

Cameron defends EU veto

AFP, London

British Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday defended his decision to veto EU treaty change, telling lawmakers that European nations had snubbed "modest" demands for safeguards for his country.

Facing a rift within his coalition government and anger in Europe, Cameron said Britain's membership of the European Union was vital but that he had to look after the City of London financial services hub.

"I went to Brussels with one objective, to protect Britain's national interests, and that is what I did," Cameron said in a statement to the House of Commons to cheers from his Conservative party.

He said he had been seeking at last week's EU summit a full deal involving all 27 member states for treaty change based on French and German proposals, "with the necessary safeguards for Britain".

"Those safeguards, on the single market and on financial services, were modest, reasonable and relevant. We were not trying to create an unfair



principle to join a "new fiscal compact" aimed at saving the debt-hit euro.

He also took a softer line than British officials had over the weekend about whether Britain would allow the other EU nations to use the bloc's institutions to pursue their pact without the United Kingdom.

But the Conservative leader faced fierce criticism from opposition Labour leader Ed Miliband, who accused Cameron of coming back with a "bad deal for Britain" that had no safeguards for the City of London.

Miliband said Cameron was responsible for a "diplomatic disaster of 26 going ahead and one country, Britain,

advantage for Britain."

Cameron said Britain would continue to work with the other 26 EU nations, which after his veto went on to agree in

being left behind".

Cameron's position was weakened in October after a rebellion by 81 lawmakers calling for a parliamentary vote for a referendum on Britain's relationship with the EU.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg was notably absent from Cameron's side in parliament, fuelling reports of tensions between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, the junior partners in the governing coalition.

Clegg, the Lib Dem leader, on Sunday criticised the deal and said it could turn Britain into an international "pygmy".

Clegg's office said he did not turn up because he did not want to be a "distraction".

Shockwaves from Cameron's veto continued to reverberate through Europe, with EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn warning that the British veto would not protect the City of London.

"If this move was aimed at preventing bankers and financial corporations of the City (of London) from being regulated, that's not going to happen," Rehn stressed.



PHOTO: REUTERS
Pachibanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee salutes a memorial to the victims of last Friday's hospital fire in Kolkata yesterday. The fire tore through the seven-storey private hospital in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata before dawn, killing at least 84 people, most of them intensive care patients who were asleep and suffocated in the fumes.

Steve Jobs biography Amazon's top seller

AFP, Washington

A biography of the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs was Amazon's best-selling book this year despite hitting store shelves and electronic readers only in late October, Amazon said yesterday.

"Steve Jobs" by Walter Isaacson, which went on sale on October 24, less than three weeks after Job's death, topped the list of Amazon top-selling books for 2011, print and Kindle editions combined, the Seattle-based company said.

"Even though it was published in October, the sales have been phenomenal in both formats," said Chris Schlupe, Amazon's senior editor of books.

Next on the list was "Bossypants" by comedian Tina Fey and "A Stolen Life" by Jaycee Dugard, a California girl who was kidnapped as a child and held for nearly two decades.

Number four on the top 10 list was "The Mill River Recluse," a self-published Kindle novel by Darcie Chan.

"In the Garden of the Beasts" by Erik Larson was next, followed by "A Dance with Dragons" by George R.R. Martin, "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain and "The Litigators" by John Grisham.

Another self-published Kindle book, "The Abbey" by Chris Culver, was number nine on the list while "Inheritance (The Inheritance Cycle)" by Christopher Paolini rounded out the top 10.



China to open its first military base abroad in Indian Ocean

PTI, Beijing

In a move that may cause unease in India, China yesterday announced that it will set up its first military base abroad in the Indian Ocean island of Seychelles to "seek supplies and recuperate" facilities for its Navy.

The naval fleet may seek supplies or recuperate at appropriate harbours in Seychelles or other countries as needed during escort missions, Chinese Defence Ministry announced here yesterday.

China has already cemented its foothold in the Indian Ocean by signing contract with the UN backed International Seabed Authority to gain rights to explore polymetallic sulphide ore deposit in Indian Ocean over the next 15 years.

The contract awarded this year to a Chinese association exclusive rights to explore a 10,000-square-km of international seabed in the southwest Indian Ocean.

The base in Seychelles is regarded significant by analysts as China is about to launch its first aircraft carrier. It is currently undergoing final trials.

Playing down its significance, Chinese Defence Ministry statement yesterday said it is international practice for naval fleets to re-

supply at the closest port of a nearby state during long-distance missions.

Apparently commenting on a recent report that China will establish a military base in Seychelles, it said Chinese naval fleets have re-supply facilities at harbours in Djibouti, Oman and Yemen since China sent its first convoy to the Gulf of Aden in 2008.

The decision to establish its first naval base abroad was taken during Chinese Defence Minister Gen Liang Guanglie's goodwill visit to Seychelles earlier this month.

During the visit, Seychelles Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Paul Adam said his country has invited China to set up a military base on the archipelago to beef up the fight against piracy.

"We have invited the Chinese government to set up a military presence on Mahe to fight the pirate attacks that the Seychelles face on a regular basis," Adam was quoted as saying in the media reports.

"For the time being China is studying this possibility because she has economic interests in the region and Beijing is also involved in the fight against piracy," he said.

Seven dead in steel factory explosion in Iran

AFP, Tehran

Seven workers died and at least a dozen others were injured when a melting furnace in an Iranian steel factory exploded, officials told Iranian media yesterday.

"Several of those killed were foreign nationals," Azizollah Seifi, the governor of the central Yazd region where the blast occurred late Sunday, told the ISNA news agency.

The explosion, which rocked the Ghadir-e Yazd Steel Factory, was being investigated.

Seifi was quoted as saying 12 workers were injured.

Yazd's chief coroner, Ali Suleimani, told the Fars news agency 14 were hurt.

Heavy fighting in Sudan kills 19

AFP, Khartoum

Heavy fighting between the Sudanese army and southern-aligned rebels in the embattled state of South Kordofan has killed at least 19 government troops, a rebel spokesman said yesterday.

"There was heavy fighting on Saturday in Warni, in the far east of Talodi locality. The SPLA repelled an attack by the army. They left 19 bodies on the ground," Arnu Ngutulu Lodi told AFP.

The Sudanese army spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.

Lodi said the clashes followed three days of fighting in the northern Rashad locality, where the rebels managed to expel the army from the Abu al-Hassan area, and that the two sides were battling yesterday in the Taruje area, near the disputed southern border.

"The fighting now is going on in Taruje. There are heavy artillery bombardments. The SPLA has surrounded the SAF (Sudanese armed forces), who are under a lot of pressure. Any time now they will be driven out," he claimed.

The conflict erupted in South Kordofan in June between the army and militiamen who fought alongside the ex-southern rebels during their 22-year conflict with the north, as Khartoum moved to assert its authority within its borders ahead of South Sudan's independence in July.

A similar conflict broke out three months later in nearby Blue Nile state.

Order on SQ Chy's

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The ICT also appointed Mohammad Badiuzzaman, a Supreme Court lawyer to represent Salauddin.

In the petitions, Salauddin, who faces charges of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971, demanded a year's time to accumulate necessary documents and witnesses in his favour for the trial; live broadcast of his trial proceedings on the electronic media and a clear definition of 'crimes against humanity' in the rules of

procedure.

He also sought the tribunal's permission to engage foreign lawyers as consultants to defend him against the charges.

During the hearing of the petitions yesterday, Salauddin demanded more facilities for the sake of credibility of the tribunal and its proceedings.

He said the defence is entitled to receive the same period of time as the prosecution to prepare its case.

"If you gave them 11 months, you should give me

11 months as well!" Salauddin said.

Meanwhile, ICT recorded the testimony of its first prosecution witness Mahabubul Alam Hawlader, during a cross-examination which lasted for four hours.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam asked the witness about local collaborators in Pirojpur, the aids he received from the government as a freedom fighter and his present financial status among other details.

The cross-examination will resume today.

Home slow in responding to queries

FROM PAGE 1

on the incident after conducting an investigation. But the ministry often delays to submit the report," said the chairman addressing journalists at a dialogue organised by NHRC at Dhaka Club.

Prof Mizan also urged the media to play an active role with the commission to report incidents of human rights violations to assist the commission to take necessary steps.

The chairman mentioned that the commission is considering launching of a

service centre, which will function 24 hours so that media personnel can get the commission's version on the incidents.

NHRC received a total of 317 allegations of human rights violations in 2011, of which, it solved all cases but 83, he said.

Speaking at the programme, senior journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said, journalists would have to play the watchdog role through reporting both the incidents of human rights violations and the activities

of NHRC.

Quoting a study of NHRC, he said 50 percent people do not know what is human rights violation whereas five percent from the rest of the 50 percent are not clear about the issue.

At the dialogue, the rights body chairman mentioned that NHRC called a meeting on January 4 to discuss the

recent growing trend of secret killings.

"Secret killing is a sensitive issue. It will be wise not to speak on the issue right now. We will discuss the matter in the meeting to set our course of action," Prof Mizan said.

The commission received allegations of some incidents of people gone miss-

ing and forwarded the cases to the home ministry asking it to conduct investigations into the cases, he added.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, full-time member of the commission and honorary members Prof Niru Kumar Chakma and Nirupa Dewan were also present at the dialogue.

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Memo No. APSCL/MD/Project-450MW (North)/2011/2209 Date: 11/12/2011

"Amendment of Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) Notice"

(Amendment No.-1)

EOI Name, Enquiry No. & Date	Subject to be Amended	Existing as	Shall be Amended as
Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) For Project Implementation Consultancy Services of Ashuganj 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (North).	Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission Date.	Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted in sealed envelope to the Project Director, Ashuganj 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (North), Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd., Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh by 12:30 PM, on 04 January, 2012 and be clearly marked with "Confidential Expression of Interest for Implementation Consultancy Services of Ashuganj 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (North)".	Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted in sealed envelope to the Project Director, Ashuganj 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (North), Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd., Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh by 12:30 PM, on 07 January, 2012 and be clearly marked with "Confidential Expression of Interest for Implementation Consultancy Services of Ashuganj 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (North)".

All other terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged.

Project Director
Ashuganj 450 MW CAPP Project (North)
APSCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.

Ensure workers' well-being

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the three-day event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who inaugurated the multi-party exposition, also raised her voice for the labours' welfare.

Khaleda in her speech asked the government for re-introduction, immediately, of the rationing system for basic food items for the workers and continue it over the years, so that "they can livewell".

Terming the current economic situation of the EU and the USA "volatile", she urged the government for lending policy supports to the garment exporters soon so that the sector remains unhurt.

The BNP chief also said the banking sector is suffering as the government has already created vacuum in the sector by over-borrowing.

She said the government should notice the declining trend in manpower export to the Middle East.

Khaleda said unusual incidents take place in the garment sector very often for which production at the factories is hampered. "The government should ensure

better working environment through improving laws and rules at the factories in greater interest of the sector itself."

To ensure improved industrialisation, she asked the government for reducing surcharge at the Chittagong port, reducing the bank interest rate, resolving the crises of gas and power, keeping the flow of working capital going, increasing the export development fund and subsidising import of diesel for industrial usage.

She demanded for establishing dormitories for the workers, continuing lobbying with the US government for duty-free access of RMG items and strengthening the Bangladeshi missions abroad for better export performance.

Khaleda said to produce skilled manpower for the sector the government should provide technical support to BGMEA in establishing more training centres.

She also urged the government for upgrading the BGMEA Fashion Institute into a full-fledged university so that the country can meet the growing demand for merchandisers, fashion designers and quality controllers.

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited
Tongi, Gazipur

Invitation for Tender by TSS

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
2	Procuring Entity Name	Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) Limited
3	Procuring Entity District	Gazipur
4	Invitation for	Tender Goods (Multiple Lots)
5	Invitation Ref No	TSS/GM(P&C)/Proc/Core 13/15 & Basic/11-12
6	Date	12/12/2011
7	Procurement Method	ICT Open
8	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Funds
9	Tender Package No.	Procurement of CKD components for DOEL Laptop 14" model Advanced 1612/13/15 & 10.1" model Basic-0703
10	Tender Package Name	DOEL Core 13/15/01
11	Tender Publication Date	13/12/2011
12	Tender Last Selling Date	29/01/2012
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	30/01/2012, 12:00 hrs.
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	30/01/2012, 15:00 hrs.
15	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address(s)
	-Selling Tender Document(Principal)	DGM(F&C), TSS, Tongi Gazipur
	-Selling Tender Document(Others)	Company Secretary, TSS, GPO Bldg., Room no.7, 1st floor, Dhaka
	-Receiving Tender Document	GM(P&C), TSS & Company Secretary, GPO Bldg., Room no.7, 1st floor, Dhaka
	-Opening Tender Document	TSS Conference room
16	Eligibility of Tenderer	Any international firm of reputation engaged in assembling/manufacturing Laptops/Netbooks
17	Brief Description of Goods or Works	CKD/SKD components of Laptop/Netbook
18	Brief Description of Related Services	Engineers' & Operators' training, Warranty replacement/additional spare parts
19	Tender Document Price	BDT 5000.00 or USD 75.00
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	A. A. Md. Moyashir
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Plant & Commercial), TSS
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	TSS, Tongi, Gazipur
23	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +880 2-9813105, Fax: +880-2-9812700, Mob: +880150151080, e-mail: aamoyashir@gmail.com
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders	