

Myanmar president vows 'healthy democracy'

AFP, Singapore

Myanmar's president yesterday pledged to establish a "healthy democracy" after nearly half a century of iron-fisted military rule as he sought Singapore's help to modernise the creaking economy.

President Thein Sein, in Singapore for a four-day state visit, also appealed to the global community to continue encouraging Myanmar on its reform path, saying the transition period was fraught with challenges.

"The international community should render its support and encouragement to our effort to meet our objectives because a young democratic nation has emerged on this planet," Thein Sein told a lavish state dinner held in his honour.

"We have turned a new page in our country in order to create better conditions in Myanmar. We want to give a brighter future for our people.



Thein Sein

"We want our people to take part in the democratic reform process and we want democracy to thrive in Myanmar. I wish to assure you that I shall endeavour to establish a healthy democracy in Myanmar."

The ex-general and former member of Myanmar's feared junta added that "since we are on the right track to democracy we shall overcome these challenges with great care and proceed ahead till we reach our goals".

Thein Sein was appointed president in February last year after November 2010 elections that have ushered in reforms in Myanmar that have surprised international observers, though the West is demanding more still be done.

Earlier yesterday, Thein Sein met Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the pair witnessed the signing by their foreign ministers of an agreement under which Singapore will provide training for reforms in the legal, banking and financial sectors.

The pact also calls on Singapore to share its best practices in trade, tourism and urban planning. Resource-rich but largely untapped Myanmar in return offers attractive opportunities for Singapore businesses.

Thein Sein was accompanied by a top-level delegation which included business leaders and top ministers in charge of economic portfolios, underlining the importance of the trip to Myanmar's nominally civilian government.

Singapore President Tony Tan said the wealthy city-state would strengthen economic cooperation and business links with Myanmar, as the country emerges from decades of political and economic isolation.



PHOTO: AFP

Palestinian women walk past the rubble of a home after it was demolished by Israeli bulldozers in the Arab east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Beit Hanina yesterday. Israel regularly demolishes homes in Arab east Jerusalem and the areas of the West Bank under full Israeli control, saying the buildings are constructed without the required permits.

Saarc moves

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The finance ministers felt South Asia that had been immune to the 2007-08 global economic crisis would take a hit from the second recession, Muhith said.

"There is a need to initiate effective and coordinated actions in monetary and fiscal policies to avoid possible risks," he said.

He emphasised the need for developing a regional coordinated surveillance mechanism to forecast the fallout of external shocks.

The Saarc finance ministers' forum was established in 2005 with an objective to go for South Asian Union. The ministers sit once a year, after Saarc Summit. Finance secretaries of the member

nations sit one day before the ministers' meeting to make recommendations for them.

The secretary-level meeting this time has recommended establishing a regional development bank and a fund where the members and donors will contribute. The finance secretaries also forwarded a proposal for promotion and protection of investment among the Saarc members.

"Saarc Development Fund is already in place. In the long run this fund will be converted into a regional development bank," said Mohammad Tareque, finance secretary of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the ministerial meeting.

Putin puts state capitalism first for Russia

REUTERS, Moscow

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, seeking to renew his hold on power after unprecedented street protests, set out an economic agenda yesterday that puts state capitalism at the heart of a bid to boost Russia's global competitiveness.

In a 5,000-word newspaper article, the third in a series he has written ahead of a March 4 presidential election, Putin defended his record while acknowledging Russia needed to adapt in a period of "cardinal change" in the global economy.

"We are seeing how countries, whose position seemed invulnerable only yesterday, are yielding to those that not long ago were regarded with haughty disdain," he wrote in the Vedomosti financial daily.

"In such conditions it is important to secure the stable and gradual development of our economy, and as far as possible to protect our citizens from blows delivered by crises, while resolutely and quickly renewing



'likes' from readers.

Putin said his government had been right to reassert control over the energy sector, an indirect reference to the breakup of Russia's largest oil firm, Yukos, whose assets were largely bought up by state-controlled Rosneft and whose owner, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, was jailed for tax evasion and fraud.

The article, Putin's broadest discourse on how he would run the economy should he be elected for a six-year term, also identifies continuing dependency on natural resources and de-industrialization as Russia's greatest economic weaknesses.

all aspects of economic life."

Readers of Vedomosti's online edition were critical of Putin, who has run Russia for the past 12 years as two-term president and then premier.

"Dear Pu, we've had enough of your slogans. Twelve years of absolute power should be enough to show some results," wrote a person who signed in as AVTor, getting 109

Pvt universities

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The private universities that have failed to relocate as per the Private University Act, 2010.

Under the Act, a university must own a permanent campus five years into its launch. Forty-three out of 54 private universities have failed to comply with this rule.

Earlier in December 2010, the government issued an ultimatum to the defaulter private universities that they would not be allowed to enrol new students from October 2011.

However, the government did not enforce the decision even after three months of the deadline expiring. The ministry finally held a meeting yesterday to decide the next course of action.

An overview presented at yesterday's meeting stated that only 11 universities had so far set up their own campuses on the required space of land.

The universities are North South University; University of Science and Technology, Chittagong; International Islamic University, Chittagong; Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology; International University of Business Agriculture & Technology; BGC Trust University Bangladesh, Chittagong; Bangladesh University of Business & Technology (BUBT); Independent University, Bangladesh; Stamford University, Bangladesh; Premier University; and City University.

Only seven universities are constructing their own respective campuses on the required land and the government has asked these universities to relocate within a year through notifying the UGC.

Seven other universities have obtained approval for

their university designs but are yet to begin construction. The ministry asked them to start construction within six months and begin relocation within one year by informing the ministry and the UGC.

Eighteen universities got the required land but could not get their designs approved. These universities have been asked to start construction within six months and start shifting within one year.

The universities which have got land less than the required degree will be asked to get the required land within six months and start shifting within a year.

If any of these universities fail, the government will take action as per the Act.

The ministry also asked IBAIS University, Atish Dipankar University of Science & Technology, and Dhaka International University to resolve their problems over ownership issues within three months and inform the authorities concerned.

It also asked Northern University Bangladesh, UITS, and other universities, which have legal issues with either the government or the UGC, to dispose of the cases through the court immediately.

Contacted, the education minister said it was a good sign that several universities had acted accordingly after the government issued the ultimatum.

"We have taken steps so that the universities can fulfil the criteria and ensure standard education," he told The Daily Star.

UGC Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Education Secretary Kama Abdul Naser Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

PM for joint action

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done at a high cost," she said while addressing the inaugural session of 5th Saarc Finance Ministers' Meeting at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla.

Our economic capability has gradually squeezed and it has become difficult to sustain the expansionary economic policy for long when the levels of public debt have also risen significantly, she added.

Hasina said the regional economies are facing serious strains due to the current crisis in North America and Europe, the strong global inflationary pressure and volatility in foreign exchange rates.

In addition, she said, "We have our persistent problem arising from climate change phenomenon and environmental degradation," the premier said adding that in such a situation, there is a need for a concerted action by the Saarc and, where necessary, bilateral coordination to facilitate regional

action.

"We need to adjust our policies collectively. We want economic growth, social progress and collective self reliance," Hasina said and added that trade cooperation and integration of the region is the ultimate objective of the Saarc.

In this context, she said the Saarc was launched "on our belief in togetherness" and on the premises of mutual benefit and shared prosperity. Today in Saarc, we see the potential of South Asia graduating from just neighbours to a family of nations based on a set of values, common aspirations and initiatives."

The prime minister said increasing interests of outside actors in the Saarc also demonstrate potential which the region possesses.

However, she said, "It is also a fact that realisation of a South Asian Economic Union and eventual instilling of a sense of South Asian-ness in our thinking,

approaches and actions, remain still a lofty goal."

Hasina said the inter-governmental expert group that the finance ministers established has already looked at the costs and benefits of integration and they have considered facilitation of trade as well as capital market development.

"We are presently dealing with liberalisation in trade in services. This will surely require intra-regional investment. Simultaneously, we have to work on a system of mutual action in the stock markets in the region."

While undertaking all these actions, we must not forget that special consideration should always apply to the Least Developed Countries, she said.

The prime minister said though under Safta there are some progress, but the process of cutting down the sensitive lists is rather slow and must be recast to include major goods of

export interest.

She said there must be quicker dismantling of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers, and the progress on harmonisation of product standards must also be expedited.

The prime minister also noted her satisfaction as the South Asian Regional Standard Organization (Sarso) has already been set up with its office in Dhaka.

Laying emphasis on connectivity for cooperation and for a South Asian Economic Union, she said regional connectivity is not only crucial for greater trade among the South Asian nations but also for optimum reaping of benefits and potentials for ensuring prosperity of the peoples.

Presided over by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, the inaugural ceremony was also addressed by Bhutanese Finance Minister Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu and Secretary of the Finance Division Mohammad Tareque.

12,000 BNP, Jamaat

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towns on Sunday when police fired on agitating BNP activists and supporters.

Over 450 people including 100 police sustained injuries as the law enforcers attempted to foil scheduled marches of the opposition in different districts on the day.

In Laxmipur, BNP's youth wing Jubo Dal activist Rubel Hossain, 25, and BNP supporter Abul Kashem, 50, died of bullet wounds while two rickshaw-pullers Abul Mridha, 50, and Limon Soiyal, 25, died in Chandpur.

Our Noakhali correspondent reported that Enamul Kamal, a sub-inspector of Laxmipur Sadar Police

Station, filed the case Sunday night blaming opposition activists for the killings of Rubel Hossain and Abul Kashem.

In the case statement, the SI named 181 people including district BNP unit general secretary Sahab Uddin Sabu, district Jamaat ameer Foyez Ahmed and president of district Jatiyatadaib Chhatra Dal unit Harunur Rashid.


Rubel was buried at Dalal Bazar graveyard Sunday night while Kashem at his family graveyard at Charmonsha village in Laxmipur sadar upazila yesterday morning.

A correspondent from Chandpur reported that

Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Chandpur Model Police Station, had identified 59 local BNP, Jubo Dal and JCD leaders in the cases. The OC in one case accused them of an attack on police, violence and murder and in another of using explosives.

Meanwhile, local BNP units observed a half-day hartal peacefully in Chandpur and Laxmipur yesterday, protesting the deaths of four people in the police firing the day before.

No long-distant buses were running in the town for six hours since the strike began at 6:00 am, a Chandpur correspondent reported.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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

Invitation for Bids for Procurement of Seine Net, Hilsha Net and Low Lift Pumps

Credit No. 4507 - BD, Project ID No. UTF /BGD/ 040 /BGD, Bid Package No.1G31.F

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 Seine Nets, Hilsha Nets, and Low Lift Pumps. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 35 Nos. of Seine Nets, 30 Nos. of Hilsha Nets and 35 Nos. of Low Lift Pumps against Lot 1, Lot 2, and Lot 3 respectively under Package No. 1G31.F to be received by FAO Representation, House No. 7, Road No. 8, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Bidders having a minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the supply of the tendered items are only encouraged to participate. The delivery period is 6 (six) 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 from and inspect the bidding documents from the ECRRP office of FAO (Hs. # 27, Rd. # 9A, Apt.# A1, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Tel. 813 07 58) during office hours i.e. 08:00 to 16:30 hours. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk.1000.00. 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. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security for an amount described below:

Package No.	Lot No.	Item	Bid Security Amount
1G31.F	Lot No.1	Seine Nets	Tk. 25,000.00
	Lot No.2	Hilsha Net	Tk. 100,000.00
	Lot No.3	Low Lift Pumps	Tk. 40,000.00

Bids shall be delivered to the address below by 2:00 Hrs. on 22 February 2012. They will be opened immediately thereafter, in the presence of bidders' 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: 88-02- 8118015
 Fax: 88-02-811 3446

The publishing of this notice and the receipt of bids does not commit FAO in any way to any party.



ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো)

“বিদ্যুৎ বন্ধের বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত গ্রাহক বৃন্দের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ডেসকোর আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত উপকেন্দ্র সমূহের ব্যবসায়িক রক্ষাবেশণ কাজের নিমিত্তে নির্দিষ্ট তারিখ ও সময়ে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ এলাকা সমূহে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে।

তারিখ	সময়	উপকেন্দ্রের নাম	যে সকল এলাকার বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে
০১/০২/১২ ইং	সকাল ৮:০০ হতে দুপুর ২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত	বদানী-৩ ১১ কেভি স্ট্রিক্টে স্টেশন	কাবলী বাস স্ট্যান্ড হতে বদানী বাজার (পশ্চিম পার্শ্ব), বদানী (রোড নং-৬, ১৩-১৭)।
০৬/০২/১২ ইং	সকাল ৮:০০ হতে দুপুর ২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত	বদানী-১ ১১ কেভি স্ট্রিক্টে স্টেশন	বদানী (রোড নং-৪ (আংশিক), ২৫/এ, ২৭ (আংশিক), সিউ এয়ারপোর্ট রোড (আংশিক), সিউটি এবং বাসুয়াট।
০৮/০২/১২ ইং	সকাল ৮:০০ হতে দুপুর ২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত	বদানী-২ ১১ কেভি স্ট্রিক্টে স্টেশন	নেভাল হেড কোয়ার্টার, বদানী (রোড নং-১৮ (আংশিক), ২৩ (আংশিক), বদানী কোয়ার্টার (রোড নং-২০ হতে ২৮)।
১০/০২/১২ ইং	সকাল ৮:০০ হতে বিকাল ৩:০০ টা পর্যন্ত	মিরপুর ডিওএইচএল ৩৩/১১ কেভি উপকেন্দ্র	মিরপুর ডিওএইচএল সম্পূর্ণ এলাকা, সাতকতা হাউজিং, মিরপুর সিআইসি, সেকশন-১২ (রেক-প/সি/ডি)।
১৭/০২/১২ ইং	সকাল ৮:০০ হতে বিকাল ৪:০০ টা পর্যন্ত	মিরপুর ৩৩ ৩৩/১১ কেভি উপকেন্দ্র	মিরপুর সেকশন-৬ (রেক-এ/সি/সি/ডি), মসজিদ মার্কেট, টিএডটি ভবন, ফায়ার সার্ভিস, মেসোটা, আনামবাস হাউজিং, আরিকাবাস হাউজিং, সেকশন-১০, মিরপুর-১০ হতে আল হেলাল হলপিটা, সেনপাড়া, আইডিলেল হুস, বিজারটিং, প্যারিস রোড, এভিনিউ-৫, বালা হুস, সেকশন-১১, মসিনা নগর, পলাশ নগর, আকাস উমিন উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, আমতলা বাজার, সেকশন-১৩ বাজার, হায়ম্যান মেইনার হুস এলাকা, বাইশটেকি, বাউনিয়াবাধ এলাকা।

বিদ্যুৎ বন্ধের কারণে সম্মানিত গ্রাহক বৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য ডেসকো কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

ডেসকো কর্তৃপক্ষ