

# Syria opposition charts transition

AFP, Damascus

Syria's opposition, hoping to topple President Bashar al-Assad, has charted a transitional period, as more civilians died in a regime crackdown despite the presence of peace monitors.

Meanwhile the rebel Free Syrian Army said it is suspending operations against regime forces during the one-month renewable mission of monitors deployed in Syria to implement an Arab League peace plan.

At least 32 civilians were killed on Friday, including 25 who were shot dead by Syrian forces who opened fire on massive protests that rocked the country while the monitors toured flashpoints, a watchdog said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported that Syrian forces used "nail bombs" to disperse anti-regime rallies, and fired live ammunition, tear gas and stun grenades at tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters.

Funerals for several victims were held

yesterday across Syria.

Security forces also fired warning shots into the air as thousands of people began pouring into a square in the restive Damascus suburb of Douma for a funeral ceremony, the Britain-based Observatory said.

In Cairo, headquarters of the Arab League, the opposition Syrian National Council (SNC) and the National Coordination Body for Democratic Change in Syria (NCB) inked a deal late Friday as they eye a post-regime transition.

An English language statement from the NCB said the deal "sets out the political and democratic rules for the transitional period," should Assad be ousted by the uprising that erupted in March.

The accord also "determines the important parameters for Syria's future which aspire to ensure that the homeland and every citizen's rights are treated with dignity, and for the foundation of a civil democratic state."



Fireworks explode over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House during a pyrotechnic show to celebrate the New Year.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# N Korea declares Kim military chief

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday said new leader Kim Jong-Un has formally been appointed supreme military commander, another sign he is tightening his grip on power, as it renewed vitriolic attacks on Seoul.

Jong-Un had already been declared "supreme leader" of the country during memorial ceremonies for his late father Kim Jong-Il on Thursday, as the nation ended 13 days of mourning.

"The dear respected Kim Jong-Un... assumed the supreme command of the Korean People's Army at the behest of leader Kim Jong-Il," according to the official news agency.

The decision was proclaimed Friday at a meeting of the political bureau of the ruling communist party.

# Iran keeps tensions high over oil strait

AFP, Tehran

Iran kept tensions simmering over its threat to close the Strait of Hormuz to oil tankers by re-arming war game missile tests near the entrance to the Gulf yesterday.

Washington has warned a closure of the strait "will not be tolerated" after Iranian Vice President Reza Rahimi's threat this week that "not a drop of oil" will pass through the channel if more Western sanctions are imposed over Tehran's nuclear programme.

Iran has brushed off the warning from the United States, which bases its Fifth Fleet in the Gulf, with Iranian navy chief Admiral Habibollah Sayari saying it would be "really easy" to close the strait.

A spokesman for the Iranian navy, Commodore Mahmoud Mousavi, told state television yesterday that, "in the next days, we will test-fire all kinds of surface-to-sea, sea-to-sea and surface-to-air as well as shoulder-launched missiles" in the final stages of the war games.

The navy exercises started December 24 and are due to end tomorrow.

Twenty percent of the world's oil moves through the Strait of Hormuz, at the entrance of the Gulf, making it the "most important chokepoint" globally, according to information released Friday by the US Energy Information Administration.

Around 14 crude oil tankers per day pass through the narrow strait, carrying a total 17 million barrels. In all, 35 percent of all seaborne oil transited through there this year.

# Manmohan regrets impasse over Lokpal

PTI, New Delhi

Amid a war of words between government and Opposition, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said it was "unfortunate" that the Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill could not be passed by the Rajya Sabha and asserted that the government was committed to an effective anti-corruption law.

Wishing to put behind a "very difficult" year, Manmohan acknowledged that the concern about corruption has moved to the centre stage and vowed to personally work to provide an "honest and more efficient government".

"The Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha. It is unfortunate that the Bill could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha. However, our government is committed to the enactment of an effective Lokpal Act," he said.

The government has taken several "transformational" initiatives to tackle corruption which will be "recognised as such down the line", he said.

He termed corruption as a "serious problem" which calls for a multi-dimensional response. "New institutions such as Lokpal and Lokayuktas are an important part of the solution and we have initiated the process for establishing them."



# Railway unveils roadmap

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donors to fund the two tracks."

However, he added that he would try to implement second lines for Tongi-Joydebpur and Dhaka-Narayanganj routes.

Two more trains will run on Dhaka-Narayanganj and Dhaka-Joydebpur routes from this month to serve more commuters, mentioned the minister.

Dhaka-bound trains from Rajshahi, Chilahati, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Jamalpur and Khulna regions, in many cases, remain stranded at Joydebpur station for hours as the Joydebpur-Tongi route has only a single lane track, said railway officials.

Similarly, trains from Sylhet, Chittagong and Noakhali also stop at Tongi station for clearance from Dhaka as one track is dedicated for the incoming trains and the other for outgoing ones.

Once implemented, the new four tracks would help the authorities run at least

40 more trains between Dhaka and other destinations. At present 72 trains connect the capital with other parts of the country, noted the officials.

"We have a plan to introduce an extra train on the Sylhet-Chatak route from February and one more intercity train on the Dhaka-Sylhet route from April," said the minister who recently took over the newly created railways ministry.

The roadmap will be implemented in three phases. In the 18-month first phase, the ministry will carry out 21 projects including introduction of new trains on Dhaka-Narayanganj, Dhaka-Joydebpur, Dhaka-Sylhet and Sylhet-Chatak routes.

This phase will also ensure more trains running on schedule and better services to the passengers through recruiting necessary manpower and rehabilitating some poor tracks.

Eleven more projects will be executed in the second phase (July 2012 to June 2013). Many of the

closed 160 railway stations will be reopened during this period.

"A large portion of the railway land has been occupied by grabbers. Steps have been taken to recover that... A committee is working in this regard," said Suranjit.

During the final phase of the roadmap till June 2014, railway will upgrade the single-track Tongi-Bhairab Bazar and Laksam-Chinki Astana routes into double-track, construct new rail line from Khulna to Mongla Port, remodel the Chittagong Railway Station, develop the Pahartoli workshop and procure several hundred tank wagons, locomotives and coaches.

Besides, many tracks which are now in a poor shape will also be rehabilitated in this phase.

Though there is a fund crunch and a lengthy procedure to follow in purchasing locomotives, wagons and coaches, the minister vowed to implement the roadmap.

"The railway sector has been neglected for a long time. This sector was also a victim of an international conspiracy which saw the expansion of roads and contraction of railways," he pointed out.

According to a railway statistics, there were only 600-kilometres of roads in the country in 1947 against 2800-kilometres of railway tracks. At present the roads are about 90,000 kilometres while the rail lines have shrunk.

The minister admitted that criminals are peddling drugs and carrying out anti-social activities in many railway stations across the country. Even a section of railway police, security guards, local police, politicians and elected representatives are involved in these crimes, he added.

"This kind of activities will not be allowed any more," he warned adding, he would also try to make the service of Maitri Express between Dhaka and Kolkata speedy and hassle-free.

# Cyclone 'Thane' toll rises to 42

PTI, Chennai

Relief operations were launched on a war-footing to bring back normalcy in Tamil Nadu's cyclone-battered Cuddalore district and adjacent Pudukcherry, as the toll caused by the severe storm mounted to 42 yesterday.

As the administrative machinery was put in top gear, Chief Minister Jayalalitha said nine more people have died in rain related incidents, taking the toll to 42, following the severe cyclonic storm 'Thane' that crossed Tamil Nadu coast on Friday.

# Karzai welcomes US remarks on Taliban

AFP, Kabul

Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday welcomed US Vice President Joe Biden's remarks that the Taliban "per se is not our enemy".

Biden's comments to Newsweek magazine last week caused uproar in the US, which has been fighting a 10-year war against the Taliban-led insurgency, but reflected an increasing focus on finding a political settlement.

"We are very happy that America has announced that Taliban are not their enemy. This will bring peace and stability to the people of Afghanistan," Karzai said during a ceremony in Kabul.

Karzai has agreed that if the United States wants to set up a Taliban address in Qatar to enable peace talks he will not stand in the way, as long as Afghanistan is involved in the process.

The September assassination of Karzai's peace envoy, former president Burhanuddin Rabbani, appeared to have derailed any prospects of progress in talks.

But recent unconfirmed reports suggest the US could be open to a deal which includes the transfer of Taliban prisoners from Guantanamo Bay.

# Two Kurdish rebels killed in Turkey

AFP, Diyarbakir

Two Kurdish rebels died yesterday in Turkey's south-eastern Diyarbakir city in a shootout after a police raid on their hideout, police said.

The members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) members refused to heed a police call to surrender and threw grenades.

A local police official said two rebels died in an ensuing gunbattle and added that two rifles and three hand grenades had been seized.

The raid comes after a botched Turkish strike in the region which killed 35 Kurdish civilians.

**AKK A. K. Khan & Company Limited**  
Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

A. K. KHAN & CO. LTD. Memo No. AKK/ADMIN/1010/2011  
Date: December 29, 2011

Sealed national bids are invited from the eligible bidders for supply and driving of **U-Type Cold Rolled Steel Sheet Pile** for the under mentioned work as per the brief terms and conditions stated below:

<b>1. Name of the Work</b>	Supply and driving of U-Type Cold Rolled Steel Sheet Pile for River Shore Project.
<b>2. Objective of the Work</b>	To protect the land of A. K. Dockyard & Engineering Limited from river erosion at Kalurghat.
<b>3. Procuring Department</b>	Engineering Department, A. K. Khan & Company Limited
<b>4. Eligibility of the Bidders</b>	This Invitation for Bids is open to all eligible bidders as mentioned below: - Bidders (lead partner in the cases of joint venture) must have successfully completed at least 03 (three) contract of supplying cold rolled steel sheet pile on the date of bid opening and the cost of at least one contract should be more than 01 (one) Crore Taka. - Bidders must have liquid assets and annual turnover [average of last 01 (one) year] or more than Tk. 01 (one) Crore and Tk. 02 (two) Crore, respectively.
<b>5. Collection of the Bidding Documents</b>	Managing Director, Attention: Director-LSP, A. K. Khan & Company Limited Head Office, Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000
<b>6. Price of the Bidding Documents</b>	Purchase in Person: Tk. 12,000.00 (Direct Purchase) - Purchase by Mail: A cash cheque of Tk. 12,500.00 in favor of A. K. Khan & Company Limited is to be enclosed with a request letter.
<b>7. Submission of the Bidding Documents</b>	Attention: Director-LSP, A. K. Khan & Company Limited Head Office, Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000
<b>8. Date of Collection of the Bidding Documents</b>	<b>-January 07, 2012 to January 15, 2012</b> during the office hour.
<b>9. Amount of Security Deposit</b>	Tk. 100,000.00 (Taka One Lac) only in the form of a unconditional and irrevocable Bank Draft or Pay Order from a reputed Bank in favor of A. K. Khan & Company Limited.
<b>10. Last date of Submission of the Bidding Documents</b>	On or before <b>January 20, 2012</b> during office hour.
<b>11. Special Instructions</b>	The Company will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the participation or delivery of bids. - The bids will be opened in the presence of the team members assigned for this work and will be evaluated accordingly. Only the short listed bidders will be contacted for further discussion. - The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any bid offer at their won complete discretion. Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of the concerned bid. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, bidders should contact the following from <b>07, 2012.</b>

Managing Director, Attention: Director-LSP  
A. K. Khan & Company Limited, Head Office, Batali Hills, Chittagong 4000  
Tel: +880 31 611050 - 2, Ext. 111; Fax: +880 31 610596, E-mail: samsuddinkhan@akkhan.com

**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)**

**Franchise Bidding**

Date : 1st January 2012

**(The EOI published in National Dailies on 30th December 2011 regarding the Franchise Bidding of BPL T20 is hereby cancelled and should be read as follows)**

The first edition of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 will start from 8th February 2012. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. The price of the bid document is **\$5000.00** (US Dollar Five Thousand Only). Payment can also be made through pay order/ bank draft in favour of "Game On Sports Management" in equivalent BDT and it will be non refundable.

Sl	Description	Date
1	Bid document is available at BPL Governing Council, C/O: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. The price of the bid document is <b>\$5000.00</b> (US Dollar Five Thousand Only). Payment can also be made through pay order/ bank draft in favour of "Game On Sports Management" in equivalent BDT and it will be non refundable.	From 1st to 7th January 2012 (During Office Hours)
2	The Base Price of bidding for a Franchise is <b>\$1m</b> (US Dollar One Million) or equivalent to BDT. Interested Corporate Houses / Parties will have to submit a Pay-Order of <b>\$100000.00</b> (US Dollar One Hundred Thousand Only) in favour of "Game On Sports Management" while registering.	On or before 8th January 2012
3	Franchise Bidding will be held at the BCB Office, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh.	On 10th January 2012
4	Players Auction will be held in Bangladesh (Venue to be announced in due course)	On 19th January 2011
5	Successful franchise bidders are required to provide an irrevocable and confirmed Bank Guarantee (BG) for an amount equivalent to their respective successful bid, in favour of "Game On Sports Management".	On or before 15th January 2012
6	Franchisees are also required to submit an irrevocable and confirmed Bank Guarantee (BG) of <b>\$1m</b> (US Dollar One Million) in favour of "Bangladesh Cricket Board" as guarantee for Players' payment	On or before 17th January 2012
7	Franchisees are required to pay the full amount of their respective successful bids after deducting <b>\$100000.00</b> (US Dollar One Hundred Thousand Only). The payment will be made by Pay Order in favor of Game On Sports Management (GOSM)	On or before 2nd February 2012

- Due to time constrain the franchise bidding process is being completed within a short period. However, the following officials of the BPL Governing Council and Game On Sports Management (GOSM) are available to attend to any queries:  
**Mr. Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, Secretary, BPL Governing Council**  
Cell: +880 1714000700, email: secretarybpl@bcb-cricket.com
- Mr. Anjan Ganguly, Managing Director, Game On Sports Management**  
Cell: +880 1925155139, email: gameon.sport@yahoo.com
- Mr. Musfiqur Rahman Mohan, Bangladesh partner, Game On Sports Management**  
Cell: +88019111317555, email: info@implortexbd.net

● Game on Sports Management reserves the rights to cancel or make changes to the entire process at any stage and to reject any bid at its sole discretion without assigning any reason whatsoever and without being liable to any participant.

On behalf of BPL Governing Council  
**Anjan Ganguly**  
Managing Director  
Game on Sports Management