

Maoists join Nepal's govt

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's new prime minister yesterday appointed four Maoist lawmakers to his cabinet, ending weeks of uncertainty over whether the former rebels would join his government.

The UML's (Unified Marxist Leninist) Jhalanath Khanal was elected prime minister in February after winning the support of the Maoist party -- the largest in parliament.

Disagreements over the distribution of ministerial portfolios had delayed the formation of his cabinet, but yesterday the Maoists announced they had reached agreement with the UML.

Nepal is still struggling to recover from the impact of a decade-long conflict between Maoist rebels and the state that ended five years ago.



Pakistani Christian mourners shout slogans against the killing of the Pakistani minister for minorities Shabbaz Bhatti during the funeral ceremony in his native village Khushpur yesterday. Up to 15,000 people attended the burial of slain Christian minister in tight security amid calls to contain rising extremism.

Double-digit rise for China's military spending

AFP, Beijing

China announced a renewed double-digit hike in military spending yesterday after funding slowed last year, but insisted the nearly \$92 billion outlay posed no external threat despite concerns abroad.

The defence budget will rise 12.7 percent in 2011 to \$91.7 billion, said Li Zhaoxing, spokesman for China's national parliament, citing a budget report to be submitted to the rubber-stamp legislature.

"China has always paid attention to controlling the size of defence spending," Li, a former foreign minister, told reporters.

He described the budget as "relatively low" as a percentage of gross domestic product compared with the rest of the world.

But the number represents a return to double-digit increases in military spending, which have alarmed the United States, Japan, Australia and several of China's Asian neighbours.

That multi-year trend had been broken in 2010 when the budget rose 7.5 percent. In any case, many analysts say the announced budget is far lower than actual spending.

The People's Liberation Army -- the world's largest -- is hugely secretive about its defence programmes, but insists its modernisation is purely defensive in nature to protect China's vast land and sea borders.

"This will not pose a threat to any country," said Li, adding the spending figure represented six percent of the total national budget in the world's second-largest economy.

Willy Lam, a China analyst at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said the published military budget -- which he noted was likely only one-third to one-half of actual spending -- will be poured into next-generation equipment.

"The return to this double-digit PLA budget reflects the growing power of the PLA," Lam told AFP. "They are trying to close the gap with Russia and the United States."

Tokyo has repeatedly questioned Beijing's military intentions, especially after collisions in disputed waters in September between two Japanese coastguard boats and a Chinese fishing vessel that sparked a major row.

Bomb blast kills three at Nigeria rally

AFP, Abuja

A blast near the venue of a ruling party election rally killed three people and injured 28 in a town near Nigeria's capital city of Abuja, a police spokesman and hospital official said Thursday.

Assailants hurled the bomb from a moving car causing it to miss its intended target and instead strike a roadside vegetable market.

A senior official of the Suleja government hospital, Ibrahim Yakubu, confirmed that three people died while 28 others were injured in the blast.

"So far, three bodies were brought to the hospital and 28 others were injured, 15 of them critically," he told AFP.

"Three people died on the spot, 21 persons injured. The bomb was thrown by people in a moving vehicle," Olusola Amore, Nigeria's national police spokesman earlier told AFP.

He said the attackers had targeted the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) rally taking place at Suleja in central Niger State and situated 45 kilometres (28 miles) from the capital Abuja.

Govt stake

FROM PAGE 1 mentioning any time when the statistics were compiled.

However, Grameen in a statement yesterday claimed that the government's share in the organisation has come down to 3.5 percent.

The government can obtain up to 25 percent stake in Grameen as per the law.

A question arises whether the government can claim the bank to be one of its organisations.

The present government, which holds only three seats in the 12-member Grameen board, now behaves as if Grameen is a state-controlled bank, not owned by its eight million borrowers.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, who headed Bangladesh Bank for four years until May 2009, sees no reason why the government should claim the Grameen Bank as one of its institutions.

"You cannot call it a government institution. It was set up by the government under a special act," said Ahmed.

He said the bank is a legal entity, not a government institution.

A look into the Grameen's capital base and the government stake in it can clarify the matter.

When the bank was established in 1983 with a paid up capital (equity) of Tk 3 crore, the government's share in it was Tk 1.8 crore or 60 percent. Borrowers of the bank owned the remaining 40 percent, half of which belonged to female borrowers, according to the Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983.

The government in an amendment in 1986 raised the paid up capital to Tk 7.2 crore without subscribing proportionately to its ownership, reducing its stake to 25

percent. The rest belonged to the borrowers of the bank.

Over the years, the bank has increased its paid up capital that went up to over Tk 52 crore at the end of 2009 and Tk 35.8 crore the previous year.

The bank's paid up capital was Tk 31.8 crore in 2007 and Tk 26.95 crore in 2000.

"Grameen Bank has increased its paid up capital almost every year. But the government did not subscribe. So its shares have come down gradually and now stands around 5 percent," said a senior central bank official.

Government high-ups quite often mention that the Grameen Bank was established by a 1983 ordinance, a special law.

"As per the law, the government has some sort of role in the bank. But it cannot control or claim the bank's ownership," said the former governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The central bank on Wednesday issued a letter on Yunus' removal from the post of managing director of Grameen Bank for violating one of the statutes.

Wishing anonymity, a top Bangladesh Bank official said they could do nothing as the government wanted Yunus to quit the Grameen Bank he founded in 1976.

Both Grameen and Yunus have expanded well beyond banking. Yunus founded nearly 25 companies in many sectors -- energy, telecom, education, fisheries, dairy, software, internet, knitwear and fashion -- all of which aim at improving the living condition of the poor.

In 2006, Yunus and Grameen Bank received the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts at economic and social development.

AL for probing Khaleda's

FROM PAGE 20 government should investigate the matter whether the opposition leader was trying to plot a new conspiracy against the government.

The Awami League leaders believe that the opposition leader through her "provocative" speech wants to create suspicion and mistrust between the government and the armed forces.

"Her provocative statements carry huge significance and the government should probe it," Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahabubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star.

Addressing a discussion as the chief guest on February 25 at Mahanagar Natya Mancha, Khaleda said, "Many army officers have been dismissed for raising questions [about Pilkhana killings]. Threats of a repeat of incidents like the Pilkhana mutiny are being heard within the army. The country has no alternative but to get a patriotic ruler now."

Questioning the role of the government and the premier during the BDR mutiny, Khaleda alleged that angry army officers, who voiced their concerns, lost jobs and

many were tortured and jailed through farcical trials.

The main opposition organised the meet to mark the second anniversary of the mutiny.

On February 25-26, 2009, BDR (now BGB) jawans staged a mutiny at their headquarters in Pilkhana, triggering a bloodshed that claimed at least 74 lives, including the lives of 57 army officers.

Some Awami League leaders say such speeches are not only harmful to the government and the ruling party, but also the opposition party.

"Being in a responsible position [opposition leader], it's not right to make such provocative statements," Awami League Praesidium Member Obaidul Quader said, adding that the military is a very sensitive issue and they should always be kept out of any controversy.

He said an incorrect explanation of her statement could be sent to all quarters. "Why the opposition leader expressed her apprehension about armed forces? The government should take it with utmost importance and investigate the allegation," he added.

India to discuss Kashmir in 'open' Pakistan talks

AFP, Jammu

India's prime minister said yesterday he was approaching new peace talks with Pakistan with an "open mind", saying all disputes including a long-running feud over Kashmir would be discussed.

New Delhi and Islamabad announced on February 10 that they would resume full peace talks which were suspended more than two years ago after Islamist gunmen from Pakistan attacked India's financial capital Mumbai.

"We wish to resolve all outstanding issues between the two countries through friendly dialogue and constructive and purposeful negotiations," Manmohan Singh said at a function in the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This includes the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," he said in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital which has been largely unaffected by an Islamic insurgency that flared in the Muslim-majority region in 1989.

Kashmir is divided between the two countries along a de facto border, but is claimed

in full by both.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi is slated to visit India in July at the start of the full-scale resumption of talks.

Ties between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, which have fought two of their three wars since 1947 over Kashmir, have been dogged by border and resource disputes, and accusations of Pakistani militant activity in India.

"We are willing to discuss all issues that have a bearing on the peace, dignity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Singh added.

Indian Kashmir last year saw some of its biggest protests against Indian rule, leaving more than 110 protesters dead, mostly in police firings on stone-throwing young men.

"This subcontinent of ours will not realise its full development potential unless relations between India and Pakistan are normalised," Singh said.

India and Pakistan embarked on a formal peace dialogue in 2004, which continued until the rupture caused by the Mumbai attacks, blamed by India on Pakistan-based militants.

Excesses by Pak army

FROM PAGE 1

sea change had come into the thoughts of a people who only days earlier had anticipated a historically defining moment for democracy through an inauguration of the National Assembly session in Dhaka. Poets, writers, artists, indeed people straddling different levels of intellectual life in East Pakistan, joined the movement for democracy through expressing full support for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had earlier characterised the Bangalee struggle as a non-violent non-cooperation movement.

Despite the efforts of the Bangalee leadership to keep the movement going in a peaceful manner, the behaviour of the army was proving increasingly provocative for the people of the province. Almost every day there were reports of demonstrating

Bangalees being shot by soldiers, which further inflamed passions everywhere. In distant Rawalpindi, having overcome their initial stupefaction over the gathering pace of events in East Pakistan, the Yahya Khan junta huddled amongst themselves to consider a response to the crisis. The hawks were in the ascendant. Indeed, there was hardly any dove in Pakistan's military establishment when it came to handling the Bangalees. The consensus which emerged in Rawalpindi was that toughness needed to be demonstrated in East Pakistan. It was thus that an airlift of soldiers all the way from West Pakistan to East Pakistan got underway. In Dhaka and elsewhere, a process of removing senior level Bangalee army officers from important positions, with a good number of them

being served with orders of transfer to West Pakistan, was inaugurated in the utmost secrecy.

The army was compelled, however, to take a long circuitous air route from Karachi to Dhaka by way of Colombo. That was because of the ban imposed by India on Pakistan International Airlines flights between the two wings of Pakistan across its territory in the aftermath of the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane by Kashmiri militants to Lahore on January 30. The hijackers were profusely hailed by ZA Bhutto on his return from Dhaka. A few days later, the plane was blown up by the hijackers, an act that was severely criticised by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who warned of a conspiracy being hatched to muddle matters in Pakistan.

Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Development Division

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এর অপচয়
রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

"জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা
সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার"

"শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস,
পৃথিবীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানী"

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
3	Procuring entity name	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
KEY INFORMATION		
4	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
5	Budget and source of funds	Own fund of company.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
6	Date and time for selling tender document	06-03-2011 to 27-03-2011.
	Last date & time for selling tender document	27-03-2011 up to 3:00pm.
7	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling tender document	Pay & Bill Department, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-4), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.
	- Receiving tender document	1. Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Committee Room, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000. 2. Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited (BGS), Dhaka Liaison Office, House No. 222, Lane No. 15, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206. 3. Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFL), Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrobangla, Petrocenter (14th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
	- Opening tender document	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Committee Room, Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-3), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
8	Eligibility of tenderer	Any individual(s)/firm(s) who fulfill the qualification(s) criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) and other conditions of the tender document, are eligible to participate in the tender.
9	Tender's name and other related information:-	
	Sl. No. & Invitation Ref. No.	Description of work
		Price of tender document (Tk)
		Amount of tender security (Tk)
		Time for completion (days)
		Tender submission and opening date & time
	9.1) GTCL/Dev/Const/26/08/2010-2011	Construction of Herring Bone Bond pipe yard at Hatikumrul, Sirajganj
		750.00 (seven hundred fifty)
		25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand)
		60 (sixty)
		Date: 28-03-2011 Submission time: Up to 12:00 noon. Opening time: 2:00pm on the same date.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
10.	Name of official inviting tender	Construction Department, Development Division.
11.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Construction).
12.	Address of official inviting tender	Red Crescent Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.
13.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. : 9355813 Fax No. 9356037
14.	The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	
15.	All Activities in connection with the said procurement of works will be guided as per "The Public Procurement Rules-2008."	

BIHS
BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
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Admission in MPH Courses in Public Health under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka

The Division of Public Health of the Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) is pleased to inform that the admission of the 4th Batch of students in MPH (One Year) Courses (Academic year July 2011 - June 2012) has been announced by the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Dhaka, in the following disciplines:

MPH in Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) (Subject Code-66)
MPH in Epidemiology (Epi) (Subject Code-62)
MPH in Community Nutrition (CN) (Subject Code-67)
MPH in Health Promotion & Health Education (HP&HE) (Subject Code-68)

The institute code number of BIHS in the BSMMU list is 23

BIHS offers some unique opportunities

- Degree to be given by the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka
- Courses dedicated to individual disciplines in Public Health.
- The Institute is linked to the BIHS Hospital - the highly advanced Apex Hospital of the Health Care Development Project (HCDP) established under Bangladesh-Netherlands joint cooperation.
- Full-time, nonpracticing Faculties as well as rich multinational Guest Faculties coming from renowned University/Institutes in Norway, UK, Switzerland, Denmark, Netherlands, Nepal, India and Pakistan.
- Availability of large number of primary to tertiary health care facilities of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, spread all over the country, which gives unparalleled opportunity of exposure to community level health problem (a vital requirement of effective public health education).
- Intensive and research based programs having possibility of collaborative studies with advanced institutes of the world.
- Courses open to medical as well as nonmedical graduates except in Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) which is restricted for medical graduates

Admission requirements

For the pre-requisites of admission into the courses and for other details please see the Admission Notice from BSMMU (The Daily Star, dated 24-02-2011) or visit the website of BSMMU (www.bsmmu.org) or BIHS (www.bihs.edu.bd). Information on admission and Application Forms can also be obtained from the BIHS office during 09.00-18.00 hrs on Sunday-Friday.

AN ENTERPRISE OF DIABETIC ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH