



PHOTO: AFP
Demonstrators hold banners featuring Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as they shout slogans in his support during a peaceful demonstration in front of the Syrian embassy in Sofia yesterday.

Blast kills 3 Nato troops in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

A bomb killed three Nato soldiers in southern Afghanistan, the joint force said yesterday, bringing to eight the number of foreign troops killed in the country in the deadliest day since June last year.

On Saturday, Nato's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said five of its troops had been killed in a suicide attack at an Afghan army base in the eastern province of Nangarhar, in which four Afghan soldiers also died.

The force did not provide further details, including the nationalities of those killed in line with policy.

UN WAR CRIMES REPORT ON SRI LANKA Mass protest called against 'biased' report

BBC Online

Sri Lanka's president has called for mass protests against a UN report said to allege that war crimes were committed at the end of the civil war.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the claims were not new but called for a "show of strength" against the report.

Leaked excerpts suggest that Sri Lankan soldiers and Tamil Tiger rebels committed serious violations as the civil war came to an end in 2009.

Troops crushed the rebels in May 2009 after 26 years of bloody conflict.

Responding to a leak of the reports in a Sri Lankan newspaper, Rajapaksa told party officials May Day gatherings should be used to protest.

"All these days we did not demonstrate our strength, but now on May Day we will show our strength," he said.

Sri Lanka's government, which also received a copy of the report, described it as "fundamentally flawed and patently biased," adding that it was "presented without any verification", AP reported.

Rajapaksa's comments, made to members of his Sri Lanka Freedom Party, are his first personal comments on the leak.

Hailstorm kills 12 in China

AFP, Beijing

At least 12 people were killed and 27 injured as hailstones, lashing rain and gales pounded southern China's Guangdong province yesterday, state media said.

The storms, which hit cities including Guangzhou, Foshan, Dongguan and Zhongshan, caused about \$7.5 million in direct economic losses, the ministry of civil affairs said.

The Guangdong provincial government has dispatched a team to the disaster-affected areas to direct relief work, the report said.

The local government has initiated emergency plans to rush the injured to hospital and provide aid to the elderly.

Syria set for more protests despite reform vow

AFP, Damascus

A pledge by Syria's embattled president to lift almost 50 years of draconian emergency rule within a week was brushed aside as not enough yesterday, as activists called for more protests.

President Bashar al-Assad's long-awaited announcement came on Saturday, on the eve of Independence Day, after a month of bloody protests and a global outcry for change in the autocratic country.

But protesters took to the streets within hours of his speech, which was followed by calls for more demonstrations yesterday posted on social networking website Facebook, a motor of the pro-reform movement.

"The day of independence is the day of liberty across Syria," the Syrian Revolution 2011 Facebook page said of the 65th anniversary of the end of French rule.

Yesterday, customs seized a con-

signment of arms, including assault rifles and night-vision goggles, in a container at the Tanaf border crossing with Iraq, the state news agency SANA reported.

It said arms have also been intercepted at posts with Turkey and Lebanon.

In a televised address Saturday to a new cabinet tasked with launching reforms, Assad also expressed his sorrow over the deaths of an estimated 200 people in a month of protests demanding greater freedoms.

"We are sad for all the people we have lost and all the people injured, and consider them all martyrs," he said.

Assad addressed the broad spectrum of complaints that have sparked country-wide protests, including unemployment, corruption and a crisis in agriculture.

He told the new government unveiled on Thursday to act quickly and "take responsibility" and be "transparent" in their action.

But within hours of his speech some

2,000 protesters staged a sit-in in the suburb of Douma north of Damascus, demanding the release of relatives arrested on Friday during a major day of nationwide protests, activists said.

The official SANA news agency also reported around 2,000 people demonstrated in the southern protest hub of Daraa late Saturday, chanting slogans for "freedom" and the lifting of emergency law.

The notorious law in force since 1963 restricts public gatherings and movement, authorises the interrogation of any individual and the monitoring of private communications and imposes media censorship.

Top human rights lawyer Haytham Maleh told AFP yesterday that Assad's pledge to end emergency law was "not enough."

Maleh also insisted on the scrapping of Article 8 of Syria's constitution which stipulates the ruling Baath party is the sole leader of society and the state.

'Technology can't replace God': Pope Benedict

REUTERS, Vatican City

Pope Benedict led Roman Catholics into Holy Week celebrations, telling a Palm Sunday crowd that man will pay the price for his pride if he believes technology can give him the powers of God.

Under a splendid Roman sun, the German pope presided at a colourful celebration where tens of thousands of people waved palm and olive branches to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week before he was crucified.

The pope, who turned 84 Saturday, wove his sermon around the theme of man's relationship with God and how it can sometimes be threatened by technology.

"From the beginning men and women have been filled -- and this is as true today as ever -- with a desire to 'be like God', to attain



the heights of God by their own powers," he said, wearing resplendent red and gold vestments.

"Mankind has managed to accomplish so many things: we can fly! We can see, hear and speak to one another from the farthest ends of the earth. And yet the force of gravity which draws us down is powerful," he said.

While the great advances of technology have improved life for man, the pope said, they have also increased possibilities for evil, and recent natural disasters were a reminder, if any were needed, that mankind is not all-powerful.

If man wanted a relationship with God he had to first "abandon the pride of wanting to become God," said the pope, celebrating his sixth Easter season as the leader of the world's some 1.2 billion Roman Catholics.

Gunmen, blasts kill six in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Bombs and gunmen killed six people in Iraq yesterday, four of them from the same family, security sources said.

The four family members were all shot in the head overnight by gunmen who spared a third, seven-year-old daughter, interior ministry and security officials said.

"This was probably a terrorist crime, which we are investigating," said Baghdad security spokesman Major General Qassim Atta.

In the western part of Kirkuk, police said they found the corpse of the leader of an anti-Al-Qaeda militia who was kidnapped a week ago. It was unclear when he was slain.

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following post. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

Senior Finance Assistant(GS-7)

Last date of receiving applications: **2 May 2011**

Applications with CV and a filled-in P-11 form should be sent to the Chief, Human Resources Section, UNICEF-Bangladesh, Sheraton Annex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000. Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. **Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.**

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Memo No.APSC/MD/Project-150MW/2011/১২৩ Date :16/04/2011

"Amendment of APSC Tender Enquiry"

Tender Name, Enquiry No. & Date	Subject to be Amended	Existing as	Shall be Amended as
Detailed Engineering, Design, Manufacture/Procurement, Inspection, Testing, Delivery to site, Installation, construction of related civil works, commissioning and performance test on turnkey basis of Ashuganj 150 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant having net output of 150 to 225 MW at site conditions of 35°C 1.013 bar, 98% RH and 2 years warranty	Tender security amount	US\$ 3,500,000.00 or BDT 250,000,000.00	US\$ 2,000,000.00 or BDT 150,000,000.00
APSC/MD/Project-150 MW/2011/449 Dated: 30/03/2011			

All other terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged.

[Signature]
Company Secretary
APSC, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria

Prosecution of doctors

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Hospital. They prepared the much-talked-about autopsy report of Hena, which totally avoided mentioning injury marks on the victim's body.

Fifteen-year-old Hena of Shariatpur was raped by her cousin Mahbub, 40, on January 23. In local arbitration the next day, she was lashed at least 50 times upon a Fatwa (religious edict). Hena succumbed to her injuries on January 31.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Wahhab Miah passed the order after hearing a petition the doctors filed on April 12 seeking stay on the HC order.

The judge also asked the doctors to file a regular leave to appeal petition with the apex court against the HC order within four weeks.

Advocate Anisul Huq, counsel for the doctors, said the government cannot take any action against his clients during the next four weeks.

The HC on March 28 termed the autopsy report disturbing and said criminal proceedings will be drawn against them on charges of damaging and concealing evidence and trying to hide the truth.

Citing that the doctors depicted the death as a case of suicide, the HC bench of

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain said Civil Surgeon Golam Sarwar primarily masterminded the whole episode.

It had also ordered the health secretary and the director general (DG) of Directorate of Health to take departmental actions against the four physicians immediately.

The HC also directed the head of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council to take statutory action against the four doctors.

The court passed the order after examining the probe report by a seven-member high powered medical board headed by the DG, Directorate of Health.

The medical board was formed as per an HC directive on February 10 to find the reasons for information varying in two autopsy reports -- one prepared by four doctors of Shariatpur General Hospital and the other by DMCH doctors.

The DMCH doctors confirmed a good number of injury marks on Hena's body and reported that the reason behind the death was haemorrhage followed by septicemia shock as a result of wound from blunt object and were ante-mortem and homicidal in nature.

50MW power plant

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grid on a trial basis, said Md Nurul Alam, managing director of APSC.

The plant will run in full swing by the end of this month, he said, adding that it is an environment-friendly plant which will not release any garbage.

The APSC took the Tk 306 crore project through an international tender last year to establish the plant with its own fund, Alam said.

TSK Group, a Spanish firm, signed a contract with APSC on July 25 last year and started working on September 9.

The establishment of the plant was completed by 210 days accordingly. The contracted firm will provide a warranty service for one and

a half years. GE Gen Backer Company of Austria supplied all engines while Spain and Germany supplied the other equipment.

Engineers from Austria, Spain, Germany and Bangladesh worked for the new plant.

According to APSC, there are 16 generating units in the newly established gas engine power plant covering 9,080 metre square of land.

Each unit generates 3.332 megawatt of electricity so that all units will generate 53.312 MW of electricity. Of them, 50 MW will regularly be supplied to the national grid while 3.312 MW will remain surplus, which will be used for internal purpose of the plant.

Cuba to consider term limits for leaders

REUTERS, Havana

Cuba will consider placing term limits on its leaders to assure new blood in the government, President Raul Castro said on Saturday in a speech kicking off a Communist Party congress on the island he and his brother led for more than five decades.

He said the government does not have "a reserve of

well-trained replacements with sufficient experience and maturity" to replace the current leaders, most of whom are in their 70s and 80s.

"We have reached the conclusion that it is advisable to recommend limiting the time of service in high political and state positions to a maximum of two five-year terms," he told 1,000 delegates at the congress.

Castro, 79, said he would not be excluded from the limits, which will be discussed not at this congress, but a party conference next January.

Cuba's geriatric leadership has been a topic of concern for a government intent on assuring the survival of Cuban socialism and new faces could be elected to high party positions during the congress.

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INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Managing Director, Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd.(UFFL), Ghorasal, Narsingdi, Bangladesh invites sealed tender for import of materials under the following tenders on C & F(C) Chittagong Sea Port/Hazrat Shah Jalal International Air Port, Dhaka, Bangladesh basis.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description of the Materials.	Cost of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)	Amount of Tender Security.	Last date & time for submission of Tender.
01.	UFFL/FP-CMW/1/2009-2010/664 Date : 12-04-2011.	400 Kg. White Metal	Tk. 200/-	Tk. 15,000/-	23-05-2011 At 11-00 a.m.
02.	UFFL/FP-CMW/1/2010-2011/665 Date : 12-04-2011.	Ammonia Cylinder Valve.	Tk. 200/-	Tk. 10,000/-	07-06-2011 At 11-00 a.m.

Tenders will be received in the office of the General Manager(Commercial), Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Ghorasal, Narsingdi and will be opened immediately after closing at 11-00 a.m. on the date & time as mentioned above in presence of the Tenderers or their authorised representative, if any. Tender documents will be available at the cost mentioned above(Non-refundable) from (1) Accounts Division, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (3) UFFL. Due to unavoidable circumstances if the tender will not be received/opened in due date & time the same will be received/opened on the next working day. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Md. Shahidul Islam
Manager (Marketing)/Foreign Purchase
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