluated on QBS basis following World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants (issued August 2004 and revised October 2006 and May 2010) and Public Procurement Rules 2008.

7. The expected duration of the consultancy service will be initially around 2 (two) years. **Individual consultants are not eligible for this assignment.**

8. The consulting firm(s) may associate to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the Association is in the form of either "Joint-Venture" or "Sub-Consultancy". In the case of an association, all members of such "association" should have real and well defined inputs to the assignment and it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including their associates to maximum of four.

9. Special Instructions:

- Incomplete/partial EOIs will be rejected.
- Interested firm (s) must provide focused information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the EOI, or annul the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applicant(s).

10. Interested Organizations may obtain further information, if any, from the head office address during 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on all working days and/or SDF website address given below:

11. Expressions of Interest must be delivered (through e-mail or paper copies) to the address below by 4:00 p.m. on **6th December, 2010**. **The firm must mark the EOI for the assignment(s) i.e. "EOI for Human Resources Firm".**

Short listed firms may be asked to make a presentation of their work at the SDF office on an appointed date.

Office address:

Managing Director

Social Development Foundation (SDF)

House # 4, Road # 21, Sector # 4, Uttara Model Town,

Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh.

Email: md@sdfbd.org / Web site : www.sdfbd.org

Indian police kill 25 suspected Maoists

AFP, Raipur

Indian security forces said yesterday they had killed 25 suspected Maoist guerrillas in the insurgency-riven central state of Chhattisgarh, while two policemen died in a separate land mine blast.

"At least 25 Maoists were killed at Jagargunda village in a fierce gun battle with security forces," the chief policeman in charge of anti-Maoist operations in Chhattisgarh, Ramniwas, who only uses one name, told AFP.

About 500 police and paramilitaries attacked up to 200 suspected Maoists who had gathered for a meeting in a village in Dantewada district, south of the state capital Raipur, local police sources told AFP.

None of the policemen or paramilitary was injured in the attack, the Central Reserve Police Force said in a statement, adding that the dead men "belonged to the military company of the Maoist guerrillas."

The state government earlier this year armed there were some 1,300 armed guerrillas operating in Chhattisgarh.

In another rebel stronghold of the state, Bijapur district, a landmine blew up a police vehicle killing two paramilitary officers, local police official Rajbhanu told AFP.

Outlawed Maoist guerrillas who hold sway over the dense forests in Dantewada have been blamed for killing 125 policemen and troopers in three separate attacks since April.

Almost 1,000 people, including 577 civilians, died in the first 10 months of 2010 in violence linked to the raging Maoist insurgency across India, according to official data.

The government launched a major offensive last year to snuff out the left-wing insurgency, described by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as the biggest internal security threat facing India.

It also budgeted 661 billion rupees (14.6 billion dollars) for rural development in the current financial year to help erode grassroots support for the Maoists.

The rebel movement, which began in 1967, feeds off land disputes, police brutality and corruption and is strongest in the poorest and most deprived areas of India, many of which are rich in natural resources.