

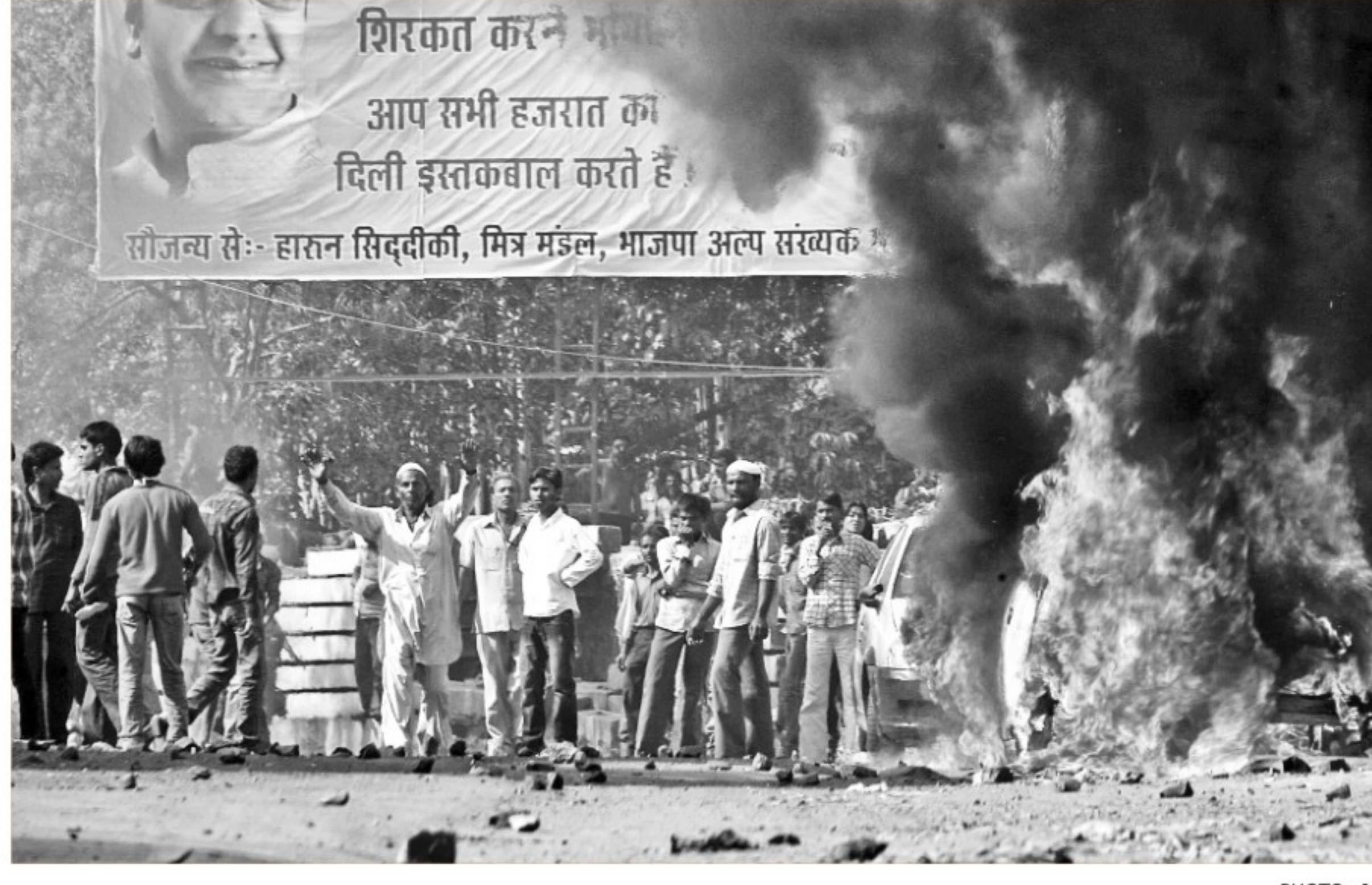
No plan for Naga state: Manmohan

PTI, Imphal

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said that there was no plan for a 'supra state' for Nagas in the North-east and appealed to militants to ensure peace in Manipur for speeding up development work.

"Manipur needs peace and tranquility for all round development. Different communities have been living here for centuries and there should not be any misunderstanding among them," Singh told a public meeting here.

On recent media reports that the Centre was planning a 'supra state' for Nagas in the Northeast, he said "there is no such proposal. Integrity of Manipur will be protected and the state is an important part of the union."



Indian protesters burn a car during a protest in Bhopal yesterday. Thousands protested in India against the country's decision to compete in the London Olympics despite sponsorship of the Games by a US firm linked to the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy which killed tens of thousands of people.

Myanmar passes law allowing protests

Agrees ceasefire with major rebel group

AGENCIES

Myanmar's President Thein Sein has signed a law allowing peaceful demonstrations for the first time, state media report.

The new law requires people to seek approval at least five days in advance. All protests were previously banned.

It is the latest reform undertaken by Burma's nominally civilian government since the military junta handed over power earlier this year.

Meanwhile the government has reached a ceasefire with a leading armed ethnic group, the Shan State Army South.

The pact was signed Friday by representatives of the Shan State Army South and the local government in the northeastern state, Hla Maung Shwe, founder of the civil society group Myanmar Egress, who witnessed the agreement, told AFP.

The was no immediate confirmation

from the Myanmar government or the Shan State Army, but the Irrawaddy news website, run by journalists in exile, said the agreement in the Shan State capital of Taunggyi also included government assurances of economic development and joint efforts against drugs.

Civil war has wracked parts of the country since its independence in 1948, and an end to the conflicts, as well as alleged human rights abuses involving government troops, is a key demand of the international community.

Both the ceasefire and the new law on protests came as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ended a three-day visit to Burma.

On Friday Hillary met pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who said Burma could get on "the road to democracy".

Aung San Suu Kyi also welcomed recent reforms that have enabled her party to stand in elections, but said more needed to be done.

India 'suspends' retail reform

AFP, New Delhi

India's government has "suspended" plans to open the nation's huge retail sector to global competition that have paralysed parliament, a key ally of the ruling coalition said yesterday.

The move to allow foreign investment by Wal-Mart and other supermarket giants in India's estimated \$470 billion retail industry was the first big reform to be announced since the government began its second term in 2009.

"(National finance minister) Pranab Mukherjee has informed me that the government is suspending the FDI issue until a consensus is evolved," Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of West Bengal state, said in televised remarks.

However, Indian television quoted government sources as saying that Premier Manmohan Singh's Congress party-led coalition was not abandoning its liberalisation move but would seek broad agreement before proceeding.

Anger over the reforms announced last month has united shopkeepers, trade unions, influential state leaders and lawmakers from opposition parties and from within Singh's coalition.

Banerjee's regional Trinamool Party is the biggest partner of the Congress coalition and key to its survival in parliament.

Television reports quoted Banerjee as saying an announcement on the government's intentions in the retail sector could come next Wednesday when parliament resumes sitting after a break.

Pakistan won't take part in US-led probe

AFP, Islamabad

Islamabad has so far refused to take part in a US inquiry into air strikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, exacerbating fears yesterday of a prolonged US-Pakistani crisis as a result of the attack.

Pakistan was invited to cooperate in the probe into the November 26 strikes on the Afghan border, which enraged Islamabad and propelled US-Pakistani ties to their rockiest in years, but officials have declined to do so.

"They have elected to date not to participate, but we would welcome their participation," said Pentagon.

In Pakistan, a security official told AFP that a formal reply would be conveyed to the Americans, but confirmed there was no interest in taking part in the inquiry.

Islamabad adjusts rules of engagement after Nato strike

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's commanders in the wild Afghan border region can return fire if under attack without waiting for permission, the army chief said on Friday, a policy change that could stoke tensions after Saturday's Nato strike killed 24 Pakistani troops.

Exactly what happened in the attack is unclear. Two US officials told Reuters early indications were that Pakistani officials had cleared the Nato air strike, unaware they had troops in the area. A Pakistani official denied this.

The attack sparked fury in Pakistan and further complicated US-led efforts to ease a crisis in relations with Islamabad, still seething at a secret US raid in May which

killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, and stabilize the region before foreign combat troops leave Afghanistan in 2014.

"I do not want there to be any doubt in the minds of any commander at any level about the rules of engagement," Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Kayani said

in a communiqué on Friday.

"In case of any attack, you have complete liberty to respond forcefully using all available resources. You do not need any permission for this."

A military source explained that this amounted to a change in the rules for Pakistani forces guarding the Western border

against militant movements to and from Afghanistan.

"In the past, we were only guarding ourselves or reacting against militants," said the source, who requested anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

"We have given our posts some more space to respond. If they are under attack, they should not wait for orders from above on whether to return fire or not."

The United States and Nato have promised to investigate the incident, expressing regret on the deaths of Pakistani soldiers but the White House said it was premature to consider an apology when an investigation was still in its early stages.

and forth daily.

"There are certain inherent risks in the delegation of authority," said defense analyst and retired general Talat Masood. "There could be unintended consequences."

The Pentagon has declined

to comment on details from the investigation until it is complete. Pentagon spokesman George Little acknowledged at a news conference that Pakistan had been asked but "elected to date not to participate" in the inquiry.

The increase in autonomy for local commanders is likely to raise tensions in the unruly and mountainous border region, which is porous and poorly marked. Militants and tribespeople alike move back

Maoists attack convoy in India, kills 8

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Eight persons, including six policemen, were killed and four injured when Maoists attacked the convoy of an Indian lawmaker who escaped unhurt in eastern state of Jharkhand.

The Maoists triggered an Improvised Explosive Device and then opened fire on the security vehicle which was following the car of Inder Singh Namdhari in Latehar district of the state, Director General of Police G S Rath said in state capital Ranchi.

About a hundred Maoists had reportedly congregated in Latehar yesterday and pledged revenge for the recent killing of their top leader Kishanji in neighbouring West Bengal.

WB funding Tipai project

FROM PAGE 1

Tipaimukh project, to be funded by the World Bank.

He said the forest clearance process for the 1,500MW project in Churachandrapur of Manipur is underway.

Singh's remarks came a day after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's foreign affairs adviser Gowher Rizvi and economic adviser Mashru Rahman had called on him in New Delhi when it was suggested that Bangladesh could acquire a stake in the Tipaimukh project and get electricity in return.

Contacted over phone last night, State Minister for Water Resources Mahbubur Rahman said, "I won't make any comment on the latest development about Tipaimukh."

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen could not be reached.

There is a constant con-

cern in lower riparian Bangladesh about the project as it would use the Barak water that feed Bangladesh's major river systems Surma-Kushiyara-Meghna.

The announcement about environmental clearance to the project came nearly one and a half months after the promoters' agreement was inked among Indian state-owned Sutlej Vidyut Nigam Ltd, National Hydro Power Corporation and Manipur government on October 24. According to the SJVN website, the Tipaimukh project got the clearance back on October 10, 2008.

Experts following the project's development said that after the environment clearance and signing of the promoter's agreement, the forest clearance remains the "last roadblock" before the Indian government finally goes ahead with the project.

In his yesterday's speech,

Singh said, "I have been informed that the 1,500MW Tipaimukh hydroelectricity project will be executed by a joint venture company..."

He said, "I understand that a project for expansion and upgradation of power transmission, sub-transmission and distribution networks in northeastern states has been given to the World Bank for funding. I am asking the concerned central government ministries to pursue the matter actively with the World Bank."

Meanwhile, Indian foreign ministry officials said the project would be executed only after taking Bangladesh into confidence on all aspects of it.

The two advisers at the meeting with Singh had raised the issue of the possible adverse impact on Bangladesh and called for early consultations on the matter.

"It has been conveyed to the Bangladesh side that the government of India has always been proactive and responsive towards sharing of information with Bangladesh on the Tipaimukh project," said an official seeking anonymity.

Detailed briefings on the project were made at the ministerial and official levels and the visiting delegation had also been briefed about the proposal for concluding a joint venture for the project, the officials said.

They said the Tipaimukh project has the provision to control floods and increase supply of water during the lean period. It has no component of irrigation and there would be no diversion of water from the Barak river.

Hasina's advisers were also told that India would be happy to receive a delegation from Bangladesh to visit India and hold discussions on the project.

Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong

জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

Invitation for Local Tender

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
3	Procuring entity name	Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL).
4	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of 03 (three) Nos. of Brand New Double Cabin Pick-Up
6	Invitation Ref No.	KGDCL/LP/Pick-Up-2011-2012/05.
7	Date	28.11.2011.

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (Single stage one envelope system).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget and source of funds	Company's own source of fund.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Tender last selling date	20.12.2011.
12	Tender closing date and time	21.12.2011 11.30am.
13	Tender opening date and time	21.12.2011 11.45am
14	Place of tender selling	Finance & Accounts Sub-Division Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong.
15	Date of selling of tender documents	From 08.12.2011 to 20.12.2011 (during office hour).
16	Place of tender receiving & opening	Purchase Sub-Division Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

17	Eligibility of tenderer	Well reputed and financially solvent tenderers (authorized agents/distributors/license holders) having the office establishment, well equipped repairing workshop, manpower, logistic support, stock position, good performance, qualification and past experience of supplying new and good quality vehicles in government sectors within the prescribed time.
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18.	Brief description of goods	Pick-Ups are to be of latest model/international standard, good quality, brand new, fitted with modern amenities high efficiency petrol engine (EFI/equivalent). CBU by the country producing engine, chassis, body and other accessories etc in original with detailed specifications (supported by original catalogue).
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19.	Price of tender document (Tk.)	Tk. 4,000.00 (four thousand).
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20.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Taka)	Delivery time (in days)

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