

# 20 protesters killed in anti-Saleh march in Yemen

REUTERS, Sanaa

At least 20 protesters were killed in the Yemeni capital Sanaa yesterday, when security forces opened fire on one of the biggest demonstrations against President Ali Abdullah Saleh in recent months, a Reuters witness said.

Scores were wounded when protesters tried to break through lines of police who also sprayed them with tear gas as tens of thousands spilled out of Change Square, where many youths have camped out since early this year demanding an end to Saleh's 33-year rule.

Injured protesters were rushed into a field hospital in the square on stretchers. "This is the worst day I've seen in three months. We're expecting more dead to come in," said doctor Jamal al-Hamdani, who was treating patients.

A Reuters witness saw dozens of men slumped on the ground, overcome by tear gas inhalation. Men on motorbikes and ambulances whisked them away from the scene.

Saleh, recovering in neighbouring Saudi Arabia from a June assassination attempt, is holding onto power despite international pressure to quit and eight months of protests which have paralysed the impoverished Arab state.

The Defense Ministry said on its website

protesters threw petrol bombs, setting a police car ablaze. State media blamed gunmen belonging to opposition parties for opening fire on the march.

Frustrated by Saleh's tenacity and their failure to dislodge him, protesters are seeking to ratchet up demonstrations, which have dragged into their eighth month.

"Escalation, escalation," they chanted, flooding side streets where there were large numbers of security forces and armed anti-Saleh tribesmen, who have thrown their weight behind the popular uprising.

"The pain and the bullet won't be a problem," said one protester with a heavily bandaged foot. "What we need is to get rid of this regime ... I could go on until they kill us all," Radwan Qasem, 37, told Reuters.

Earlier on yesterday, fighting broke out in a northern district of Sanaa, the latest breach of a ceasefire between tribesmen opposed to Saleh and troops loyal to him.

Shelling could be heard near the home of a prominent anti-Saleh tribal leader in the Hasaba district, the site of weeks of fighting. The family of Sadeq al-Ahmar said the Republican Guard, commanded by Saleh's son, had shelled their house.

The United States and Saudi Arabia fear unrest in Yemen will embolden al Qaeda's Yemen-based regional wing to launch strikes in the region and beyond.

# AFTERMATH OF 6.8 QUAKE IN INDIA, NEPAL



Clockwise, People inspect a damaged temple minaret in Siliguri after an earthquake hit the mountainous northeast Indian state yesterday. Nepalese rescue volunteers and security personnel stand on the rubble of a British Embassy wall collapse during the earthquake in Kathmandu. An Indian man points to a crack in the wall of his home after the quake in Siliguri.

PHOTO: AFP

# Mamata kicks off by-poll campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Four months after leading her party Trinamool Congress to power, Paschimanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has started electioneering for the September 25 by-polls.

Mamata, who will contest the by-polls to enter the assembly from Bhowanipore constituency of south Kolkata, launched her campaign by leading a march on Saturday.

She walked with Mukul Roy, federal junior minister for shipping; Subrata Bakshi, state PWD minister and state party president; Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, government chief whip, and many other Trinamool Congress leaders and workers.

The Bhowanipore seat fell vacant after Bakshi resigned. As per the Indian constitution, any minister of federal or state government, if not already elected, has to be a member of the national parliament or state legislature within 90 days of his or her becoming



the minister.

Mamata, who is a member of Lok Sabha, lower house of parliament, took over the reins of the state on May 20 after her party's landslide victory in the state assembly elections. She then resigned as federal railway minister.

In Bhowanipore, Mamata has to contest against Nandini Mukherjee, a computer science professor of Jadavpur University, whom the Left Front has selected as a candidate of Communist Party of India (Marxist).

BJP has decided not to field any candidate against Mamata.

Mukherjee and her supporters have already hit the streets for electioneering and she refuses to be overawed by her redoubtable rival.

In the 2009 Lok Sabha polls, Mamata took a massive lead of 40,000 votes in Bhowanipore assembly constituency which includes her residence Kalighat.

# 18 killed in India, Nepal

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warned of more aftershocks, reports our correspondent in New Delhi.

Seven persons were killed in Sikkim, four perished in Paschimbanga state's areas adjoining Sikkim and two in Bihar.

At least five people were killed in Nepal, three of them outside the British Embassy in Kathmandu, when a high brick wall collapsed.

Many tall buildings shook and developed cracks in Gangtok and Darjeeling and window panes shattered as thousands of people ran out to the streets in panic.

Two buildings of the Indo Tibetan Border Police collapsed in Pegong area though there was no immediate report of any casualty, a senior official said.

Communication links were

snapped with mobile towers getting damaged. Gangtok and several other areas were plunged in darkness following major power failures, reports Times of India.

Heavy rains and darkness hampered relief operations in the night.

Three army vehicles and a bus with soldiers were reported missing in the North Sikkim area, army officials said in New Delhi.

Around 200 people have been brought to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police relief camp in Gangtok, Ranjit Sinha, DG ITBP, said. He said some communication was being maintained with the headquarters through wireless.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke to Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling and offered to send troops to help the state

and summoned the National Disaster Management Authority for an emergency meeting. The Indian Air Force sent five planes to help with rescue and relief efforts in Sikkim.

Indian Cabinet Secretary A K Seth said army has been mobilised to help rescue and relief operations in Sikkim and Border Road Organisation deployed to restore normalcy on the only national highway connecting Sikkim to the rest of India by road.

Power lines snapped in Paschimbanga's cities of Darjeeling and Kalimpong which "are now in total darkness," Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said.

Tremors were also felt in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chandigarh.

# Sudan, south sign security deal

REUTERS, Khartoum

Sudan and South Sudan signed a border security agreement yesterday and said they would set up 10 crossing points, the first time the two neighbours have signed a deal over the tense boundary since the south declared independence in July.

Sudanese Defense Minister Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein told reporters the designated crossing points would help movement of citizens between the two states, speaking after meeting his southern counterpart in the highest-level bilateral meeting in Khartoum since the split.

Fighting has flared up along several points along the border, but on the northern side, since southern independence.

# Palestinian statehood bid will fail: Israel PM

AP, Jerusalem

Israel's prime minister predicted yesterday that the Palestinians' quest for UN membership would fail because it bypasses negotiations with the Jewish state, and said he was working close with Washington to ensure the statehood bid withers in the Security Council.

Benjamin Netanyahu put the blame for stalled negotiations squarely on the Palestinians, who are skeptical of his commitment to peacemaking and have refused to return to the bargaining table without an Israeli freeze on settlement construction.

"The truth is, Israel wants peace, and the truth is, the Palestinians are doing all they can to torpedo direct peace talks," Netanyahu told his weekly Cabinet meeting.

"They must understand that despite the current attempt to bypass negotiations again by going to the UN, that peace is achieved only through direct negotiations," Netanyahu added.



"Their attempt to be accepted as a full member of the UN will fail."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said over the weekend that he would submit his bid for full membership to UN chief Ban Ki-moon in New York on Friday, during the annual General Assembly session in New York.

Netanyahu said there was "close cooperation" with the U.S. to make sure the Palestinians' bid is shot down in the UN Security Council, the power-

ful body that must approve a membership bid. The US has threatened to veto the move if it wins backing from nine of the Council's 15 members - something Washington is trying to prevent.

That would leave the Palestinians with the option of seeking a lesser status of nonmember observer state at the General Assembly, a forum where they would expect to win the necessary simple majority of those present and voting.

Although that would be a largely symbolic victory, the Palestinians hope to use their elevated status on the international stage to press Israel for concessions in any future negotiations.

Netanyahu said he was traveling to New York with two goals: to block the statehood bid at the Security Council and to present "our truth."

Shortly before Netanyahu spoke, a close ally, Cabinet Minister Moshe Yaalon, told Army Radio that "we don't have a partner for peacemaking." It was not clear whether Yaalon was expressing a personal opinion.

# His studies in limbo

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two first degree criminal cases. One of the cases is for possessing illegal firearms, and the other is for obstructing law enforcers from carrying out their duties and attempting to murder. Even a home ministry investigation found no evidence of Limon's involvement in any wrongdoing. The boy, who had worked in a brick field on his holidays to chase his dreams of further studies, now faces a gruelling path in the country's judicial system.

Now that the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) in Savar fitted Limon with an artificial leg on August 29, his worries about going back to normal life, especially to his studies, grows further. Limon wants to return to Kathalia College where he was studying for a

higher secondary certificate when the incident maimed him.

"The cases against me have no basis whatsoever, but still to prove my innocence my parents and myself have to take the pain of going to the court every time there is a hearing," Limon said with tears in his eyes, "We are poor people trying to survive by working hard and studying. Why should we be subjected to such torture?"

Officials of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation giving Limon legal support in both cases, said unless the cases against him are dismissed, he cannot go back to normal life.

Director of the Investigation and

Documentation Unit of ASK Nur Khan Liton said only the state could help Limon's reintegration into normal life.

"With physical disability he won't be able to support his family any more," said Liton, "For him to attend hearings in two cases is painful and troublesome, so to continue his studies under these circumstances will be very, very difficult if not impossible."

A High Court bench granted Limon bail for six months on May 6. ASK officials said they will file relevant appeals with the High Court as soon as it opens on October 10 following a vacation.

Limon yesterday in a letter urged the National Human Rights Commission

to ensure his and his family's security in Jhalakathi where "an alleged gang of five Rab sources" is threatening the family with dire consequences if a case filed against Rab by Limon's mother is not withdrawn.

"I am scared to return to the village because this gang is constantly threatening my family. I also urged the commission to help me continue my studies," Limon said yesterday.

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star that his office will write to the home ministry requesting it to ensure Limon's safety.

"None of the investigations found Limon involved in any wrong doing," Mizanur Rahman said.



## REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)



Bangladesh

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks quotations for following Request for Quotation (RFQ).

### 1. RFQ for Office Equipment for CHTDF 2011

The RFQ along with the submission guide line is available at the following location:  
[http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_detail.php?id=295](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_detail.php?id=295)

### 2. RFQ for Generator for CHTDF 2011

The RFQ along with the submission guide line is available at the following location:  
[http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_detail.php?id=296](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_detail.php?id=296)

### 3. RFQ for LAN Equipment for CHTDF 2011

The RFQ along with the submission guide line is available at the following location:  
[http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_detail.php?id=297](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_detail.php?id=297)

The deadline for submission of quotation is **28<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 4:30 pm (local time)**