

Indian rights activist jailed for life

AP, New Delhi

An Indian court has convicted a human rights activist of aiding communist rebels in eastern India and sentenced him to life in prison, his attorney said Saturday.

Dr Binayak Sen, a 60-year-old physician and outspoken government critic, has worked in tribal villages and repeatedly tried to rally people to fight for their rights, often invoking the ire of authorities.

On Friday, Judge BP Verma found Sen and two others guilty of sedition and sentenced them to life, according to attorney Amit Banerjee. However, he acquitted the three of the charge of waging war against the state, which is punishable by death, Banerjee said.

"I will appeal the verdict in a higher court next week," Banerjee told The Associated Press.

Amnesty International said Sen's conviction violated international fair trial standards and would intimidate other human rights activists who provide a peaceful outlet for people's grievances.



Indian children dressed as Santa Claus light up candles as they offer prayers on the eve of Christmas Day at St Paul's church in Amritsar on Friday.

Christians mark sombre Christmas in Baghdad

AP, Baghdad

Iraqi Christians gathered yesterday to mark Christmas in the same church where less than two months ago dozens from their beleaguered community were killed by Muslim extremists intent on driving them from Iraq.

The walls were pockmarked with bullet holes, plastic sheeting covered gaps where glass windows used to be and small pieces of dried flesh and blood remain stuck to the ceiling.

In front of the altar were photos of the dead parishioners, and twin black cassocks hung from the walls representing the two priests killed in the October bloodbath.

"No matter how hard the storm blows, love will save us," Archbishop Matti Shaba Matouka told the congregation.

The storm has blown violently against Iraqi Christians this fall.



Pope calls for Middle East peace

BBC ONLINE

Pope Benedict XVI, in his expressed his hope for an end to conflicts around the world, in his traditional Christmas Day message from the Vatican.

In his address from St Peter's Basilica, he called on Israelis and Palestinians to co-exist in peace.

He urged China's Christians to remain hopeful in spite of limitations, and prayed for those hit by natural disasters in Latin America.

He also appealed for peace in Somalia, Darfur and Ivory Coast. An estimated 100,000 people had gathered in the square outside St Peter's - wet from rain - to hear the Urbi et Orbi - meaning to the city (Rome) and to the world - sermon.

"Jesus was born, and inspire Israelis and Palestinians to strive for a just and peaceful co-existence," Benedict told the crowd.

He urged Roman Catholics in China to face with courage the limits on their freedom.

He also called for political leaders to show solidarity with Christians throughout the Middle East, saying that those living in Iraq faced persecution.

"May the comforting message of the coming of Emmanuel ease the pain and bring consolation amid their trials to the beloved Christian communities in Iraq and throughout the Middle East," he said.

The Pope called for "lasting peace and authentic progress" for Somalia, Darfur and Ivory Coast as well as political and social stability in Madagascar.

He also urged greater respect for human rights in Afghanistan and Pakistan and called for reconciliation between North and South Korea.

Ahmadinejad calls UN Security Council 'political retards'

IANS, Dpa, Tehran

Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the member states of the UN Security Council were "political retards" for still believing in the effectiveness of sanctions, the news agency ILNA reported on Friday.

"The officials of those countries who in the third millennium still think sanctions are an effective means are politically retarded," the ILNA quoted Ahmadinejad as saying during a visit to Istanbul.

The member states of the UN Security Council with the exception of Brazil, Turkey and Lebanon voted overwhelmingly for a fourth sanctions resolution against Iran in June over the Islamic state's nuclear programme.

Ahmadinejad claimed, as he has previously, that the UN sanctions have no effect as neither the United States nor Europe has any major role in the Iranian economy.

Raja quizzed again on 2G scam

IANS, New Delhi

DMK leader and former communications minister A Raja was questioned here again for the second day yesterday by the CBI that is probing the 2G spectrum allocation scam.

Raja reached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) headquarters at around 10 a.m., official sources said.

The 47-year-old was quizzed by the CBI for over eight hours Friday, two weeks after the CBI raided his premises in New Delhi and Tamil Nadu.

The sources said Raja was asked about some documents the CBI had seized during its raids, besides the reasons for advancing the dates for allocation of the second generation spectrum in 2008.

Raja quit as communications minister Nov 14 after the Comptroller and Auditor General report said that 2G spectrum was sold to mobile companies at below market prices causing huge losses to the government.

Raja was denied charges of wrongdoing.

On Dec 8, the CBI searched the New Delhi and Tamil Nadu homes of Raja and the premises of his associates.

The CBI also raided the premises of corporate lobbyist Niira Radia, who allegedly played a key role in ensuring that Raja got the communications portfolio when a new government took office in New Delhi last year.

Christmas chaos in Europe as snow strands thousands

AFP, Paris

Thousands of travellers were stranded at the main Paris airport yesterday after hundreds of Christmas flights were cancelled, as freezing weather and widespread snowfalls caused travel chaos across Europe.

About 400 flights in and out of Roissy-Charles de Gaulle were scrapped, with some 30,000 travellers plans disrupted by the cancellations and delays, said the airport's director Patrice Harel.

Flights in Belgium and Germany were also affected and motorists stayed off the roads as western Europe battled the latest cold snap.

"Since Roissy came into being, we've never seen anything like this," Pierre Graff, the head of Aeroports de Paris, the group that runs the airport, told RTL radio.

The snow that had hit the airport and the freezing weather was "exceptional", he added.

In all, 400 flights were cancelled Friday at Roissy, said a civil aviation spokesman, which was at least three times fewer than originally feared.

They expected to return to normal Saturday as the weather improved, but for many passen-

gers their Christmases had been ruined.

While other people had returned to their homes and local travellers stayed in nearby hotels, either at their own expense or that of their airline, there were still 200 passengers stuck at the airport itself early yesterday.

They were seeing in Christmas on camp beds and under blankets.

That was nevertheless down from the 2,000 forced to sleep there overnight Thursday and who were evacuated Friday from the airport's Terminal 2E because of a build-up of snow on the roof.

The collapse of a section of that terminal's roof in May 2004 shortly after it opened, killed four people.

The remaining stranded passengers were handed out meals and the children received a visit -- and presents -- from Father Christmas.

Junior transport minister Thierry Mariani visited exhausted travellers at the airport just before midnight on Christmas Eve, a night after his boss Transport Minister Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet.

He told AFP airports were struggling to deal with the third bout of ice this month, a problem compounded by a strike by workers at France's main anti-freeze factory.

Iran opposition leaders barred from travel abroad

AP, Tehran

Iran's opposition leaders are barred from leaving the country, a prominent conservative lawmaker said yesterday, hiking up the pressure on the reform movement.

The comments by Mousa Qorbani, a member of the Judicial Committee in parliament, were the first official word of a travel ban on the top opposition figures, Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi -- who both ran in the disputed 2009 presidential elections -- as well as former reformist president Mohammad Khatami.

Qorbani also suggested the pressure by hard-liners to put the top leaders on trial, a step the government has so far stopped short of taking, though many mid- and low-level figures in the opposition movement have been tried and sentenced to long prison terms in the fierce crackdown that crushed protests following the 2009 vote.

Qorbani said authorities had "recognized" that Mousavi, Karroubi and Khatami are "mohareb" -- a term meaning that they are "fighting God."

"Therefore, they are barred from leaving," Qorbani was quoted by the state TV-run Youth Journalists Club as saying yesterday.

Indian rocket explodes after lift-off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

An Indian space rocket carrying a communications satellite exploded yesterday minutes after lift-off from a space station in southern India.

This was the second failure of Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) after the GSLV-D3 mission using India's own cryogenic engine had ended unsuccessfully in April this year.

The rocket, which took off at around 4:00pm, exploded leaving in its trail plumes of smoke and fire moments after taking off from the Sriharikota launch site, some 80 kilometres from the city of Chennai.

RECRUITMENT OF CASH OFFICER

Southeast Bank Limited is a fast growing modern banking institution having a unique corporate culture & friendly working environment which unites our people towards achieving tremendous results in every aspects of Bank's operations.

The Bank is looking for some young, energetic and self motivated **Male** citizens of Bangladesh having good family background for recruitment in the position of **Trainee Cash Officer**.

Eligibility : The candidate should be graduate from a recognized educational institution having **no 3rd Division/Class** in academic career.

Calculation of Division/Class:

1 st Division/Class	CGPA : 3.00 and above	In the scale of 4:00
2 nd Division/Class	CGPA : 2.40 and above	
1 st Division/Class	CGPA : 3.75 and above	In the scale of 5:00
2 nd Division/Class	CGPA : 3.00 and above	

Compensation Package: The selected candidates shall be on probation for a period of 2 years with a monthly consolidated pay of **Tk.12,000/-** for the 1st year and **Tk.15,000/-** for the 2nd year. After successful completion of probationary period they will be absorbed as **"Junior Officer (Cash)"** as per prevailing compensation package.

The selected candidates shall have to sign a Bond on non-judicial stamp valuing of Tk.150/- to the effect that they shall serve the Bank for a minimum period of 3 (three) years after completion of their probationary period with certain condition.

Age: Not over 27 years as on 31.12.2010.

Computer Knowledge in MS Word and MS Excel is essential.

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to send their application with 3 (three) attested copies of recent passport size photographs, photocopy of National ID Card, attested copies of all academic certificates including transcript(s) along with the complete resume to the **Head of Human Resources Division, Southeast Bank Limited, Head Office, Eunoos Centre, Level # 3, 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka - 1000** in a sealed envelope mentioning the position applied for on the top of the envelope **within 15.01.2011**.

Only short listed candidates shall be called for interview.

Southeast Bank Limited
A Bank With Vision

Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd.

(An Enterprise of BCIC)

International Tender Notice

01. Ministry	Ministry of Industries.
02. Agency	Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC)
03. Name of Procuring Entity	Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Tarakandi, Jamalpur.
04. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.
05. Source of Fund	JFCL's own fund.
06. Invitation Ref No. & Date	JFCL/FP/MTS/MM/3.245/889 dated 22-12-10.
07. Tender Name	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Performance Guarantee Test of Natural Gas Booster Compressor package for Increasing Gas pressure of Existing System of Jamuna Fertilizer Co. Ltd. On Lump Sum Turn Key Basis.
08. Last Date and Time for Selling Tender Document	25-01-2011
09. Tender Closing Date & Time	26-01-2011 at 11.00 A.M. (BDST)
10. Tender Opening Date & Time	27-01-2011 at 11.00 A.M. (BDST)
11. Name and address of the Office(s) Selling Tender Documents	i) Office of the Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. ii) Office of the Sr. General Manager BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. iii) Office of the General Manager (A&F), Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Tarakandi, Jamalpur on all working days.
12. Name and address of the Office(s) Receiving Tenders.	i) Office of the Sr. General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (12 th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. ii) Office of the General Manager (Comm.), Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Tarakandi, Jamalpur.
13. Name and address of the Office Opening Tender	Office of the General Manager (Comm.), Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Tarakandi, Jamalpur.
14. Qualification of the suppliers	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the terms & conditions mentioned in the tender documents.
15. Brief Description of Goods	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Performance Guarantee Test of Natural Gas Booster Compressor package for Increasing Gas pressure of Existing System of Jamuna Fertilizer Co. Ltd. On Lump Sum Turn Key Basis.
16. Price of Tender Document	Tk. 10,000/= (Ten Thousand) only (Non Refundable).
17. Amount of Tender Security	Tk.40,00,000.00 or US\$ 57,000.00
18. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Tarakandi, Jamalpur
19. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Jamuna Fertilizer Company Limited, Tarakandi, Jamalpur, Bangladesh.
20. Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone:+88 0751-63884,0981-63565 Ext: 300/301 GM (Comm.) Fax: +88 0751-63889, 038976- 87086 E-mail: mdjfc1@gmail.com
21. Special Instructions	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Md. Khairul Anam Sarkar
General Manager(Comm.), For Managing Director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles, Peelkhana, Dhaka

Re-Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.	
2. Agency	Bangladesh Rifles.	
3. Procuring entity name	Director General, Bangladesh Rifles.	
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
5. EOI for selection of	Individual Consultant	Simple Time Based
6. EOI reference No.	9007(ADP)/CBBWCT/EOI-8	
7. Date	26 December 2010	
8. Procurement method	OTM.	
9. Budget and source of funds	GOB.	
10. Project/programme code	5050	
11. Project/programme name	Capacity Building of Bangladesh Rifles to Curb Women and Child Trafficking.	
12. EOI closing date and time	09 January 2011 at 1100 hours.	
13. Brief description of the assignment:	<p>a. Project in brief: The objective of the project is to strengthen BDR capability in terms of mobility, communication, equipment and human resource development to fight against human trafficking, specially women and child trafficking. To accomplish the objective it requires extensive visit, detail plan, set programme, organise and conduct training packages/classes, workshops, seminars, film show and other awareness programme for different stockholders in BDR HQ, Sector HQ, Battalion HQ, and company levels.</p> <p>b. Objectives of the assignment: The consultant will be the administrative and technical focal point and advisor to the PD for smooth implementation of the project.</p> <p>c. Specific task for the consultant will be as follows:</p> <p>(1) Assist the PD for procurement of other service contractors (firm/individuals) as per need.</p> <p>(2) Assist the PD for monitoring, quality assurance and evaluation of the service contractors/consultants to be engaged.</p> <p>(3) Coordinate the activities of the NGOs/firm to be appointed and ensure quality (production of training material, preparation of training module and program, conduction of the workshop/seminars etc.) and performance of the training activities.</p> <p>(4) Maintain liaisons with the major stakeholders of the project.</p> <p>(5) Assist in the preparation of the work plan, project report and brief.</p> <p>(6) Provide technical support to the PSC, PIC, TEC and NSC.</p> <p>(7) Assist selection committee in selection of NGOs/firm etc.</p> <p>(8) Travel intensively.</p> <p>(9) Other relevant aspects as directed by PD.</p>	
14. Qualification and experience:	<p>Eligible criteria:</p> <p>(1) Minimum post-graduate or equivalent degree from any recognised university, MBA, Economics and Law will be given preference.</p> <p>(2) Minimum 2-5 years training imparting experience or teaching experience.</p> <p>(3) Practical experience on man management (1 year practical man management experience in abroad will get priority).</p> <p>(4) Experience in preparing training module and programmes. Skill in IT application will be given preference.</p> <p>(5) Familiar with the BDR activities and on border related issues.</p> <p>(6) Working experience with international organisation such as WB, ADB will be given preference.</p>	
15. Other details	Attested copy of certificate to prove qualification and experience etc. are to be enclosed.	
16. Name, designation, address and contact details of official inviting EOI:	Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Ayesha Chowdhury, psc, EME, Project Director (PD), C/O CEME, Admin Directorate, HQs Bangladesh Rifles, Peelkhana, Dhaka, Telephone No. 9650001 Ext 127, Fax No. 8340245 (attention CEME).	
Special conditions/requirements:		
a.	EOI to be submitted in selected from "Standard Request for Application (SRFA) for Selection of Individual Consultant (National)" PS4 (To be collected from official mentioned above).	
b.	Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules-2008, Procurement Procedures of Bangladesh Rifles and other procurement rules in force.	
c.	Interested consultants may obtain further information from official mentioned above during normal office hours.	
d.	The authority reserves the right to cancel all or any of the Expression of Interest (EOI) without assigning any reason whatsoever.	
e.	EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address mentioned above.	

Project Director
For Director General

GD-5562