

India court grants bail to Binayak Sen

BBC ONLINE

India's Supreme Court has granted bail to leading public health specialist and human rights activist, Dr Binayak Sen.

In December a court in the central state of Chhattisgarh sentenced him to life in prison for helping Maoist rebels.

The lower court had found him guilty of carrying messages and setting up bank accounts for the rebels, who are active in large parts of India.

Rights groups in India and abroad had called on the government to free him.

The Supreme Court gave no reason for granting bail to Dr Sen and left it to the court in Chhattisgarh to set the terms and conditions of the bail.

"We are a democratic country. He may be a sympathiser [of Maoists] but it did not make him guilty of sedition," the court said. "He is a sympathiser... nothing beyond that."



PHOTO: AFP
A protestor holds a placard to protest against nuclear power plants in front of the TEPCO headquarters in Tokyo yesterday.

US appoints special envoy to Myanmar

BBC ONLINE

US President Barack Obama has appointed Derek Mitchell as a special envoy to Burma.

Currently at the Department of Defense, Mitchell is said by Washington media to be due to reinvigorate US policy on Burma's military-backed government.

He is expected to be the country's main interlocutor with Burma's rulers.

Earlier this week, the European Union relaxed some sanctions against members of Burma's government, signalling a more flexible approach by the West.

Mitchell has held several posts in the defence and state departments and at think tanks pertaining to South East Asia.

If the appointment is confirmed by the Senate, his formal title will be Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, with the rank of Ambassador, Department of State.

Afghan suicide blast kills Kandahar police chief

AFP, Kandahar

The police chief in the key southern Afghan province of Kandahar was killed by a Taliban suicide bomber yesterday along with two of his bodyguards, officials said.

The killings at the police headquarters in Kandahar city are a serious blow to security in the province, seen as the birthplace of the Taliban and a pivotal battleground in the near ten-year war against the Islamist militants.

They are the latest in a wave of insurgent attacks against the 120,000-strong Afghan police, who are due to take on more responsibility for security ahead of the planned withdrawal of foreign combat troops in 2014.

"A suicide attacker detonated himself at the police headquarters. The police chief has been martyred," provincial spokesman Zalmai Ayubi said.

A spokesman for the interior ministry in Kabul, Zemarai Bashary, confirmed that the police chief, Khan Mohammad Mujahid, had died and said his two bodyguards were also killed.

"Two of his bodyguards were martyred in the suicide attack and three police personnel were also injured," he said.

Mujahid, a former mujahedeen fighter against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s, only took up the job in October and had apparently survived two previous attempts on his life.

Calls grow for Japan PM to quit

Tepco to compensate nuclear plant victims

REUTERS, yesterday

Japan's fragile post-disaster political truce unravelled on Thursday as the head of the main opposition party called on unpopular Prime Minister Naoto Kan to quit over his handling of the country's natural calamities and a nuclear crisis.

At the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant in the northeast of the country, engineers were struggling to find a new way to cool one of the six crippled reactors and Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said it was now "highly likely" there was a hole in the suppression unit of the reactor.

The Japanese government has ordered the operator of the nuclear plant damaged by last month's quake and tsunami to pay compensation to affected families.

About 48,000 families who lived within 30km of the Fukushima Daiichi plant will be eligible.

The compensation is described as provisional,

with payouts - expected to be \$12,000 per family - beginning on 28 April.

Kan, whose public support stands at about 30 percent, had sought a grand coalition to help the country recover from its worst ever natural disaster and enact bills to pay for the country's biggest reconstruction project since World War Two.

Kan's Democratic Party controls parliament's lower house but needs opposition help to pass bills because it lacks a majority in the upper chamber, which can block legislation.

But the head of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) -- who last week ruled out joining hands -- on Thursday pressured Kan to go.

"The time has come for (the prime minister) to decide whether he stays or goes," Kyodo news agency quoted Sadakazu Tanigaki as telling a news conference.

Tanigaki's comment reflects the view of many

in his conservative party that Kan must step down as a precondition for any coalition as well as a hope that criticism of Kan within his own Democratic Party will gather steam after party powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa blasted the premier over his crisis management.

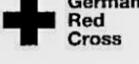
Upper House speaker Takeo Nishioka, a well-known Kan critic from the Democrats, also urged Kan to resign, Kyodo said.

Kan, however, who took office as Japan's fifth leader since 2006 last June, is not likely to step down readily, while opposition parties could come under fire if they try to take disaster budgets hostage in a political battle, analysts said.

Five weeks ago a massive earthquake and tsunami left nearly 28,000 dead or missing, devastated a broad swathe of northeast Japan and damaged the Fukushima nuclear plant. There has been no sign of a resolution of the atomic crisis.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES
Bangladesh Delegation
684-686, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka 1217



German Red Cross

TENDER NOTICE

German Red Cross (GRC) and its partner the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) with the support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Bangladesh Delegation is implementing a project named Primary Health Care (PHC) and taking up the construction works of a **New One Storied Mother & Child Health (MCH) Centre** in Borhanuddin upazilla, Bhola district. The project will be coordinated from the GRC Head office in Dhaka.

IFRC invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for the construction with material and all related cost.

Bidders may be medium level contractors and must have at least 5 years practical experience in construction and civil work and having an average annual turnover of BDT 5 million in the preceding five years.

Tender documents containing invitation to tender, instructions to bidders, drawing/designs, technical specifications, bill of quantity, location map, general & special conditions of the contract, etc. for the contractors can be collected from IFRC Office at 684-686 Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka between **10.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. until 10th May 2011** on payment of non-refundable fee of **BDT 500/-** by cash in favour of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. **Kindly bring an application on your company letter head while collecting the tender document.**

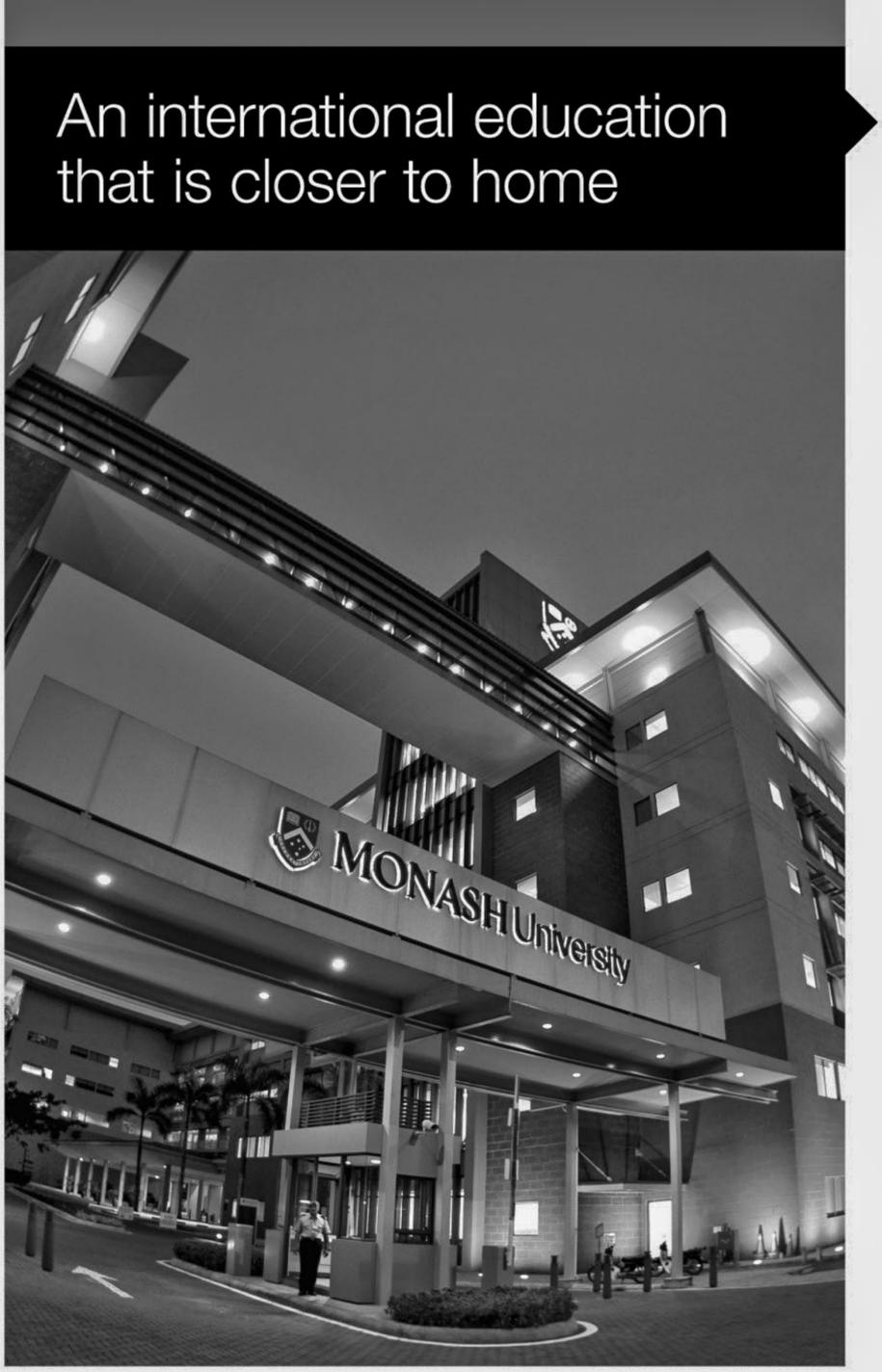
One Bidder can submit one tender only as per terms and conditions laid down in the tender documents.

The offers, both technical & financial, complete in all respects and sealed in envelope, should be received at the IFRC Office **during office working days between 10.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. up to 11th May 2011 (Fridays, Saturdays and Public Holidays closed).**

The offers must be accompanied by **Earnest Money** (refundable) equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted amount in the form of a demand draft or pay order from a scheduled bank in favour of **'International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies'**.

The International Federation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest bid.

Head of Delegation
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Bangladesh Delegation
Date: 16th April, 2011



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Date	Time	Venue	Address
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18 April 2011	10 am – 4 pm	Shaheda Educational Consultants	Bashoti Horizon 3rd Floor, Flat No B-3, Plot 21, Road 17, Banani, Dhaka 1213 +88 017 130 91876
19 April 2011	10 am – 4 pm	Australian Centre for Education	IDP Education Pty Ltd House No. 4/A, Road 54/A Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212 +88 (02) 882 1067
20 April 2011	10 am – 4 pm	Fast Track Education Services	44/12, West Panthapath, Dhaka 1215 +88 017 141 78354
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