

Top UN envoy to visit Burma this week

AFP, Yangon
A top UN envoy will this week become the first senior official from the world body to visit Myanmar since the dissolution of the junta and the appointment of a nominally civilian government.

Vijay Nambiar, the chief of staff to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, was expected to hold talks with government members, while opposition figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi also planned to meet the envoy.

"Nambiar will come to Myanmar this week. He's likely to meet with government officials and the opposition," a Myanmar official told AFP yesterday.

Official sources in Naypyidaw said new President Thein Sein was not scheduled to meet Nambiar, but foreign minister Wunna Maung Lwin would meet him on Wednesday in the capital.



PHOTO: AFP
Myanmar's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi applauds a young boy after she gave him an envelope with money as a support for his education, at her NLD headquarters in Yangon yesterday.

Assad tightens grip on Syria's restive third city

REUTERS, Amman

Government forces backed by snipers on rooftops tightened their grip on Syria's third city on Monday, rights groups said, after President Bashar al-Assad sent in tanks in a sharpening crackdown on protests against his rule.

A human rights campaigner in Homs said snipers deployed in several residential neighborhoods as the sound of gunfire died down in districts of the city that tanks stormed on Sunday.

"There are snipers visible on rooftops of private and public building in al-Adawiya, Bab Sebaa and al-Mreijah neighborhoods. Hundreds have fled from three villages just to the southwest of Homs where tanks had deployed," the campaigner said.

Homs, the hometown of Assad's Western-educated wife Asma, lies in the middle of an agricultural region on the highway between Damascus and Syria's second largest city Aleppo. One of Syria's two oil refineries is in Homs.

The Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights said three civilians were killed on Sunday in Homs, a merchant city of one million people 165 km (100 miles) north of Damascus.

Activists said the authorities had widened a shutdown of Internet and phone services.

Syrian authorities have banned foreign media from reporting from the country.

Security forces dispersed a small pro-democracy demonstration in the center of the Damascus on Monday, arresting opposition writer Ammar Mashour Dayoub and several students, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

In the capital's district of Barzeh, 20 people were arrested in another demonstration, a resident of Barzeh said.

In the south, tanks deployed around the towns of Inkhil, Dael and Nawa, widening a sweep into the strategic region that borders Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

A man was killed on Sunday when security forces smashed their way into his home in the town of Tafas, a rights campaigner said.

**CHINA LANDSLIDE
Death toll rises to 12**

AFP, Beijing

The death toll from a rain-triggered landslide at a quarry in south China has risen to 12, and rescuers say they have seen no signs that 10 others still missing are alive, state media said yesterday.

The landslide on Monday buried a workers' dormitory and the surrounding area under hundreds of thousands of tonnes of mud in Luojiang village, near the tourist city of Guilin in Guangxi region, the Xinhua news agency said.

Police, firefighters and other rescuers were digging with the help of eight excavators to find the missing workers.

Local official Tang Chaobin said rescuers had found no traces of life under the rubble but would nevertheless continue the search until all of the missing were found.

**Talk or face Laden fate
Kabul warns Taliban**

AFP, Kabul

The Afghan government yesterday called on Taliban leaders to join peace talks initiated by the government or face the same fate as Osama bin Laden, who was killed by elite US commandos last week.

Opening a two-day conference discussing efforts to broker peace, Afghan Vice President Mohammad Karim Khalili said the talks were an opportunity for the Taliban to embrace peace.

"The peace and reconciliation programme initiated by the Afghan government is a good opportunity for the Afghan armed opposition, specially their commanders, to stop the destruction (of Afghanistan)," said Khalili.

"Otherwise eventually they will face the same fate as Osama bin Laden," he added.

Khalili reiterated that bin Laden's killing in Pakistan showed that Afghan claims were correct that al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders enjoyed support from elements in Pakistan.

"The killing of Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda, gives us hope that the voice of the people of Afghanistan is now being heard," he said.

Thai general election on July 3

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's election countdown began on Monday when the government set July 3 for what promises to be a tough battle, after the king endorsed a decree to dissolve the lower house of parliament.

The vote comes at a hugely sensitive time for Thailand, a year on from an army crackdown on opposition "Red Shirt" rallies in Bangkok. Clashes between troops and protesters left more than 90 people dead, mostly civilians.

Ruling AL, allies happy

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reach an understanding on the issue if the political leaders cannot come out from their "obsession to the past".

A civil society member, a former bureaucrat, an eminent educationist, a former minister or a former lawmaker might head the caretaker government in future in line with the apex court verdict, he suggested. AL would not hold one-sided elections, said Quader, also chairman of the parliamentary committee on information ministry.

Since 1991, those who lost in the general elections held under an interim or caretaker government raised questions on credibility of the polls and were not ready to accept the results, he added.

Quader urged BNP to sit with the parliamentary constitutional amendment committee and place their opinions in order to reach a consensus in this regard.

Suranjit Sengupta, co-chairman of the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment, termed the judgment a "historic and landmark".

"Through the verdict some people [SC judges] have made it clear that they have no interest in state power," he said applauding the chief justice for the verdict.

He said AL will seriously consider the SC judgment after getting a copy of the full verdict.

"The caretaker government system was a temporary solution and it can't run for ever."

According to him, politicians will now have to find a "new formula" for holding of parliamentary elections in future.

"I personally respect the judgment of the Supreme Court," said HM Ershad, chairman of Jatiya Party (JP), the key partner of ruling AL-led grand alliance, in his immediate reaction.

He said the judgment is the reflection of his party's suggestion to the special parliamentary committee to amend the constitution.

"I told the committee that the judiciary turns controversial if the chief justice is made the chief adviser to the caretaker government and the Supreme Court today [yesterday] observed the same," added the former president.

He said all the major political parties would nominate a person to be the chief

adviser in future.

He however questioned the consequences if the two major parties -- AL and BNP -- do not reach a consensus. "History says the two parties don't reach an agreement."

The Workers' Party of Bangladesh welcomed the SC judgment and said it is an important verdict considering the prevailing situation. This judgment has made it easy to find out an alternative to the judiciary involved in the caretaker government system, said Rashed Khan Menon, president of the party, in his immediate reaction.

He said all the political parties would now have to find an alternative through discussion and consensus under whom or which system the elections should be held.

Menon added the BNP-led opposition must reach a consensus with the government for the sake of keeping democracy continuing; otherwise it would seem they "have an evil intention".

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said the caretaker government will not be needed if the Election Commission is independent and strong.

If the EC is independent, it can hold elections fairly and neutrally, he said in his reaction to reporters at his secretariat office.

Shafique said the EC held upazila and municipality elections in a free and fair manner.

Democracy will get an institutionalised shape if the EC plays its independent role strongly, he said as a lawyer in his personal reaction.

The law minister said he felt that the SC has declared illegal the 13th amendment to the constitution on consideration that the state should be governed by elected representatives of people, and governing the state by unelected persons is unconstitutional.

Parliament will take a decision on amending the constitution after considering the SC observations with wisdom, he expressed the hope.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu termed the verdict "time worthy". "The caretaker government system could not continue forever," he said in a press statement.

Inu, also a lawmaker, said considering the prevailing political situation of the country, the next two elections should be held under the caretaker system.

DESTINY DEVELOPERS LTD.
National Scout Bhaban (10th Floor)
70/1 Inner Circular (VIP) Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER

01) Agency - Destiy Developers Ltd.
02) Invitation ref. No. & Date - DDL-014/11/01 Date: 08-05-2011
03) Procuring Method - Open Tender Method (OTM)
04) Budget and Source of Fund - Own Source
05) Name of Work - Construction of 2-Basement + 36 storied Steel Structure Multistoried "Destiny International Business Centre" (DIBC) at Pahartali, Chittagong on Turnkey basis.
06) Time for Completion of works - 48 (Forty eight) Month
07) Price of Project Information document - Tk. 5,000/- (Tk. five thousand) only Per set of Project information document.
08) Amount of Earnest Money - 2% (Two) of the quoted value from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Destiy Developers Ltd.
09) Tender Selling Date - From 16-05-2011 to 26-05-2011.
10) Tender Submission Date & Time - 09-06-2011 up to 03:00 PM
11) Tender Opening Date & Time - 09-06-2011 at 03:30 PM in presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives in the office of the undersigned.
12) Name and address of the office for Selling of Tenders - Manager (Accounts), Destiy Developers Ltd. National Scout Bhaban (10th floor) 70/1, Inner Circular (VIP) Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
13) Eligibility of Tenderers :
a) The tenderer must have current valid enlistment certificate, Trade license, VAT Registration Certificate and up to date Income TAX clearance Certificate.
b) Soon after the publication of the tender notice, the intending tenderers shall have to be acquainted with nature of the works and shall be given full facility and opportunity of having familiarity with the Project site.
c) Must be experience in executing steel structure High-rise Multistoried Building in Bangladesh or abroad Certificate to this effect not below the rank of Executive Engineer/equivalent to be enclosed with the tender.
d) Must be a Limited Company.
e) Joint venture (J.V.) with International Firm having similar experience of work are also eligible to participate the tender.
14) All payments will be made in Bangladeshi Taka.
15) All Steel section will be of eligible international origin.
16) The Contractor has to maintain the work for 1 (One) year from the date of completion.
17) The officer inviting Tender - Chief Engineer, Destiy Developers Ltd.
18) The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or part of it without assigning any reason what so ever.
19) If it is not possible to open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be opened on the next working date at the same time and venue.
20) A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 31-05-2011 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of the undersigned. Interested firms may attend the meeting for clarification.

Muhammad Shajahan
Chief Engineer
Destiy Developers Ltd.

7.1-scale quake hits Vanuatu

AFP, Sydney

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake hit yesterday off the south Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, the US Geological Survey reported, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The earthquake's epicentre was 26 kilometres deep, the USGS said. It was 135 kilometres from Isangel in Vanuatu and 147 kilometres from the Loyalty islands, part of the French territory of New Caledonia.

"We felt it on Vanuatu but it was not strong," said an official.

Destiny Developers Ltd.
National Scout Bhaban (10th Floor)
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INVITATION FOR TENDER

01) Agency - Destiy Developers Ltd.
02) Invitation ref. No. & Date - DDL-011/11/01 Date: 08-05-2011
03) Procuring Method - Open Tender Method (OTM)
04) Budget and Source of Fund - Own Source
05) Name of Work - Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Fighting System for 'Best Western Destiny Beach Hotel and Resort' at Plot # 14, Road # 1, Hotel motel zone, Cox's Bazar.
06) Time for Completion of works - 5 (Five Month)
07) Price of Tender document - Tk. 5,000/- (Tk. five thousand) only Per set of Tender document in cash.
08) Amount of Earnest Money - 2% (Two) of the quoted value from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Destiy Developers Ltd.
09) Tender Selling Date - From 12-05-2011 to 19-05-2011.
10) Tender Submission Date & Time - 05-06-2011 up to 03:00 PM
11) Tender Opening Date & Time - 05-06-2011 at 03:30 PM in presence of Tenderers or their Authorized representatives in the office of the undersigned.
12) Name and address of the office for Selling of Tenders - Manager (Accounts), Destiy Developers Ltd. National Scout Bhaban (10th floor) 70/1, Inner Circular (VIP) Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
13) Eligibility of Tenderers :
a) The tenderer must have current valid enlistment certificate, Trade license, VAT Registration Certificate and up to date Income TAX clearance Certificate.
b) Soon after the publication of the tender notice, the intending tenderers shall have to be acquainted with nature of the works and shall be given full facility and opportunity of having familiarity with the Project site.
c) The tenderers should be experienced in practically doing such works in a 5 Star or equivalent Hotel Project. A list of such work done in suitable proforma stating date of work order, date of completion, executed cost duly certified by the officers not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent to be enclosed. The contractor may also submit statement of works in hand.
d) Must be a sole agent of an International Fire Fighting Equipment manufacturing Company.
e) Must be a Limited Company.
14) Joint venture (J.V.) with International Firm having similar experience of work are also eligible to participate the tender.
15) The officer inviting Tender - Chief Engineer, Destiy Developers Ltd.
16) The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or part of it without assigning any reason what so ever.
17) If it is not possible to open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be opened on the next working date at the same time and venue.
18) A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 26-05-2011 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of the undersigned. Interested firms may attend the meeting for clarification.

Muhammad Shajahan
Chief Engineer
Destiy Developers Ltd.

Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Bangladesh, invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, and experienced development professionals who want to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions of the "Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction" Project:

- Town Manager (10) on Service Contract
- Settlement Improvement Expert (4) on Service Contract
- Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator (1) on Service Contract
- Gender Consultant (1) on Special Service Agreement (Application deadline: 16 May, 2011)

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications for SC positions should be received no later than **24 May, 2011** and for SSA position, **16 May, 2011**.


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Bangladesh