

Burma to free 6300 prisoners

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar announced a mass prisoner amnesty yesterday, raising hope for the imminent release of hundreds of political detainees in what would be a major sign of change in the authoritarian state.

More than 6,300 prisoners will be pardoned from today "on humanitarian grounds", state television announced, without saying whether political prisoners would be among them.

The fate of the country's estimated 2,000 political detainees, who include pro-democracy campaigners, journalists, monks and lawyers, has long been a top demand of Western nations that have imposed sanctions on Myanmar.

The announcement came just hours after a government-appointed human rights panel called for a pardon for the country's "prisoners of conscience".

The National Human Rights Commission

said freeing detainees "who do not pose a threat to the stability of state" would allow them to participate in "nation-building", according to an official English-language newspaper.

It noted that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and foreign governments were calling for "the release of what is referred to as 'prisoners of conscience'", in a rare official acknowledgement of their existence.

On Monday a government official told AFP that political prisoners were expected to be freed within days.

Their release would be arguably the clearest sign yet of change under a new leadership that has reached out to critics including opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, freed in November after seven straight years of detention.

President Thein Sein, a former general and senior junta figure, has surprised critics by signalling a series of political reforms since taking power following a controversial election last November.

Six wounded in Pakistan rocket attack

AFP, Peshawar

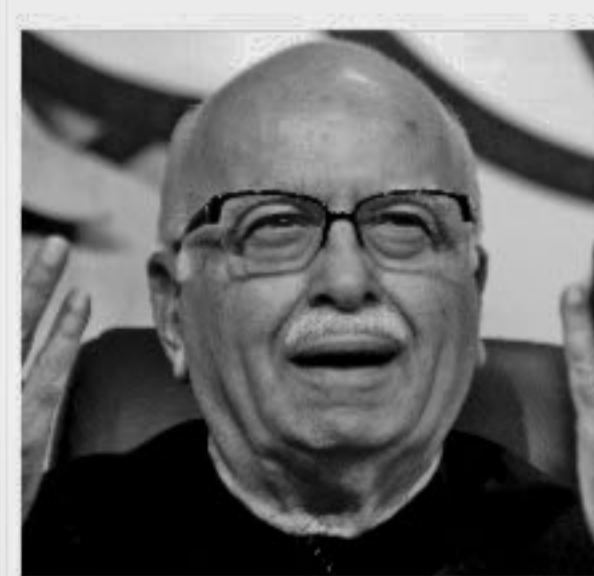
At least six people were wounded but none were killed when rockets struck a meeting of tribal elders convened by a provincial governor in northwest Pakistan yesterday, senior officials said.

Senior administration official Sahabzada Anis corrected his earlier statement that one person had been killed when militants apparently perched on nearby mountains fired rockets on the gathering in Kalaya town of tribal Orakzai district.

He said that six people were wounded, one critically.

Anis added that one rocket hit the gathering before the arrival of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) governor Masood Kausar.

Advani launches anti-graft road trip



LK Advani

AFP, New Delhi

India's 84-year-old opposition leader LK Advani set off on a five-week road trip across the country on Tuesday in a protest he said would put pressure on the government to tackle corruption.

The leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who began his 7,600-kilometre (4,700-mile) journey, 'Jan Chetna' in the impoverished state of Bihar, plans to cover 27 of India's 35 states and federal territories over 38 days.

Advani, who is travelling on a converted bus with an electronic power lift from which he gives speeches, has been coy over whether he still has ambitions to be prime minister.

"There is anarchy in the country today because of rampant corruption," Advani said as he started his journey in Sitabdiara, the birthplace of Indian socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan.

"I want to awaken the consciousness of the common man through my campaign. The only agenda I have is to fight corruption," he said.

Wildlife bill to be reviewed

FROM PAGE 20

actually lose significant part of their areas to commercial plantation, as degraded areas within those reserved forests have been defined as buffer zones.

The trees in the buffer zones would be commercially extracted under social forestry programme, and so would not serve the purpose of protecting wildlife.

Experts say, the decisive bill does not give any guideline on what is to be done to conserve the endangered wildlife, identified by the proposed law. The relevant laws of South Africa, Kenya and India contain such guidelines.

Internationally reputed wildlife expert Dr Reza Khan thinks there is no reason to

have a new law if no organisational structure exists to implement it. He also questions capacity of the forest department in protecting wildlife as it has already failed to do so.

Criticisms are also there as the bill does not propose any institutional mechanism to oversee hunting.

The sub-committee chief later told this correspondent at his NAM flat residence that they were intending to have talks with experts and different organisations to fine-tune the bill before submitting its findings to the main committee.

"Different individuals and organisations including Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela) and Bangladesh Shooting

Federation have already expressed their willingness to sit with the sub-committee," Sohrab Ali added.

State Minister for Land Mostafizur Rahman, who was a former state minister for environment and forests, placed the bill in parliament on August 23 this year. The bill aims to protect endangered animals and plants of Bangladesh. On the same day, the bill had been sent to the respective watchdog for scrutiny.

Placing the bill, Mostafizur had said the government in 1972 framed a law for the conservation of forests but no effective measure was taken for the wildlife.

Too much vitamins

FROM PAGE 20

beneficial if a person is deficient in a nutrient.

And excess may even harm, as the study in Archives of Internal Medicine finds.

All of the women, in their 50s and 60s, were generally well nourished yet many had decided to take supplements.

Multivitamins, folic acid, vitamin B6, magnesium, zinc, copper and iron in particular appeared to increase mortality risk.

The researchers believe consumers are buying supplements with no evidence that they will provide any benefit.

HARMSVGAINS

They are quick to stress that their study relied on the 38,000 US women who took part in it recalling what vitamins and minerals they had taken over the previous two decades.

And it is difficult to control for all other factors, like general

physical health, that might have influenced the findings.

But they say their findings suggest that supplements should only be used if there is a strong medically-based cause for doing so because of the potential to cause harm.

"Based on existing evidence, we see little justification for the general and widespread use of dietary supplements," Jaakko Mursu of the University of Eastern Finland and his research colleagues said.

LESS IS MORE

In the study, iron tablets were strongly linked with a small (2.4 percent) increased death risk, as were many other supplements. The link with iron was dose-dependent, meaning the more of it the individual took, the higher their risk was.

Conversely, calcium supplements appeared to reduce death risk. However, the researchers say this finding needs more investigation and they do not recommend that people take calcium unless advised to by a doctor in order to treat a deficiency.

Christian Gluud and Goran Bjelakovic, who review research for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews to evaluate best evidence, said: "We think the paradigm 'The more the better' is wrong."

They say dietary supplementation has shifted from preventing deficiency to trying to promote wellness and prevent diseases, and caution: "We believe that for all micronutrients, risks are associated with insufficient and too-large intake."

Helen Bond of the British Dietetic Association said some people, like the elderly, might need to take certain supplements. For example, vitamin D is recommended for people over the age of 65.

But she said that generally, people should be able to get all the vitamins and minerals they needed from a healthy, balanced diet.

She said some took supplements as an insurance policy, wrongly assuming that they could do no harm. "But too much can be toxic and it is easy to inadvertently take more than the recommended daily amount."

19 policemen

FROM PAGE 20

Government Primary School in Kaliakair of Gazipur, died at 8:30pm on Monday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

DMCH sources said doctors on duty declared him dead shortly after Dhaka Court Police took him there.

Akhter's son Shawkat Hossain told The Daily Star that police arrested his father at Kabirpur Bazar in a "false" rape case and tortured him at Karbirpur police outpost Monday morning.

He alleged that a hostile neighbour framed his father, using a female garment worker.

Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said a garment worker filed the rape case against Akhter on Saturday.

Sirajul claimed some locals handed over Akhter to the police after beating him up. Akhter fell sick after he was produced before a Dhaka court on Monday.

A three-member probe committee has been formed to investigate the incident and asked to submit its report within five working days.

Contacted last night, ASP (Dhaka) Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, however, said the 19 were replaced as a matter of routine.

NEWS IN brief

Polls open in Liberia

AFP, Monrovia

Liberians began voting yesterday in the second election since the end of a 14-year civil war, which is being closely watched as a litmus test of the west African nation's fragile democracy.

Long queues were seen at polling stations in the capital as voters waited from early morning in the rain to cast their ballots.

The elections are the first since President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf made history when she became Africa's first female president in 2005 elections, shortly after the country emerged from a long and savage war which left some 250,000 dead.

The 2011 joint Nobel Peace Prize winner is facing a stiff challenge from main opposition candidate Winston Tubman, 70, who has crowd-pleasing foot-

Mladic hospitalised

AFP, Belgrade

Former Bosnian Serb army chief Ratko Mladic, detained by a UN court pending trial for genocide and war crimes, has been hospitalised with pneumonia, a lawyer said yesterday.

Last week Mladic told a judge before the ICTY he was suffering from a kidney stone and demanded to be examined by Serbian doctors.

Mladic, along with other charges, is accused of masterminding the murder of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys over a six-day period at Srebrenica in July 1995, in Europe's bloodiest atrocity since World War II.

Maldives takes security

FROM PAGE 20

security team for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Summit.

China, an observer nation at Saarc, will provide closed-circuit television (CCTV) equipment for surveillance.

Official sources said the hosts do not have a strong defence force, most of the Saarc member states are providing support to them.

Besides, the heads of states and governments of the eight-nation regional organisation will have their own security staff with them.

The Maldives authorities have started hectic security preparations to ensure fool-proof security for the Saarc leaders, several of whom are high-profile international figures, said Minivan news of

the Maldives quoting MNDF spokesperson Abdul Raheem.

"We have to look at this as a high-risk event. Some heads of states are high-risk personalities, but we are treating each of them as a high-risk individual to ensure their security," mentioned Raheem.

Previously the Maldives hosted the summit in its capital Male, but this time Addu Atoll has been picked as the venue.

The event will though be spread across several islands because the Addu Island alone can't accommodate all the participants, said sources.

Nepal, Bhutan and Afghanistan are the other members of the South Asian regional cooperation body.

CHHATAK CEMENT COMPANY LTD.
Chhatak, Sunamgonj.
AN ENTERPRISE OF BANGLADESH CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION (BCIC)

BCIC INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

1 Ministry	Ministry of Industries.
2 Agency	Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).
3 Procuring entity name	Managing Director, Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd.,
4 Invitation for (Brief description of goods)	2 Nos. 3 (Three) way Solinoid Valve for Turbine Oil unit.
5 Tender no. & date.	CCCL/PUR/F/12/11-12/3214 dt. 08-10-2011
6 Procurement Method	International Open Tendering Method. (IOTM)
7 Source of funds	Own fund.
8 Last date of Selling the tender	20-11-2011 during office hours.
9 Tender closing date and time	21-11-2011 at 11:00 A.M
10 Tender opening date and time	21-11-2011 at 11:15 A.M
11 Selling tender documents (Principal)	Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
12 Selling tender documents (others)	(1) General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. (2) General Manager (A&F), Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamgonj, Bangladesh.
13 Place of Receiving tender documents	Office of the General Manager (Commercial) Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamgonj, Bangladesh.
14 Place of Opening tender	Office of the General Manager (Commercial), Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamgonj, Bangladesh.
15 Eligibility of Tenderer	Mentioned in the tender documents.
16 Tender document price	Tk. 400.00 (Four Hundred) per set. (Non-refundable)
17 Amount of tender security	Tk.16000.00 (Sixteen Thousand) or its equivalent USD.
18 Validity of tender and tender security	120 days (One hundred twenty days) & 148 (One hundred forty eight days) respectively.
19 Name of official inviting tender	Managing Director, Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamgonj, Bangladesh.
20 Special instruction	(1) The Purchaser reserves the right to accept any or all tenders, without assigning any reason thereof. (2) Due to unavoidable circumstances if the tender shall not possible to open in schedule date & time, the same will be opened on the following working day at the same office & time. (3) In all cases "The Public Procurement Rules (PPR)-2008" shall be followed.

Md. Abdul Awal
Manager (Purchase)
For Managing Director.

More hurdles ahead

FROM PAGE 20

would not occupy an inch of the parliament premises.

According to official sources, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), the lone foreign financier of the project, submitted two drawings based on Khamarbari route and one on Bijoy Sarani.

One of the Khamarbari designs suggests that the metro will require a 49-metre stretch into the parliament's eastern premises to facilitate the turning while the other suggests that the route can go occupying central reservation of Sangsad Avenue.

But the latter case design demands demolition of buildings. Sources in the project said it is impractical to demolish and displace the Barc establishment which greatly contributes to the country's food production.

Moreover, if the 10-metre pillars of the metro rail are set up on the narrow central reservation on Sangsad Avenue, it will reduce the road width significantly (more than 10 feet) and there will be no pavements, said Mubasshar referring to a technical presentation on metro rail organised by IAB on Monday.

Metro also has to go three metres higher at difficult turnings in addition to its original height of 19 metres to pass over two elevated ramps of proposed elevated expressway.

"Taking a turn and climbing up a slope simultaneously is risky," said Mubasshar, "It will hinder increasing the number of compartments of the train from six to 10 to serve more passengers in future."

Tanwir Nawaz, a transport sector expert, who worked for Dhaka Transport Coordination Board, said it depends on the detailed design to ascertain the extent of demolition and the means of resolving the difficulties.

However, Jica study team and local experts observed that the route through Bijoy Sarani is the most convenient and has the adequate width.

Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) objected to it on the plea that it would obstruct air operation at Tejgaon airfield during war and emergency.

Although the experts said that BAF objection was unfounded, government opted for the alternative route.

"We are waiting for the government decision," said an official of Jica that has pledged 80 percent of the estimated \$ 2.7 billion for constructing the 20.1-kilometre line from Uttara third phase to Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel.

Ultra Powered by Citycell

Get used to surprises

Ultra PRE-PAID PLAN

Plan	Regular Speed up to	Promotional Speed up to*	Monthly Subscription Fee (Tk.)	Regular Usage Limit	Promotional Regular Usage Limit
Ultra 1	150 Kbps	1.5 times	Tk. 275	800 MB	1 GB
Ultra 2	300 Kbps		Tk. 800	1.5 GB	3 GB
Ultra 3	512 Kbps		Tk. 1800	1.5 GB	2 GB
Ultra 7	300 Kbps		Tk. 500	800 MB	1.5 GB

Ultra Pre-paid (Connection+Modem) only Tk. 1,290

Ultra POST-PAID PLAN

Regular Speed up to	Promotional Speed up to*	Monthly Subscription Fee (Tk.)	Regular Usage Limit	Promotional Regular Usage Limit
150 Kbps	1.5 times	Tk. 275	1 GB	1.5 GB
300 Kbps		Tk. 600	1 GB	2 GB
512 Kbps		Tk. 2200	2 GB	3 GB

Ultra Post-paid (Connection+Modem) only Tk. 1,790

To activate ultra pre-paid plan type the desired plan name from your Ultra connection and SMS to 9666

* Double usage is only for ultra 300kbps post paid and Ultra 2 pre-paid plan. To know about the promotional usage limit of other plans visit www.citycell.com

* Promotional speed is applicable from 6 AM - 6 PM
* Regular speed is applicable from 6:01 PM - 5:59 AM
* Promotional speed & usages are applicable for both new and existing ultra users.

Helpline: 121, 011 99 121 | www.citycell.com

Ultra
THE FASTEST MOBILE BROADBAND IN BANGLADESH

Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd.

Appointment of Consultant for Demutualization

The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) is one of the leading and most modern stock exchanges in South Asia. Established in 1995, CSE pioneered automated trading system in Bangladesh in 1998. It is a public company limited by guarantee having share capital. At present there are 148 corporate members of CSE who conduct trading activities from nearly 250 branch offices. On October 28, 2011 CSE's turnover was US\$ 45 million which is the highest daily turnover so far achieved by CSE. At present there are 239 listed securities at CSE. There is a Board consisting of 24 members to provide policy decisions. 12 Directors of the Board are elected by the members of the exchange and 12 Directors are selected from different categories (one from among investors of listed securities, one listed issuer companies and the remainder from among distinguished persons who are not associated either with the Exchange or with any of its members) and approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission. There is an independent secretariat headed by Chief Executive Officer.

The Government of Bangladesh has recently asked CSE to provide a comprehensive plan for demutualization of stock exchange by December, 2011. The Board of CSE has decided to appoint a competent Consultant for the purpose of demutualization. The Consultant would be required to provide full fledged proposal to CSE regarding its demutualization including changes in the rules and regulations, appropriate demutualization model and implementation thereof.

In this regard, proposals are invited from competent individuals/ firms detailing the step-wise work plan along with the financial offer latest by **October 31, 2011** to the following address.

Chief Executive Officer, Chittagong Stock Exchange
CSE Building 1080, Sk. Mujib Road, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
Telephone: +88-031-714632-3, 720871-3, 726976-7

Vacancy Announcement
Smiling Sun Franchise Program

Smiling Sun Franchise Program (SSFP) is the largest health project of USAID-Bangladesh announces vacancies for the following positions in Dhaka.

1. Fin/Mgt Training Specialist
2. Fin Mgt/Field Support/Monitoring Specialist
3. Look and Layout Specialist
4. Grants/Compliance Specialist
5. Strategic Partnership Specialist

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.smilingunhealth.com/jobs>. Interested candidates are requested to send their CV in strict confidence, mentioning current salary by emailing to jobs@smilingunhealth.com. Please mention the position in the subject line. Application should be submitted no later than 17 October 2011.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants".

"Women are especially encouraged to apply"