

Pakistan cabinet resigns as part of revamp plan

AFP, Islamabad
Pakistan's ministers yesterday submitted their resignations to the prime minister, who intends to appoint a smaller cabinet in order to reduce government spending at a time of economic crisis.
"Today's meeting is going to be the last meeting of the present cabinet," Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told more than 50 ministers, praising their record on the economy, constitutional reform and response to major floods.
A senior government official told AFP that the ministers had tendered their resignations to Gilani during the meeting.
"Now the prime minister will forward these resignations to the president for acceptance," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.
"The cabinet usually stands dissolved after the president accepts the resignations forwarded to him by the prime minister," he added.
The main ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) last week authorised Gilani to dissolve the cabinet after powerful opposition parties demanded a smaller line-up as part of retrenchment efforts to tackle Pakistan's economic woes.
A reduction in the size of the cabinet is a legal requirement of the 18th amendment to the constitution, which stipulates it should be no larger than 11 percent of parliament.



Children smile at a camp after fleeing from their homes near the Preah Vihear temple in Preah Vihear province, some 500 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh yesterday. Diplomatic efforts to resolve a festering border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia gained momentum on February 9, with the two adversaries set to address the UN Security Council next week.

Case called into serious

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said Bangladesh Human Rights Commission chairperson in Shariatpur.
It also does not give a clear idea about the entire incident that involves the allegation of rape, physical torture and finally, the lashing, she added.
Criminal law expert barrister Rehan Husain, however, said the accused might get the benefit of doubt if the case is recorded again.
"Instead, the investigation officer can record statement of three to five witnesses to get the actual incident and record them in the current case," he suggested.
Following Hena's death on January 31, her father Darbesh Kha went to Noria Police Station of the district to file the case where police asked him to describe the incident.
The police recorded his statement as first information report (FIR).
"I am illiterate. I have never been to a police station in my life. The police officer asked me to sign a paper. As I cannot sign, they took impression of my left thumb on a typed case statement," said Darbesh.
"I later realised that the police took advantage of my illiteracy."

According to the FIR, police read out the statements to Darbesh before taking his thumb impression.
Chunnu Mia, a relative of the victim, who accompanied Darbesh at the police station, denied the police claim.
The police inquest prepared 16 hours after Hena's death failed to trace any injury marks on her body but found her having an affair with Mahbub.
The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the inquest report prepared on February 1 by Aslan Uddin, sub-inspector of Noria Police Station.
"An inquest report is drawing up a report of the apparent cause of death, describing such wounds, fractures, bruises and other marks of injury as may be found on the body," reads section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898.
Sara Hossain, a legal expert, said an inquest report has nothing to do with the emotional attachment, if any, of the victim.
"It was designed to malign the victim socially," she said.
Sara, also a human rights activist, said police are trying to blame the victim to conceal their failure to protect the girl.

Iraq car blast kills eight

AFP, Kirkuk
Three near-simultaneous car bombs killed at least eight people in the ethnically-divided northern city of Kirkuk yesterday, a medical official and a police officer said.
Dozens more people were wounded in the triple attack at around 10:25am local time in the west of the oil-rich city, said Sadiq Omar Rasul, head of Kirkuk province's health department.

"We have received eight dead bodies and 68 people have been wounded, they are being treated at Kirkuk General Hospital and Azadi hospital," he told AFP.
Police Major Salam Zangana put the toll at eight killed and 83 wounded. According to him, among the dead was a woman, a child and two policemen, while the wounded included security officers, women and children.

Cooking oil sale unstable

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said Abu Taher, owner of Mukta Enterprise at New Market of the capital.
Some refiners admitted that they reduced supply claiming the present prices, fixed by the government in December last year, are now less than their cost, which has been rising due to soaring prices of cooking oil on the international market amid concerns of crop losses due to unfavourable weather in oil seed growing areas.
Refiners said the government promised them of revising the prices every 15 days in light of the trend on the world market, as Bangladesh meets nearly 80 percent of its annual demand for cooking oil through imports.
But it has yet to reset new prices, although a month and a half has passed, since the last time it fixed the prices.
Meanwhile, refiners informed the government that their current cost is Tk 113 for each litre of soybean oil, and sought re-fixing of the maximum selling price, according to MA Rouf Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners & Vanaspati Manufacturers Association.
The delay in re-fixing the price has caused the refiners to cut down supply to the market, creating scope for middlemen in the supply chain to charge prices at their whims.
"We were selling at losses."

For nearly a week, we had to slow down supply of bottled oil to minimise the loss," said Mostafa Kamal, chairman of Meghna Group of Industries, one of the biggest importers of cooking oil. Meghna markets under the brand name of Fresh.
On Tuesday, Mohammad Sharif, a salesman at Rifat General Store in Wari, asked for Tk 570 for a 5-litre bottle of soybean oil.
Yesterday, retail sellers at Karwan Bazar claimed that representatives of refiners informed them of an increase in the prices of packed soybean oil.
"Till this morning, companies sold a five-litre pack to us for five hundred taka. At noon, we came to know that the price went up by twelve taka per litre," said Nur Nabi a retailer at Karwan Bazar yesterday.
Officials of cooking oil refining companies admitted that they are planning to increase the prices by Tk 10 to Tk 12 for each litre of packed soybean oil.
It means that the prices of 5-litre packs will stand at Tk 560 to Tk 570 after the spike. They however added that the supply side will normalise after the price hike.
Mostafa Kamal of Meghna Group said high prices of vegetable oil on the world market, and devaluation of taka against dollar are causing them to pay more for imports.

HRC chief doubts 'self-defence'

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Periodic Review (UPR) under the UN Human Rights Council.
The government should probe all unnatural deaths and if anyone is found guilty of misusing the law, the person must be brought to book, he said.
The NHRC chief's remark came amid widespread allegations of extra-judicial killings by law enforcers.
Though mandated, the commission is unable to probe such allegations due to shortage of manpower. The government has pledged to provide the commission with necessary facilities but it has yet to take any initiative.
Mizanur said the home ministry should investigate the allegations as long as the commission lacks necessary facilities.
"I would request the home ministry to do the job and publish reports."
The NHRC chairman said the commission has relentlessly tried to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to the incidents of unnatural deaths and torture in custody.
The commission is also focusing on detention of accused without trial for a long period, inhumane living condition in prisons and sorry state of public hospitals, he said.
Complaints of human rights violations to the commission have gone up significantly. But the NHRC requires an appropriate institutional and functional framework to probe the allegations and make recommendations.
Acting Foreign Secretary

Mustafa Kamal said Bangladesh is committed to protect and promote human rights and has been at the global forefront in demonstrating its engagement with UN human rights institutions.
Dr Purna Sen from the Commonwealth Secretariat said the Universal Periodic Review is a platform where the member countries, human rights commissions and non-governmental organisations can have a dialogue and share experience in protecting rights and evaluate their performance.
Officials from commonwealth nations including Brunei, Cyprus, India, Malta, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and UK, and also from the Commonwealth Secretariat are attending the seminar.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Selection of a Peer Reviewer for AKK Tower, Agrabad, Chittagong

Background:
A. K. Khan & Co. Limited intends to construct an intelligent high rise building at Agrabad, Chittagong. The tower will be embraced with 21st century outlook harmonizing with the local topography in Chittagong. It will also be a landmark and green structure. For this project, renowned local/international Engineering Consultancy firms can submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for Peer Review of the design reports and drawings of AKK Tower as per the following terms and conditions:
Scope of Work:
To ensure safety, serviceability, durability, and constructability of the project, the Peer Review will cover but not limited to the followings:
➢ Review of the overall arrangement of the project
➢ Review of the geotechnical investigation report of the project
➢ Review of the foundation design report and drawings
➢ Review of the super structural design report and drawings of the project considering the usual loads with earthquake load and wind load
➢ Review of the safety, serviceability, durability, and constructability of the project
➢ Review of the design reports and drawings associated with electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fire
➢ Meeting with the clients and the main design consultants for the issues against safety, serviceability, durability, constructability, etc.
EOI Procedure:
Interested consulting firms are requested to submit the following information with EOI:
1. Corporate overview/profile of the firm including history, financial audited accounts, date of establishment, etc.
2. List of professionals with CV highlighting job experience on similar size project.
3. List of three similar size projects including project owner's contact information and date of completion.
4. Structural frame systems used in similar size projects
5. The ways which are used to control wind induced vibration of similar size project
6. The ways which are used to control earthquake induced vibration of similar size projects
7. The ways which are used for excavation and construction of 4+ basements of similar size projects
8. Previous experience in wind-tunnel test and analysis of wind tunnel test data
9. Durability based design approach which are used for similar size projects
10. Time frame for Peer Review (should be less than one month after delivering design reports and drawings)
11. Consultancy Fee with mode of payment
Address:
Interested consulting firms are requested to submit their EOI to the address below by not later than 5:00 pm of February 28, 2011:
Project Director
"AKK Tower"
Uday Tower (9th Floor),
Plot # 57, 57/A, Gulshan -1,
Dhaka -1212, Bangladesh

For any clarification or information regarding the project and EOI, please contact at akktower@akkhan.com

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Burma blasts kill 2

AFP, Yangon
Two people were killed and five injured in two blasts yesterday in eastern Myanmar, an official said.
Two explosive devices went off in the early evening in the border town of Myawaddy in Karen State, killing one man and one woman, said the official, who did not want to be named.

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INVITATION FOR TENDERS

01	Procuring Entity Name	BIRDEM
02	Nomenclature of Tender	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of cold Storage in kitchen of BIRDEM
03	Tender No. & Date	BIRDEM/pur/L/2011/13 Dated: 03.02.2011
04	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
05	Source of Fund	Own Source.
06	Price of Tender documents (Non-Refundable)	Tk. 2,500.00 (Taka Two thousand Five hundred Only)
07	Place of Selling of the Tender documents	Room No.208, BIRDEM 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka.
08	Date & Time of Selling of Tender documents	Tender documents will be available from 15 February 2011 to 14 March 2011 on all working days (9.00 AM to 1.00 PM)
09	Last Date of Selling of Tender Documents	14 March, 2011 upto 1.00 PM
10	Last Date & Time of submission of Tender	15 March, 2011 upto 12.00 Noon
11	Place for submission of Tender	Room No.208, BIRDEM, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka.
12	Tender Opening Date & Time	15 March, 2011 at 12.30 PM (In presence of the Tenderer's or their authorized agent, if there be any).
13	Time for completion of the supply	Three (03) months
14	Designation of Official inviting tenders	Director Hospital, BIRDEM
15	Eligibility of Tenderers: (a) The tenderers should be manufacturer or their authorised supplier/distributor or dealer of brand. (b) Tenderers shall have a minimum 05 (five) years of experience in the supplying of similar cold Storage in Kitchen in Bangladesh or in any country of Asia. (c) The tenderers shall have valid trade licence, TIN, VAT & Income Tax Certificate and other documents as mentioned in the Tender document.	
16	Tender Security	2% of quoted amount will be deposited in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order from any schedule commercial bank in favour of BIRDEM
17	BIRDEM, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever	

Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. Md. Mazher Hossain
Director Hospital
BIRDEM