

Turkey hosts
poor nations'
forum

AP, Istanbul

The acute problems of the world's poorest countries form the agenda of a UN-backed conference this week in Turkey, which has sought to balance its traditional Western alliances with growing ties to Africa, the Middle East and other developing regions.

Up to 10,000 delegates are expected to attend the five-day forum, which starts today.

The goal of the meeting is to promote ways to reduce poverty and hunger in impoverished countries, in coordination with international partners. Social issues such as gender equality will also be discussed.

Turkey's role as host highlights its strategic position linking the European and Asian continents, as well as its expanding regional profile and robust economic growth.



Protestors hit posters of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (R) and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi with shoes during a demonstration outside the Syrian embassy in London on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Syrian regime hunts
rivals in protest hub

AFP, Damascus

A 12-year-old boy was among several people killed yesterday as Syrian troops hunted down opponents of President Bashar al-Assad in two restive cities, activists said, despite world anger over the bloody crackdown.

Tanks rumbled into several districts of the central industrial city of Homs and deployed along the corniche in the northwestern coastal city of Baniyas, two flashpoint protest hubs, activists said.

Meanwhile justice authorities charged prominent dissident and former MP Riad Seif, a 64-year-old who suffers from cancer, with violating a ban on protests, his lawyer Khalil Maatuk said.

Overnight the military cut electricity and communications before entering several Homs districts that are home to opponents of Assad's regime, after having taken up positions inside the city on Friday, an activist said.

Gunfire reverberated in Bab Baba and Sebaa Amr, two neighbourhoods in the city of one million inhabitants which has been the scene of almost daily demonstrations

since the protests erupted mid-March.

A video posted online at YouTube showed around 20 truckloads of soldiers heading into the night towards Bab Sebaa. The authenticity of the video could not be verified.

Qassem Zuheir al-Ahmad, 12, was killed by gunfire in Homs, where other people also died, said an activist who was unable to specify who shot the boy or give an overall casualty toll.

"Snipers are posted on rooftops," the activist said.

The military conducted a similar operation after cutting electricity, communications and water in the Mediterranean port city of Baniyas, said Rami Abdel Rahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

According to the Observatory, more than 250 people, including a 10-year-old, were arrested during raids Saturday night and yesterday in Baniyas.

Al-Watan newspaper, which is close to the government, said the army was locked "in a fierce battle against groups using heavy weapons, anti-tank rockets and machine guns" in and around Baniyas since Friday night.

Schools asked

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briefing after the 10th meeting of the government committee on "Militancy Prevention and Resistance" at the education ministry.

Private television channels and print media will also be asked to run documentaries, short dramas and other programmes provided by the government highlighting adverse consequences of sexual harassment, drugs, and militancy, the minister added.

He said the information ministry will prepare the documentaries, short dramas and programmes. Accordingly, the next meeting of the committee will be held at the information ministry.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said they have already prepared manuals on the issues for teachers. The issues will also be incorporated in the curriculum so that students cannot go astray.

It is not a matter for the

government or a particular political party; rather it is a national issue to save the country from militancy and sexual harassment, he observed.

He added his ministry will form a committee headed by a high official to monitor the activities of educational institutions and mosques across the country.

Home Joint Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed told reporters the education ministry will prepare performance reports of academic institutions and mosques in this regard.

Home ministry sources say militant organisations target students, especially madrasa students in remote areas. So, guardians will also be asked to attend meetings on adverse impacts of militancy, drugs and sexual harassment. He said the meetings will be arranged by the managing committees of the institutions concerned.

The sources add imams of many mosques are not following the government instructions although they have already been asked to include these topics in their speech.

Tuku said the government will uproot militancy and sexual harassment from the country at any cost. They will take massive action against these involving public representatives, community policemen, teachers and imams, he added.

He said the number of educational institutions and mosques is very large compared to other organisations and government agencies as these exist at every community across the country.

The meeting was also attended by Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikdar, the education board chairman, inspector general of police and high officials of both ministries.

THAI-CAMBODIA CONFLICT

ASEAN summit fails
to resolve skirmishes

REUTERS, Jakarta

Southeast Asian leaders failed to achieve any breakthrough yesterday to end deadly border skirmishes between Thailand and Cambodia that overshadowed a regional summit in Jakarta supposed to showcase progress toward economic integration.

The clashes around crumbling Hindu temples in disputed areas have starkly illustrated the tensions between countries in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) that could derail plans to create a single economic community by 2015, and the apparent inability of the bloc to deal with disagreements.

Indonesia, host of the 18th ASEAN summit, has been pressing for a deal that would prevent the meeting being marred by the border dispute. But in the end all that was achieved was that the Thai and Cambodian foreign ministers would stay an extra day in Jakarta for more talks.

The two sides have spoken plenty of times in recent weeks, but without finding a resolution to clashes that have killed 18 people since April.

ASEAN has a policy of non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, and so has struggled to resolve the border dispute which is being driven by domestic political dynamics in both Thailand and Cambodia.

MEXICAN MINE BLAST

All 14 bodies
recovered

AP, San Juan De Sabinas

Rescue crews have recovered all bodies from a coal mine in northern Mexico hit by a gas explosion earlier this week, putting the total death toll at 14.

Mexican Labor Secretary Javier Lozano says the rescue phase has ended and the government will start a rigorous investigation into mine safety in Mexico.

The last body was found early yesterday and was that of a 38-year-old miner.

Mexican officials said it was caused by a gas buildup. The national mine workers' union said the mine's work force was not unionized and criticized the unsafe conditions in which Mexico's mines are allowed to operate.

Nine killed as storm
slams into Philippines

AFP, Manila

Tropical storm Aere slammed into the eastern Philippine coast yesterday, bringing heavy rains and landslides that have so far killed nine people and forced thousands to leave their homes.

The Philippines' state weather bureau said Aere made landfall over the island of Catanduanes before noon and moved northwest over the main island of Luzon.

Nine people were killed due to landslides, drowning and fallen power lines, mostly in the eastern Bicol region and Catanduanes, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in a statement.

Authorities in Bicol scrambled their rescue and relief missions but were hampered by the rough weather.

"The provincial road going to the (area) is not passable due to flooding," said Inspector Ayn Natuel, a spokesman at the Bicol regional police headquarters.

Aere, the first major storm of the year, hit Catanduanes, an island of about 250,000 people, with winds hitting 85 kilometres (53 miles) per hour at its centre.

Storm alert warnings have been hoisted over most of Luzon which is forecast to face heavy rains into Monday, the government weather station said. The disaster management council said more than 70,000 people were evacuated to safer ground as a pre-emptive measure in the eastern Bicol and in central Visayas regions.



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Extraordinary candidates, outside the criteria mentioned above for the required positions are especially encouraged to apply.

Rajuk to allot 1,250

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Dhaka-Mawa Highway at Suvadda, Chunkatia and Tegharia moujas of Keraniganj to solve the housing problem of the residents of Dhaka.

The authorities will fix the amount of deposit money to be paid by the applicants within a few days, noted a Rajuk official.

The deposit amount was set at Tk 1 lakh for a three katha and Tk 2 lakh for a five katha plot when Rajuk invited application for the first time in 1997.

Of the project's around 1,635 plots, the town planner will consider 385 more applicants who applied earlier and became eligible, added the official.

According to the new guidelines, people in 15 categories will be eligible to apply for plots.

The categories are freedom fighters, journalists, government employees, officials and employees of autonomous bodies, officials and employees of armed forces, businessmen

and industrialists, private job holders, private teachers, arts, literary and sports personalities, remittance earners, lawyers, agriculturists, engineers, and doctors.

Ministers, state ministers, speaker, deputy speaker, lawmakers and judges will qualify directly if they apply.

Among the project's affected people, each landowner with more than 10 katha of land will get a plot while the others will get flats, mentioned the Rajuk official.

As per the project schedule, Rajuk was supposed to complete the project by 2001. The authorities earlier invited applications twice to allot plots but failed to draw adequate response.

Jhilmil project director Sheikh Jahid Hasan Faruqui said they have already completed 90 percent of land-filling and 45 percent of overall works so far.

He hoped to finish the project and hand over plots within the next three years if everything goes smoothly.

SC appoints 3

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Rafique-ul Huq and barrister Ajmalul Hossain.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, asked the lawyers to place their opinions before it today.

The apex court passed the order during hearing yesterday on an appeal filed against the High Court verdict that declared the seventh amendment to the constitution illegal.

One Siddique Ahmed of Chittagong, who earlier challenged the seventh amendment to the constitution with the HC, has recently filed the appeal with the SC, seeking bail in a criminal case against him.

On August 26 last year, the HC delivered the verdict

following a writ petition filed by Siddique, who was convicted and sentenced to life-term imprisonment by a martial law court in a murder case in 1986.

Though the HC declared the seventh amendment to the constitution illegal, it neither acquitted him of the murder charge nor ordered for retrial of the case against him.

The HC also asked Siddique, who was then freed on bail, to surrender his bail bond to the lower court from which he had obtained it, and explore other legal options for his remedy.

Siddique surrendered to a court in Chittagong on April 7 in connection with the murder case, as per the HC order.




BCIC ENLISTMENT NOTICE
(বিগিআইসির পলিশিয়ারনে জাতীয় অর্থায়ন প্রতিষ্ঠান)

Managing Director, Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polash, Narsingdi, Bangladesh, invites application in prescribed form from the genuine Suppliers/Manufactures/Importers of Bangladesh for enlistment/renewal as suppliers for the period of next 1 (One) year for supply of stores, such as: A) Hardware, Tools, Machineries etc. B) Electrical, Electronics, Instrument, Laboratory Chemicals C) Office stationery & Printing Materials & Miscellaneous Stores. Application forms with detailed Terms & Conditions will be available from i) BCIC Head Office, 30-31 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6 Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (iii) Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polash, Narsingdi. on payment of Tk. 200.00 (Two Hundred) only (Non-refundable) per set Application are to be deposited to the office of General Manager (Commercial), of the Factory on or before 05/06/2011 Positively. Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.

Md. Harun Al Rashid
Manager (Purchase)
For Managing Director.

পত্রিকাক/কম/৩৩.০৩৬/১১-১২/১৭০১



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Rapid Action Battalion Forces Headquarters
Kumtola, Dhaka

Invitation for Tender

01. Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs.		
02. Agency	Rapid Action Battalion (RAB).		
03. Procuring entity name	DG RAB.		
04. Invitation for	Tender	Goods	Single
05. Invitation Ref. No.	Memo No. RAB HQ/PROCUREMENT/552.		
06. Date	05/05/2011.		
KEY INFORMATION			
07. Procurement method	OTM.		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
08. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
09. Project/programme name	Medicine for RAB Forces HQ & RAB Training School.		
10. Tender package No.	G-22(B)/2010-2011.		
11. Tender last selling date	24/05/2011 (17.00hrs).		
12. Tender closing date and time	Date	Time	
	25/05/2011	12.00hrs.	
	25/05/2011	12.30hrs.	
13. Tender opening date and time	Director (Admin & Finance), RAB Forces Headquarters, Dhaka.		
14. Name & address of the offices	Director (Admin & Finance), RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kumtola, Dhaka.		
15. Selling tender document	Procurement Section, RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kumtola, Dhaka.		
16. Pre-tender meeting	Name/Address	Date	Time
	Procurement Section, RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kumtola, Dhaka.	18/05/2011	11.00hrs
17. Name & address of the office receiving tender document	Director (Admin & Finance), RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kumtola, Dhaka.		
18. Opening tender document	Conference Room, 1st Floor, RAB Forces HQ, Cargo Admin Building, Kumtola, Dhaka.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
19. Eligibility of tenderer	The bidder should have valid trade license, current bank solvency certificate, Income Tax certificate, VAT registration certificate, drug license & the legal capacity to enter the contract. Bidder should not be blacklisted by any govt. organization in Bangladesh. A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested bidder on the submission of a written application on their own pad to the addressee below.		
20. Brief description of goods or works	Medicine for RAB Forces HQ & RAB Training School.		
21. Tender document price & type of payment	BDT 500.00 (five hundred) only in cash payment.		
22. Tender validity	30 June 2011.		
LOT INFORMATION			
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Tender security amount in Taka	
Lot-01	Medicine for RAB Forces HQ & RAB Training School	Tk. 9,500.00 (nine thousand five hundred) only	
Special instructions			
a. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender prior to acceptance.			
b. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the office of the Director (Admin & Finance).			
c. No tender document will be sent by courier or mail.			
Shams Alauddin Ahmed Lieutenant Colonel Director (Admin & Finance) RAB Forces Headquarters, Dhaka 8961107			

GD-2139