

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 tranquillity 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."



PHOTO: AFP

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.

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 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 communique 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.

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 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."

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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.



Pawar escapes again, unhurt

PTI, Jabalpur

Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar yesterday escaped unhurt here after the ceiling fan on the dais from where he was addressing a seminar, fell, police said.

Pawar was speaking at the programme organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research here when the incident occurred, Inspector General (IG) Jabalpur range, Madhu Kumar said.

A angry youth slapped power protesting corruption and the price hike in India a few days ago, creating a uproar that even triggered condemnation by the cabinet.

WB funding Tipai project

FROM PAGE 1

Tipaimukh project, to be funded by the World Bank.

He said the forest clearance process for the 1,500 MW project in Churachandpur 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 Mashiur 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 1,500 MW 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.

Regulator should

FROM PAGE 20

Bose said the role of the regulator should be to look after the long-term interests of the people and the country so that they benefit from the availability of telephony services.

Sanjaya, who gave only one name, of Asia Pacific Network Information Centre of Australia, said a good regulator ensures affordability, inclusiveness and service choices for consumers.

The best regulatory approach to take in decision making is to discuss matters with stakeholders, such as operators or customers, he added.

Rohan Samarajiva, chief executive officer of LIRNEasia, a Sri Lankan think-tank, said Bangladesh has done extremely well in the voice sector (mobile) but its internet penetration is very low and challenging.

The bandwidth price must be kept low to take services to the people at cheaper prices, he added.

He suggested the regulator reduce uncertainty in the telecom sector for licensing or renewal.

Abu Saeed Khan, secretary general of Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh, said telecom and internet are now synonyms. "Broadband has become a utility nowadays."

For the country's education sector, video learning is important, which can be accessed through mobile broadband.

Khan said digitalising the country is possible thorough mobile technology as the sector has already completed the necessary ground work.

Sumon Ahmed Sabir, vice president of Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh, highlighted

some discrepancies in the existing policies.

He said the International Long Distance Telecommunication Service policy is an example of a bad policy that does not create any value for the sector. Rather, it provided some new licences to inexperienced people, he said.

Sabir said service providers purchase the same data and voice bandwidth from different entities. Before formulating such policies, the government should talk to the stakeholders, he added.

Rene Summer of Ericsson said connectivity is just the beginning while the next step is "what you can do with the connectivity".

He said 1,000 broadband-users can create 80 new jobs. Telecommunications can play a fundamental role in the economic development of a country, he added.

ADP faces 12pc cut

FROM PAGE 20

month agreed to stop financing low priority projects.

In the circular issued last month, the planning ministry said that in the revised ADP, the number of projects has to be kept limited. It also suggested dropping low priority projects.

The circular said the revised ADP would have no unapproved projects without any allocation on its list. The limitation of local resources will have to be considered while finalising the revised projects, it added.

Besides the ADP, the Finance Division has identified some other sectors where the government can cut expenditure. The finance minister may sit with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today to discuss this issue.

If she gives her consent to the proposal for expenditure

cut, decisions like reducing expenditure on new recruitment and subsidy will be taken, said the finance ministry official.

He said the government had been trying hard to get \$1 billion loan from external credit facility to ease the pressure on Balance of Payment (BoP).

A mission of IMF (International Monetary Fund), meanwhile, started discussions with the government from November 30, which will continue for two weeks.

The finance ministry official said one of the main conditions of the IMF mission would be the budget deficit under no circumstances would exceed 5 percent of the GDP (Gross domestic product).

But the finance ministry projected that if the ministries do not cut their demands the budget deficit may cross 6 percent.

Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

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



জালালি 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 (KGDC).
4	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of 03 (three) Nos. of Brand New Double Cabin Pick-Up
6	Invitation Ref No.	KGDC/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.
10	Development partners (if applicable)	None.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Tender last selling date	20.12.2011.	
		Date	Time
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.
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).
19	Price of tender document (Tk.)	Tk. 4,000.00 (four thousand).

	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Taka)	Delivery time (in days)
20	Single	Procurement of 03 (three) Nos. of Brand New Double Cabin Pick-up.	Chittagong	Tk. 4,00,000.00 (four lac)	Within 45 (forty-five) days from the date of signing of contract.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

PROCUREMENT DETAILS		
21	Name of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Purchase) Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong.
22	Special instruction	a) Tender must remain valid for 120 days from the date of closing of the tender. b) Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of "Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited" from any schedule bank in Bangladesh with full obligation and liabilities. c) Tender security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred and forty-eight) days from the closing of the tender. d) If tender opening day happens to fall on any holiday tenders shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day. e) The supplied pick-up should be manufactured and assembled in the declared country of origin.
23	This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Regulations-2008.	
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

KGDC/LP-22

GD-5074