

Bus plunges into river in Nepal

43 killed

BBC ONLINE

At least 43 people were killed yesterday when a bus veered off a mountain road into a river in eastern Nepal, police said.

Other passengers are missing after the accident in remote Sindhuli district, about 100km from Kathmandu.

The bus swerved on an unfinished stretch of road, lost control and plummeted 300 metres into the Sunkosi river, police told the AFP news agency.

Buses are often overcrowded in Nepal and accidents on poorly maintained mountain roads are common.

Police, soldiers and villagers are having a hard time reaching the wreckage of the bus.

A number of people are feared trapped inside - others may have been swept away by the fast-flowing river.

"Forty-three dead bodies have already been recovered and the bus has been destroyed. It is likely that more bodies will be found near the crash site, which is very remote," police official Lokendra Shrestha told AFP.

Burma political prisoner releases 'not enough'

BBC ONLINE

Burma's main opposition group yesterday called on the government to free all political prisoners, a day after it released about 200.

The NLD, of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, said it was frustrated because more had not been freed.

Two well-known figures - a comedian and an ethnic militia leader - were released under the amnesty.

But many more high-profile dissidents, government critics, lawyers and journalists remain behind bars.

There are thought to be about 2,000 political prisoners in Burma.

The government says a total of 6,359 prisoners are being released under the amnesty, which was announced on



Tuesday.

It is not yet clear exactly how many political prisoners were included in that number, but the Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said it had confirmed 206 so far.

"There are still many prisoners who we expected to be released and who the

people expected to be released. We feel frustrated," Nyan Win, spokesman for Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, told AFP news agency.

Zarganar, a comedian jailed for criticising the government's response to Cyclone Nargis, was freed, as was Sai Say Htan, a leader of the rebel Shan State Army jailed for refusing to help draft the new constitution.

But monks who led anti-government protests in 2007 and journalists who covered the protests remain in prison, as do top leaders of the 88 Generation pro-democracy movement.

The UN human rights envoy on Burma, Tomas Ojea Quintana, said the releases were a sign of change but said he wanted more prisoners freed by the end of the year.

US not sincere about peace

Says Haqqani network

REUTERS, Kabul

The United States was not sincere about peace in Afghanistan when it signalled it would remain open to exploring a settlement that includes the Haqqani network, one of the group's senior commanders said yesterday.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggested in comments this week that Washington would not shut the door to the Haqqanis -- blamed for high-profile attacks in Afghanistan -- in any peace arrangement.

The Haqqanis saw the remarks as an attempt to divide Afghan insurgent groups and believed only the top leaders of the Taliban should negotiate, said the commander.

"We had rejected many such offers from the United States in the past and reject this new offer as we are not authorized to decide the future of Afghanistan," he told Reuters.

In an interview with Reuters, Hillary did not spell

out who the United States believes should speak for Afghanistan's insurgent groups and said it was too soon to tell whether any of them were serious about reconciliation.

Inclusion of the Haqqani network in a hoped-for peace deal -- now a chief objective in the Obama administration's Afghanistan policy after a decade of war -- is a controversial idea in Washington.

Officials blame the group for last month's attack on the US embassy in Kabul and a truck bombing that injured scores of American soldiers.

The CIA has been using remotely piloted drone aircraft to hunt down leaders of the Haqqani network in northwest Pakistan, where it says the group enjoys sanctuaries.

A suspected US drone strike killed a close aide of the commander of the Haqqanis in Pakistan's North Waziristan region on the Afghan border on Thursday, intelligence officials said.

The Haqqanis, led by Sirajuddin Haqqani, have emerged as a major source of tension in US-Pakistani ties, with former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen calling them a "veritable arm" of Pakistan's spy agency, the Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).



Australia to drop asylum plan

BBC ONLINE

Australia is dropping a controversial asylum plan and will now process asylum seekers onshore after the government failed to secure support for key legal changes.

PM Julia Gillard needed parliamentary backing for legislation allowing her "Malaysia swap" plan to go ahead. But she could not secure enough votes to get the legislation passed.

Australia's asylum policy has been in crisis since a court ruled a plan to swap refugees with Malaysia unlawful.

Under the plan, Australia would have sent 800 asylum-seekers who arrived by boat on to Malaysia and would have received 4,000 refugees in return over four years.

But the court ruled that Malaysia - which has not signed UN refugee conventions - did not offer adequate protection.

Dalit woman paraded naked in UP

IANS, Uttar Pradesh

A middle-aged Dalit woman was brazenly paraded naked in Chandwapur village of Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district on Saturday.

An affluent Dalit family put Ram Pyari, 45, through this public humiliation as they believed her husband, Darbari Lal, had helped their daughter

Jayanti elope. Jayanti, a divorcee, had been living with her parents for the past two years. She had eloped with Mannu, a youth from the village.

SP Amit Chandra confirmed the incident and said five youth from the family have been arrested. "It was a well-planned crime. While Haridwari Lal, Jayanti's father, was registering a complaint against Darbadi Lal at Isanagar

police station, his family members were torturing Ram Pyari," he said.

"They had kidnapped and locked her in their house on Friday night. However, they paraded her naked the next morning when she couldn't give any clue about Jayanti's whereabouts," he further said. Ram Pyari later told the police that out of the 500 in the village no one had dared to intervene to save her.

Disrespect fails democracy

FROM PAGE 20
development funds, access to information, representation of women and minorities in the parliament, and amendment of article 70 in the constitution so lawmakers may exercise freedom of speech in the parliament and may also go against party lines if necessary.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan presided over the event.

Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Shawkat Ali said nowadays debates rarely take place in the parliament. In a democracy, an issue should be discussed in the parliament first, before it is discussed outside, but in Bangladesh the opposite happens, he added.

He claimed that members of the parliament in many cases do not follow the rules of the House, and bring issues from outside while talking on points of order.

Acknowledging that the present parliament is not functional due to continuous boycott of it by the opposition, ruling Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta said corruption and lack of accountability in different sectors are the major reasons why democracy could not secure its due position in the country in the last 20 years.

Commenting on the ongoing conflict between the opposition and the government over the caretaker government system, he said, "I admit that the country and the nation are now in a crisis, but it can be overcome through dialogue."

BNP Standing Committee Member MK Anwar said personal attacks, hurling of expletives, false statements against opposition lawmakers by the ruling party, and limited scope for opposition lawmakers to deliver speeches in the House are the leading reasons for them to boycott the parliament.

Anwar also said not much has changed since the governing system in Bangladesh switched to parliamentary

democracy from the presidential model 20 years back.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Anisul Islam Mahmud said the current conflict over the caretaker government system between the government and the opposition is the result of the Supreme Court's verdict in which it said the caretaker system is unconstitutional but the next two elections can be held under that system. The duality of the verdict sparked the confrontation, he said.

Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University said once a political leader in Bangladesh is elected a member of the parliament, he or she starts collecting fund for the next election's campaign.

Former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan said there is

a practice of walkout from the parliament in many countries of the world, but total boycott of the parliament only exists in Bangladesh.

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said the opposition boycotts the parliament because its chief is advised by some senior leaders that if they join the parliament that will legitimise the ruling government.

Lawmaker Tarana Halim said it is very important to have democracy within political parties. If a lawmaker wanted to practice freedom of speech in the parliament then he or she would be in big trouble, lamented Tarana.

Several speakers, however, praised the 45 parliamentary standing committees for their work.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Bangladesh (Component A)

Invitation for Bids for Procurement of Live Animals, Live Birds, Animal Feed, Poultry Feed, Knapsack Sprayers and Foot Pump Sprayers

Credit No. 4507 - BD, Project ID No. UTF/BGD/040/BGD, Bid Package No. 3G27.L, 3G28.L, 3G29.L, 3G30.L, and 2G1.C-4

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Procurement of goods against different Livestock and Crops packages. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Live Animals, Live Birds, Animal Feed, Poultry Feed, Knapsack Sprayers and Foot Pump Sprayers. Bidders having a minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the supply of the tendered items/similar items are only encouraged to participate. The delivery period is between 8(eight) weeks and 24 (twenty four) weeks from the date of the Notification of the Award.

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, (current edition), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the ECRFP office of FAO Representation in Bangladesh (Hs. # 27, Rd. # 9/A, Apt. # A-1, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209, Telephone 8130758/104) during office hours i.e. 08:00 to 16:30 Hrs. A complete set of bidding documents for each package in English may be purchased by the interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned below. The method of payment for the tender documents will be in cash against a written receipt. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security for an amount mentioned below.

Package No.	Item	Quantity/Nos.	Bid Security (Tk.)	Price of Bid Document (Tk.)
3G27.L	Lot 1: Live Animals (Goats & Sheep)	1200 Nos.	125,000.00	1000.00
	Lot 2: Live Animals (Cows)	450 Nos.	600,000.00	2000.00
3G28.L	Live Birds (Ducks)	50,000 Nos.	625,000.00	2000.00
3G29.L	Animal Feed (cow)	108.75 MT	100,000.00	1000.00
3G30.L	Poultry Feed	510 MT	450,000.00	1500.00
2G1.C-4	Lot 1: Knapsack Sprayers	351 Nos.	200,000.00	1000.00
	Lot 2: Foot pump Sprayers	1252 Nos.	40,000.00	1500.00

Bids shall be delivered to the address below by 14:00 Hrs. on 15 November 2011. They will be opened immediately thereafter, in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh

House # 37, Road # 8
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Tel: 880-2-8118015
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The publishing of this notice and the receipt of bids does not commit FAO in any way to any party.

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October 31, 2011. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for a written test and interviews. Application forms may be downloaded from the website: http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/academics/ MPH/ Application_Form_MPH.pdf or collected from the BRAC University Admissions Office. National students should submit the completed application form with attached detailed CV, attested photocopies of transcripts & certificates along with 2 copies of recent passport size photographs with a test fee of Tk. 600. Students may download the form from the website and pay the fee during submission of the completed application. Please mention "MPH Programme 2012-13" on top of the envelope. Applications should be sent to: **Sabina Faiz Rashid**, PhD, Coordinator, MPH Programme, & **Mrityunjoy Das**, Sr. Academic and Administrative Officer, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 or emailed to: mph@bracu.ac.bd (PDF format preferred). For further inquiry please visit <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd> [Tel. +88 (02) 8824051-4 Ext: 4158, 4164] or email: mph@bracu.ac.bd [Upama Chakrabarty, Research Assistant, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University]

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