

Syria accuses West for 'total chaos'

AFP, Damascus

Syria accused the West of trying to unleash "total chaos" that would lead to the break-up of the country, as rights groups said Syrian forces strafed political dissidents with machineguns yesterday.

China meanwhile expressed its concern at the wider implications of the violence in Syria, even as the United States pressed Beijing, a veto-wielding member of the Security Council, to back stronger UN action against Damascus.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem, speaking at the annual UN General Assembly, said foreign governments sought to undermine the co-existence between Syria's different religious groups.

"How can we otherwise explain media provocations, financing and arming religious extremism?" he asked.

"What purpose could this serve other than total chaos that would dismember Syria -- and consequently adversely affect its neighbours?"

He said anti-regime protests in which at least 2,700 people have been killed have become a "pretext for foreign interventions."

Rejecting the accusations, Germany's Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle called for UN Security Council action.

"The courageous men and women in Syria deserve a clear signal of our solidarity," Westerwelle told the UN assembly, condemning the "brutal force" used by President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

Damascus does not accept the existence of popular opposition to the authorities, instead blaming "armed gangs" and "terrorists" for trying to sow chaos.

In the latest violence, a human rights group said Syrian forces raked the city of Rastan in central Homs province with machinegun fire from sunrise on Tuesday, wounding at least 20 people.

The city, about 180 kilometres from Damascus and a gateway to the country's north, has been the focus of security force operations against anti-regime dissent in flashpoint Homs province for several days, according to activists.



People are seen taking cover in high waves along the sea wall on Roxas boulevard during Typhoon Nesat in Manila yesterday.

Typhoon kills 16 in Philippines

AFP, MANILA

Typhoon Nesat smashed into the Philippines yesterday, leaving at least 16 people dead, with the capital Manila enduring waist-deep floods, blackouts and dramatic storm surges.

The Philippines is hit by about 20 major storms annually, many of them deadly, but the government said Nesat was one of the largest the country had faced this year, with its rain and wind path twice as big as average.

More than 100 other people were rescued, including fishermen whose boats capsized in rough seas.

Nesat slammed into the main island of Luzon before dawn, bringing maximum sustained winds of up to 140 kilometres an hour and gusts clocking in at 170 kilometres an hour.

Forces trying to 'destabilise polity' Says Indian PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said attempts were being made to "destabilise polity" and accused the opposition of getting "prematurely restless" to "force" early parliamentary elections.

He made it clear that his government will "stay the course" and complete its full five-year term. Fresh elections are due in the year 2014.

"I suspect there are other forces which want to destabilise our country," Singh said.

He said there was no dissension in his cabinet in the context of the recent Finance Ministry note which suggested that Palaniappan Chidambaram as the then Finance Minister had not done enough to ensure the auction of 2G telecom spectrum in 2007.

The government of Singh faces a 39-billion dollar scam relating to sale of telecom spectrum.

Replying to a question about the Opposition, which appeared reasonable in the UPA-I, the Prime Minister said the Opposition is getting "prematurely restless".

"I have said this in Parliament that we have the mandate of the people to govern for five years and the Opposition should wait for two-and-a-half years.

CASH-FOR-VOTE SCAM Advani's former aide denied bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A former aide of India's top opposition leader L K Advani of BJP was arrested yesterday after a court here rejected his plea for interim bail in connection with a cash-for-vote scam during a parliamentary trial of strength sought by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in July 2008.

The case relates to three BJP lawmakers waving wads of currency notes totalling Rs one crore on the floor of Lok Sabha, lower House of Parliament, in July 2008 alleging ruling Congress had attempted to buy their votes during a confidence motion sought by the prime minister.

US House mulls bill to freeze aid to Pakistan

Pakistan assures China on 'anti-terror' fight

AFP, Islamabad

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani yesterday extended Pakistan's full support to China in fighting Muslim separatists following claims the fighters were trained on its soil.

China last month pinned the blame on Islamist camps based in neighbouring Pakistan for training "terrorists" from its minority Uighur ethnic group blamed for two incidents in July in the Xinjiang region that left 21 dead.

Gilani made his comments following a meeting to discuss regional security with Chinese Public Security Minister Meng Jianzhu, who had also held meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari, Interior Minister Rehman Malik and General Khalid Shameem Wyne, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

"We are true friends. China's enemy is our enemy, we will extend our full cooperation to

China on security," Gilani said in televised comments aired by state-run Pakistan television.

Meanwhile a key American lawmaker from Texas has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to freeze all US aid to "disloyal" Pakistan.

The House Resolution if passed will freeze all US aid to Pakistan with the exception of funds that are designated to help secure nuclear weapons.

"Since the discovery of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan has proven to be disloyal, deceptive and a danger to the United States," Congressman Ted Poe said in a statement after tabling the resolution in the House on Friday.

"This so-called ally continues to take billions in US aid, while at the same time supports the militants who attack us. The United States must immediately freeze all aid to Pakistan," said Poe.

Bus crash kills 31 children in Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

At least 31 children and four adults were killed when a bus crashed on the motorway southeast of Pakistan's capital Islamabad, officials said yesterday.

The bus, which was ferrying private school pupils back from a picnic, came off the road and fell into a ravine in Punjab province late Monday.

"Thirty-five people, including 31 children and four adults, have been killed in the accident," Naseem Sadiq, a senior administration official in the children's home district of Faisalabad, told AFP.

"The driver, his helper, vice principal and a teacher of the school were also among the dead," he said. All the children were aged 10 to 15, he added.

Speaking from the scene of the crash in Chakwal, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) southeast of the capital, senior police officer Chaudhry Salim said overnight that 24 school students were among at least 30 dead.

Officials said they would investigate the cause of the accident, but said early reports indicated that the brakes failed.

In June, at least 12 children were killed when their school bus plunged into a canal in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

Pakistan has one of the world's worst records for deadly traffic accidents, blamed on poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Chowhati, Upazilla: Parbatipur
Dist. Dinajpur, Bangladesh

International Tender for Appointment of Pre-shipment Inspection Agent

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1.	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
3.	Procuring entity name	Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited (BCMCL) (A Company of Petrobangla).
4.	Procuring entity code	None.
5.	Procuring entity district	Dinajpur.
6.	Invitation for	Service.
7.	Invitation Ref No.	BCMCL/09/PSI/101/856.
8.	Date	25/09/2011.
9.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
10.	Budget and source of funds	Company own fund.
11.	Project/programme code	Not applicable.
12.	Project/programme name	Not applicable.
13.	Tender package No.	None.
14.	Tender publication date	28/09/2011.
15.	Tender last selling date	13/10/2011.
		Date Time(BST)
16.	Tender receiving last date and time	16/10/2011 11:30am
17.	Tender opening date and time	16/10/2011 12:00 noon
18.	Selling tender document	Tender documents are available in the following offices during office hours: 1. Accounts Division, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur, Bangladesh. 2. 75/C Indira Road, Dhaka-1215, Liaison Office, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Bangladesh. 3. Accounts Division, Petrobangla, 3, Kawran Bazar CA, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
	Receiving & opening tender documents	75/C Indira Road, Dhaka-1215, Liaison Office, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Bangladesh.
19.	Eligibility of tenderer	1. Internationally reputed inspection firms having minimum 10 years experience in providing similar services. 2. Other conditions mentioned in ITT Section-II.
20.	Brief description of services	Pre-shipment inspection of mining equipment, spares and others.
21.	Price of tender document	US\$20.00 or Tk 1500.00 (one thousand five hundred only) (non-refundable).
	Bid bond	US\$250.00 or Tk 18,500.00 (eighteen thousand five hundred only).
22.	Name of the official inviting tender	Engr Md Mizanur Rahman.
23.	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Mining).
24.	Address of official inviting tender	Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur, Bangladesh.
25.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 880-05327-56098, Fax No: 880-05327-56299. Mobile no 01729-098292.
26.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Engr Md Mizanur Rahman
General Manager (Mining)

GD-4028

China tells police to use social media

AFP, Beijing

China has ordered police nationwide to make more use of social networking sites to ensure greater openness and "dispel misunderstandings", the state Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

Huang Ming, vice-minister of public security, delivered the message at a conference on Monday aimed at helping law enforcement officials to use China's hugely popular microblogs -- sites similar to Twitter -- the report said.

"Internet users are one of the major groups of our society and they are not satisfied," Huang posted on the Beijing Public Security Bureau microblog.

"Public security microblogging should gradually cross the country to each province and city and form the backbone of public security."

China's online population -- the world's largest at 485 million -- is increasingly turning to Internet services such as the microblogs for information, instead of relying on news from the country's official media.

Microblogs, known as weibos, have proved an effective public platform to report governmental and police malpractice as traditional media outlets such as newspapers remain more easily controlled by government authorities.

The recent case of a Chinese tourist who was dragged from his hotel room in Beijing and savagely beaten, reportedly by security staff local officials had hired, provoked outrage among Internet users.

Scores injured in China metro crash

AFP, Shanghai

Two metro trains collided in Shanghai yesterday, injuring more than 240 people, the system operator said, just months after a deadly high-speed rail crash that shocked China.

The firm blamed the accident on a signal failure -- the same cause as a July train crash that killed at least 40 people and shook public confidence in China's vast rail network.

Local authorities were investigating the exact cause of the crash, in which one metro train rear-ended another, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Beijing to tighten grip on media, web

AFP, Beijing

China's top leaders are considering "cultural reforms", state media reported, which analysts said would be aimed at tightening control over the media and Internet to shape public opinion.

A meeting chaired by President Hu Jintao on Monday called for the "mastering of new trends in cultural development" and for an emphasis on "Chinese characteristics" as part of the proposed overhaul, Xinhua news agency said.

Details of the draft changes to be considered by Communist Party leaders next month were not given, but analysts said they were likely to tighten Beijing's grip on newspapers, television and popular social networking sites.

For the past decade Beijing has been encouraging state-run media to be more competitive and less reliant on state subsidies, which has led to more critical reporting and racier programming as outlets compete for readers and viewers.

The huge and rising popularity of weibos -- microblogs similar to Twitter that have taken China by storm since the first launched two years ago -- has also posed major challenges to censors and fuelled official concerns.

Telangana temples shut for statehood

IANS, Hyderabad

It is not just the ordinary people in Telangana who are affected by the ongoing general strike. Even the temples have been shut by priests -- all for the cause of a separate state.

Hundreds of temples across the region, comprising Hyderabad and nine other districts, stopped 'Arjitha sevas' and other special rituals as priests and other employees joined the 'people's strike' which entered its 15th day.

Except for 'darshan', the temples have stopped rituals like 'Arjitha sevas' 'Abhishekha' and 'Arachana' on a call given by the Joint Action Committee of Telangana priests and employees of endowment department, which manages the affairs of the temples.

Upendra Sharma, one of the top priests and leaders of JAC, said the action was in tune with the aspirations of four crore people of Telangana who are fighting for a statehood.

According to officials of the endowment departments, the temples would lose huge income because of the protest.

Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple at Yadagirigutta in Nalgonda district, also called the Tirupati of Telangana, wore a deserted look yesterday as the temple was shut for all rituals. Hundreds of people throng the temple every day and the strike is likely to result in the loss of Rs.4-5 lakh.

The other famous temples in the region, including those at Bhadrachalam, Vemulawada and Basar, were also hit by the strike by priests and other employees.

A large number of temples in Mahabubnagar, Warangal and Karimnagar districts -- the hotbeds of Telangana movement -- were closed since Sep 13. Rajarajeswari Swami temple at Vemulawada in Karimnagar district has so far lost revenue of Rs.60 lakh.

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

বিষয় : সাধারণ আসবাবপত্র/সিকিউরিটি আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

২০১২ ও ২০১৩ সালের জন্য অত্র ব্যাংকের সাধারণ আসবাবপত্র/সিকিউরিটি আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে তালিকাভুক্তি করণের লক্ষ্যে খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন সাধারণ আসবাবপত্র/সিকিউরিটি আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নতুন তালিকাভুক্তকরণ/নবায়নের জন্য ব্যাংকের নির্ধারিত ফরমে নিম্নোক্ত তথ্যাদি পরিপালন সাপেক্ষে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ-

- ০১। আবেদন ফরম/তালিকাভুক্তির যোগ্যতা সংক্রান্ত নীতিমালা সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয় ভবনের ৬ষ্ঠ তলায় কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন হইতে ১২ অক্টোবর ২০১১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রতিটি = ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা নগদ মূল্যে ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
- ০২। আবেদনপত্রের সহিত সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়ের অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর যে কোন শাখা হইতে ক্রয়কৃত পৃথক পৃথক পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে তালিকাভুক্তি ফি বাবদ = ৩,০০০.০০ (তিন হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হইবে।
- ০৩। সংগৃহীত আবেদনপত্র ২৬ অক্টোবর ২০১১ তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র বিভাগে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- ০৪। ব্যাংকের যাচাই/বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক সন্তোষজনক পরিদর্শন পূর্বক সন্তোষজনক প্রতিবেদন দাখিল সাপেক্ষে যোগ্যতা অর্জনকারী আবেদনকৃত সাধারণ আসবাবপত্র/সিকিউরিটি আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে পৃথকভাবে তালিকাভুক্ত করা হইবে।
- ০৫। যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন সাধারণ আসবাবপত্র ও সিকিউরিটি আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নতুন তালিকাভুক্তি এবং তালিকাভুক্তি নবায়ন করার জন্য সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের যে কোন শাখা থেকে ক্রয়কৃত পৃথক পৃথক পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে = ৭৫,০০০.০০ (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) টাকা করে সিকিউরিটি মানি (ফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হইবে।
- ০৬। নবায়নের ক্ষেত্রে ইতিপূর্বে প্রদত্ত = ৭৫,০০০.০০ (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) টাকা তাদের আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে সাধারণ আসবাবপত্র অথবা সিকিউরিটি আসবাবপত্র (যে কোন একটির ক্ষেত্রে) পরবর্তী সিকিউরিটি মানি হিসেবে গণ্য করা যেতে পারে।
- ০৭। নতুন তালিকাভুক্তি এবং নবায়নের জন্য আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখিত সকল কাগজপত্রের ডকুমেন্টের হালনাগাদ সভায়িত ফটোকপি জমা দিতে হইবে। আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শনকালীন কমিটির সদস্যদের চাহিদা মোতাবেক সকল কাগজপত্র/ডকুমেন্টের মূল কপি দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- ০৮। সাধারণ আসবাবপত্র/সিকিউরিটি আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তালিকাভুক্তি করা/না করা সম্পূর্ণভাবে ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষের একতিয়ারাধীন।

(সাবিধা সুলতানা)
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার