



PHOTO: AFP

People wait in line to vote at a polling station in N'Djamena during the presidential election in Chad yesterday.

Chad votes as opposition boycotts poll

AFP, N'djamena

Chad went to the polls yesterday in the first round of its presidential election with incumbent Idriss Deby Itno virtually assured of extending his 21-year rule after his main rivals boycotted the vote.

Deby, in power since ousting dictator Hissene Habre in a 1990 coup, is seeking a fourth term as president of one of the world's poorest countries, albeit with growing oil exports and abundant resources of uranium and gold.

Key opposition leaders have withdrawn from the vote after claiming that his Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS) party stole February parliamentary elections and the start of yesterday's vote was marred by hitches.

Deby called on nationals to "fulfill their civic duty" as he turned out to vote in the 11th district of the capital.

"I would like to ask all Chadians to come out in force to fulfill their civic duty," he said. The vote began after delays in some areas because of the late arrival of voting materials and staff, witnesses said.

In Djambalpar, part of the third district of N'djamena, a 19-year-old student, Abdelaziz Djikouana, said: "I expect a good result for

the president so he is re-elected."

Other voters were hoping for change however. In the sixth district, unemployed Salomon Laoutaye, 32, said: "Change is all I want, peace and security."

He added: "I don't agree with the boycott, you can't continue to boycott if you want change to happen."

Opposition leaders Saleh Kebzabo, Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue and Ngarleje Yorongar say they will not recognise the poll amid demands for reforms including the issuing of new voters' cards.

They claim that unfair conditions caused the MPS to crush them in the February parliamentary poll and are predicting the new poll will be an "historic fraud".

Meanwhile Deby has said he is certain of re-election and that the poll would be "credible". The real reason for his former challengers' boycott was that "they realise they will be beaten", the president told a press conference on Friday.

In the February polls, the first contested by the opposition since 2002, the MPS won an absolute majority with 113 of the 188 seats in parliament against a fragmented and underfunded opposition of more than 100 parties.

Surprising

FROM PAGE 1
GP which made Tk 1,071 crore in net profit after tax last year, is the leading mobile operator in the six-player cell phone market in Bangladesh, accounting for over 43 percent of the country's 7.2 crore subscribers.

It is a joint venture by Telenor, the largest telecommunications service provider in Norway, and Grameen Telecom Corporation. The Norwegian company, which has operations in 12 other countries, owns 55.8 percent share and Grameen Telecom 34.2 percent.

The rest 10 percent belongs to general retail and institutional investors.

The government committee's recommendations have surprised many legal and telecom analysts.

"There is no legal basis for Grameen Bank to take over the ownership of Grameen Telecom," a top lawyer of the Supreme Court told The Daily Star yesterday. "Grameen Telecom has not taken any money from Grameen Bank. Then how can Grameen Bank take over the shares of Grameen Telecom?"

He added that there is no link between Grameen Bank and Grameen Telecom, as the latter is a separate legal entity. "Grameen Bank has also never lent Grameen Telecom, as the microfinance bank can only grant loans for microfinance activities," the lawyer said, requesting anonymity.

The SC lawyer also pointed out that an agreement between Telenor and Grameen Telecom does not allow the telecom entity to hand over or sell its shares to any party other than the Norwegian telecom giant. Telecom analysts termed the recommendations utterly "unrealistic".

Grameen Telecom is an absolutely independent entity. The government has no authority to dictate what it should do with its shares, said a telecom analyst.

"The government just cannot ask any entity to give its shares to any other party. This type of recommendations will raise questions about the efficiency of the review committee," he added, asking not to be named.

Meanwhile, an official of the finance ministry said Grameen Bank does not own any stake in Grameen Telecom.

The inquiry committee led by Prof AK Monowar Uddin of Dhaka University submitted the report to Finance Minister AMA Muhith at his office in the secretariat yesterday.

The market value of the shares of GP, the bellwether of the stockmarkets, is more than Tk 7,000 crore. Yesterday, the shares of the lone-listed telecom company traded at Tk 155, down by 3.31 percent on the previous session of Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Blasts rock Nigerian city in latest unrest

Two killed, 8 injured

AFP, Kano

Bomb blasts have killed at least two people in northeastern Nigeria, the latest unrest to hit Africa's most populous nation after presidential elections and ahead of state governorship polls.

Police had so far counted at least two dead and eight wounded, while saying they suspected the Islamist sect known as Boko Haram was behind the attacks on Easter Sunday night in the city of Maiduguri.

It was unclear whether the blasts were linked to the unrest that swept across Nigeria's north last week, leaving more than 500 dead according to a local rights group.

Maiduguri has long been hit by violence blamed on the Islamist sect, which launched an uprising in 2009, and police said they suspected the group was behind Sunday's bomb blasts at a hotel tavern and at the gate of a transport hub.

The explosions, which police said were caused by bombs, occurred nearly simultaneously, with the two locations not far apart. Two blasts hit the hotel and one hit the station for buses and communal taxis.

"So far we have two dead and eight injured from last night's blast," police commissioner Mike Zuokumor told AFP. All the casualties were reported at the hotel, he said.

Police spokesman Mai Mamman said earlier that "from all indications, this is the

handiwork of Boko Haram, which has carried out similar attacks in the past."

The sect known as Boko Haram is seen as opposed to the ruling party in Borno state, where Maiduguri is the capital, and some of the recent violence blamed on the group is believed to have been politically motivated.

Most of Nigeria's 36 states will hold governorship elections on Tuesday, including Borno, where the All Nigeria Peoples Party is in power. The party controls three states in Nigeria.

"We have placed our men on the alert for the governorship tomorrow. We will not be daunted by terrorists," said Zuokumor.

Boko Haram had distributed fliers earlier Sunday warning of further attacks, saying "we are fighters waging jihad in Nigeria."

"We will never accept any system of governance apart from the one described by Islam because that is the only way Muslims can be liberated," the fliers said. "We do not respect the Nigerian government because it is illegal."

"We will continue to fight its military and police because they are not protecting Islam."

The sect launched an uprising in 2009 put down by a brutal military assault that left hundreds dead. In recent months, it has been blamed for a series of attacks and shootings, most of them in Maiduguri.

Boko Haram is "Western education is sin" in the local Hausa language, though the group has gone by various names.

Fresh charges in Indian 2G scam

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police filed graft charges yesterday against five people including the daughter of a key ally in the ruling coalition over an alleged multi-billion-dollar mobile phone licence sale fraud.

The charges name the daughter of the chief minister of southern Tamil Nadu state as a conspirator in the alleged rigging of the sale of second-generation (2G) mobile licences, the Central Bureau of Investigation said.

The daughter, Kanimozhi, who goes by one name, sits in parliament's upper house as a member of the regional Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party which is a key partner of the Congress-led federal coalition government.

Kanimozhi, whose father M. Karunanidhi leads the DMK, was one of five people accused as police filed their second set of charges in the probe into the alleged fraud.

Police have already arrested 11 people including former telecom minister A. Raja as part of their investigation into allegations.

Sad incident at reputable school

FROM PAGE 20

The government decision came in August, 2009 followed by a High Court ruling that declared corporal punishment illegal in January this year.

Child Parliament, a child rights group, says its latest survey revealed that 68 percent students in 512 schools across the country complained they are often beaten or slapped by school teachers.

On Wednesday, the Mastermind school administration expelled a boy and a girl of class eight for their alleged involvement in a brawl over facebook.

Ayesha and her several classmates went to their senior administrator to persuade her to withdraw the expulsion order.

She said Neera Habib started beating them when a teacher told her that the students were shouting inside the school compound to protest her decision of expulsion.

"She broke two rulers on us," said Ayesha showing marks on her arms.

"We just wanted to tell our teachers what happened the other day and that the expulsion of the two students was unjust," she said.

Ayesha's mother was deeply shocked by the incident.

"My daughter has been studying at the school for the last eight years. The teachers could have talked to me before beating her," she said.

This correspondent visited the school to get Neera Habib's comments but she refused to talk. She sent over two junior colleagues instead, who denied the beating of the students.

However, a number of students of the school alleged that Neera Habib often resorts to corporal

punishment to discipline students.

"She beat many of us by rulers on a flimsy ground in February," said a Class-X student requesting anonymity for fear of reprisal.

The administrator beat several students of class seven in February and grabbed a female student by the hair and asked why she had got a haircut like a film actress.

Neera runs the administration in absence of school Principal Syed Fakhruddin Ahmed, who spends most of the time in Canada.

4 parties for JS role

FROM PAGE 1

confirming such appointments.

The leaders said introduction of the system will bring an end to controversies regarding the appointments by doing away with the room for politicisation of the process.

The appointment process of constitutional officers such as the Supreme Court judges and the election commissioners has been mired in deep controversies due to politicisation.

National Awami Party, another ally of ruling Awami League, also joined the talk but did not say anything on the specific issue.

The special committee, on March 29 at a meeting, had preliminary discussions on the idea.

All five parties also placed same proposals on some other issues.

They proposed restoration of the parliament's authority to remove constitutional officials, limiting the tenure of caretaker governments, scrapping of the provision of making former chief justices the chief advisers to caretaker governments, placing copies of treaties signed with any foreign country in the parliament, stringent provision against extra-constitutional take over of state power, etc.

But in some of the proposals they contradicted each other as well.

Jatiya Party proposed maintaining Islam's status as the state religion, keeping the phrase "absolute trust and faith in the Almighty Allah" in the constitution's preamble and in article 8 that stipulates state's four fundamental principles, and keeping the phrase BISMILLAH-AR-RAHMAN-AR-RAHIM above of the preamble.

Jatiya Party, in its written proposal, also proposed not to impose a ban on Islamic political parties. Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad-led autocratic government gave Islam

the status of state religion through the eighth amendment of the constitution.

The four other parties -- Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Ganotanri Party and National Awami Party -- however in their written proposals strongly demanded scrapping of the status of Islam as state religion, and imposition of a ban on religion based political parties.

These four parties also proposed constitutional recognition of indigenous groups, a clause on climate change, introduction of direct election to reserved seats for women in the parliament, etc.

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড Agrani Bank Limited.

In association with Institute of Architects Bangladesh [IAB]
**Notice for Open Architectural Design Competition
for Design of Agrani Bank Bhaban, Shahbag, Dhaka.**

Agrani Bank Limited (ABL) has taken the initiative to construct Agrani Bank Bhaban - a multi-storied office building with multi-level parking facilities on its own land measuring approximately 1.50 bigha at Shahbag in Dhaka.

With this view, Agrani Bank Limited (ABL), in association with the Institute of Architects Bangladesh [IAB] is organizing an Open Architectural Design Competition to select the most appropriate design. Selected Architect/Firm shall have to render comprehensive services [architectural and engineering design, supervision etc.] as required for the successful completion of the project.

A panel of Jurors, nominated by ABL and IAB as per the competition guidelines of IAB, will select the best design from the entries. The three best designs shall receive the following awards-
First Prize : Tk. 5, 00,000.00 [Taka Five lakh only]
Second Prize : Tk. 3, 00,000.00 [Taka Three lakh only]
Third Prize : Tk. 2, 00,000.00 [Taka Two lakh only]

Interested Architects should note the following information-

01. Eligibility:
a. Only Architects who fulfill the eligibility conditions specified in the Dhaka Mohanogor Imarot Nirman Bidhimala 2008 for designing Type-F buildings shall be allowed to participate in the Open Design Competition.
b. In case of Firms, Owner or at least 01[one] of the Partners/Directors must fulfill the criteria above. In case of a winning entry, the eligible architect shall be the signatory in all contracts, drawings, documents and recipient of payments.
c. Firms and Architects may participate as a Joint Venture or in a Team. The Firm or Architect fulfilling the eligibility conditions shall be the Lead Firm/Lead Architect/Team Leader. In case of a winning entry, the Lead Firm/Lead Architect/Team Leader shall be the signatory in all contracts, drawings, documents and recipient of payments.

02. Competition Documents: Interested Architect/Firm may obtain Competition Documents from the office of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh [IAB] at House 11, Road 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1211 from **2nd May 2011 till 16th May 2011** (Except Fridays and Govt. holidays) between 4.00pm to 8.00pm paying an amount of Tk. 1,000.00 in cash. A written application for the competition documents has to be submitted addressing the Competition Director, Open Architectural Design Competition for Design of Agrani Bank Bhaban.

03. Queries: Written queries, if any, shall have to be submitted to the Competition Director at IAB office on or before 19th May 2011, Thursday within 8.00pm. A Briefing Session will be held on 26th May 2011, Thursday at the present head office of Agrani Bank Limited at, 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka 1000.

04. Submission: Entries shall be submitted on **13th July 2011, Wednesday**, between 3.00pm and 6.00pm at the present Head Office of Agrani Bank Limited at, 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka 1000.

Deputy General Manager
Estt. & Engg. Division
Agrani Bank Limited
Head Office, Dhaka

BANGLADESH ORDNANCE FACTORIES (BOF)
GAZIPUR CANTONMENT, GAZIPUR-1703
Phone: 9204613/4802 FAX: 880-2-9204633
Web: www.bof.gov.bd, E-mail: procurement_bof@yahoo.com

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in prescribed form are invited from bona-fide manufacturers/local agents/importers/suppliers for supply of the following items:

Sl. No	Nomenclature & Qty	Last date of selling tender form	Date of dropping & opening tender	Currency	Price of tender form	Tender No. & date
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1	60 KVA Automatic Voltage Stabilizer	9 May 2011 1300 hrs	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.300/- (Non refundable)	4401/372/4856 dt. 19-4-2011
2	Stainless Steel Sheet	9 May 2011 1300 hrs	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.300/- (Non refundable)	4401/304/4856 dt. 17-4-2011
3	Lead Screw With Nut (Ball Type)	9 May 2011 1300 hrs	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.300/- (Non refundable)	4401/302/4856 dt. 19-4-2011
4	Carbide Ball Milling Pot With 5 Items	9 May 2011 1300 hrs	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.750/- (Non refundable)	4401/275/4856 dt. 19-4-2011
5	Anti Corrosion Varnish with 06 Items	9 May 2011 1300 hrs	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 1000/- (Non refundable)	4401/300/4856 dt. 19-4-2011
6	CNC Spring Forming Machine	30 May 2011 1300 hrs	31 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Foreign	Tk 2000/- (Non refundable)	4401/303/6813 dt. 19-4-2011
7	S S Sheet 1692 KG	9 May 2011 1300	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.500/- (Non refundable)	4401/313/4856 dt. 19-4-2011
8	PVC Cable	9 May 2011 1300	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.300/- (Non refundable)	4401/152/4846 dt. 19-4-2011
9	Nitric Acid with 02 Items	9 May 2011 1300	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.300/- (Non refundable)	4401/309/4846 dt. 19-4-2011
10	UPS	9 May 2011 1300	10 May 2011 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk.750/- (Non refundable)	4401/312/6813 dt. 19-4-2011

- N. B.
1. Tender forms, with detail specifications and terms & conditions, can be bought from BOF Auditorium on all working days between 0930 AM and 1300 PM.
2. Commandant, BOF reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without any reason thereof.

Manager Purchase
For Commandant