

NEWS IN brief

Assange takes case to UK's top court

AFP, London

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's two-day hearing at England's Supreme Court gets underway Wednesday, in the latest stage of his lengthy battle against extradition to Sweden to face rape allegations.

If the court rejects his case, the 40-year-old Australian will have exhausted all his options in Britain but he could still make a last-ditch appeal to the European Court of Human Rights, prosecutors have said.

The Supreme Court, England's highest, granted Assange permission to appeal in December.

The case will be considered by seven judges, rather than the usual five. The Supreme Court usually takes about 10 weeks to deliver a judgement but the parties

France's Armenia genocide law put on hold

AFP, Paris

France's new law punishing denial of the Armenian genocide was put on hold yesterday after politicians opposed to the legislation demanded that its constitutionality be examined.

Turkey reacted furiously last week when the Senate approved the law which threatens with jail anyone in France who denies that the 1915 massacre of Armenians by Ottoman Turk forces amounted to genocide.

Indian state home secy arrested

THE HINDU Online

Andhra Pradesh Home Secretary B.P. Acharya was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation here on Monday for his role in the fast-snowballing scandal of irregularities in allotment of high-priced plots for villas in the township project of Dubai-based real estate developer Emaar.

He is the fourth person arrested in the case after Trimex group chairman Koneru Prasad; Sunil Reddy, an aide of Kadapa MP Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy; and G Venkat Vijay Raghav, a top executive of Emaar MGF.

8 Pak soldiers killed in Taliban clashes

AFP, Peshawar

Dozens of heavily armed Taliban militants attacked a Pakistani military post yesterday, sparking clashes that killed eight soldiers and wounded another 15, the military said.

Helicopter gunships were mobilised when the fighting broke out in the same Jogi area as clashes that killed six soldiers on January 25 in the district of Kurram, part of Pakistan's lawless tribal belt along the Afghan border.

At the time, security forces claimed to have taken control of Jogi, which is strategically located near Orakzai district, birthplace of Pakistani Taliban

Kasab appeals against death penalty

AFP, New Delhi

The lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai attacks began a Supreme Court appeal against his death sentence on Tuesday by claiming that he had not received a fair trial.

A lawyer read out a statement in court from Mohammed Kasab, one of 10 gunmen who laid siege to Mumbai in the attacks that lasted nearly three days and killed 166 people.

The 24-year-old Pakistani has appealed for his death penalty to be overturned after he was convicted in 2010 for a series of crimes, including waging war against India, murder and terror acts.

"I have been wrongly held guilty because I was denied a fair trial. I was denied a counsel," Kasab, who was not in court on Tuesday, said in a statement read by his appeal lawyer Raju Ramchandran.

"The prosecution has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the charges against me... I may be guilty of killing people and carrying out a terrorist act but I am not guilty of waging war against the state."

The November 2008 attacks saw 10 heavily-armed Islamist gunmen storm targets in Mumbai including luxury hotels, a Jewish centre and a train station.

Two judges in New Delhi are hearing the appeal, which is expected to last at least two weeks.

India blames the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant outfit for training, equipping and financing the Mumbai gunmen with support from "elements" in the Pakistan military.

Kasab's death sentence was confirmed by a state high court in Mumbai last year. If he loses his Supreme Court appeal, he can lodge a final appeal for clemency with the president.

Sectarian violence kills 10 in Karachi

AFP, Karachi

At least 10 people have been killed in a renewed wave of sectarian and ethnic killings by criminal gangs in Pakistan's financial capital of Karachi, police said yesterday.

The victims included the wife of a lawmaker from southwestern province Baluchistan and their teenage daughter.

They were returning home after attending a wedding overnight when their car was intercepted by two motorcyclists who shot them and their driver dead, police official Rahim Ullah said.

"At least 10 people have been killed in targeted shootings in the last 24 hours," provincial home ministry official Sharfuddin Memon told AFP.

"Some of those were killed because of sectarian reasons."

Cops prevent Jamaat

FROM PAGE 1

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital around noon, law enforcers handed over the body to the family and the party, said Assistant Commissioner (Boalia Zone) Nurul Islam.

But as Jamaat men tried to hold the procession, police took the body back and carried it to Shafiqul's village home Basua Achintola in Rajshahi.

It was brought to Hatim Khan, five kilometres off the city, after namaz-e-janaza, he added.

Monzur Rahman, younger brother of Shafiqul, denied any attempt to bring out such a procession. He claimed that the Jamaat men just wanted to carry the body on their shoulders and walk to the graveyard.

AC Nurul Islam said police wanted to avoid any untoward incident. They allowed all relatives and party men to attend the funeral.

Meanwhile, the autopsy report on Shafiqul Islam has confirmed that a bullet from a

small firearm had hit Shafiqul, resulting in heavy bleeding.

Mansur Rahman, chief of a three-member medical board formed to prepare the report, told The Daily Star last evening that the bullet had entered the body at the lower portion of the chest and went out by the back near the neck. The report was handed over to police.

Yesterday, police sued 900 opposition activists in connection with Monday's violence as the BNP-led alliance observed a peaceful hartal in the city.

Hafizur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Boalia Police Station, filed two separate cases against 900 activists of the BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami with the police station in the early hours.

The complainant named 16 accused in the cases.

Of the cases, one was filed on charge of disrupting public life by holding a mass procession and obstructing police from discharging

their duties and another under the Explosives Act.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance enforced the half-day shutdown for six hours from 6:00am to protest the death of Shafiqul.

No BNP or Jamaat men were seen picketing during the hartal hours while security was tight with deployment of additional law enforcers.

Thirty-year-old Shafiqul was hit by a bullet when police, under attack, opened fire on the violent activists of the Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Hatim Khan on Monday.

It all began as law enforcers stopped an opposition procession. In the ensuing fighting, around eighty others, including 19 cops, were injured.

Police claimed that they fired rubber bullets and shotgun shells only to scatter the rioters, not targeting anybody. Rather, gun-wielding Jamaat-Shibir activists shot at the law enforcers and exploded cocktails.

Prosecute BSF

FROM PAGE 1

killings near the border with Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said he has assured the Bangladesh government that those found guilty of torturing a Bangladeshi national in Murshidabad would get severe punishment, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Chidambaram was talking to reporters at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi yesterday.

The incident of torture at Murshidabad on December 9 last year was captured in a video and later posted on YouTube.

"These horrific images of torture on video show what rights groups have long documented: that India's Border Security Force is out of control," said HRW South Asia Director Meenakshi Ganguly.

"The Indian government is well aware of killings and torture at the border, but has never prosecuted the troops responsible. This video provides a clear test case of whether the security forces are above the law in India," HRW said in its yesterday's news release.

The video, reportedly filmed by a BSF soldier, shows members of the BSF's 105th Battalion stripping Bangladeshi cattle smuggler Habibur Rahman, tying him up and beating him, while laughing and engaging in verbal abuse.

The BSF men illegally detained and tortured him and then left him to make his way back home instead of handing him over to the police as required by the Indian law, the news release said.

After MASUM, a Kolkata-based non-governmental organisation, released the video to local news channels, the BSF suspended eight soldiers and ordered

an inquiry.

"However, despite clear evidence of abuse, to date no criminal charges have been filed against any soldiers," it reads.

In December 2010, HRW, together with MASUM and Dhaka-based Odhikar, published "'Trigger Happy': Excessive Use of Force by Indian Troops at the Bangladesh Border."

The report documented numerous cases of indiscriminate use of force, arbitrary detention, torture, and killings by the BSF, and highlighted the failure of the Indian government.

After the report's release, the Indian government ordered an end to the use of lethal force except in cases of self-defence. While the number of killings decreased, allegations of killings and torture have continued, said the HRW.

The rights watchdog also called upon the Indian government to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to enact the Prevention of Torture bill.

CHIDAMBARAM FOR SEVERE PUNISHMENT

The Indian home minister pointed out that the day the incident of torture of the Bangladeshi man came to light, action was taken by suspending eight BSF personnel and ordering of an inquiry.

The incident was "unfortunate" and "I strongly condemn it", Chidambaram said.

He also mentioned that there had been no cross-border firing incident since his visit to Dhaka in August last year and "the situation has improved".

Chidambaram said the border management by both the countries was working well since his last visit to Dhaka.

INDIAN ASSEMBLY POLLS, 2012

Congress releases UP manifesto

PTI, Lucknow

Playing the quota card in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, Congress yesterday promised reservation for socially and economically backward minorities and very backward dalits in proportion to their population.

Releasing the party manifesto in the state, where Rahul Gandhi is the star campaigner, the Congress also vowed to ensure that all parties to the Ayodhya dispute stick to the court verdict.

The party promised to work for setting up the second States Reorganisation Commission in the wake of demands for splitting states like UP.

Reiterating its promise of creating more employment opportunities if voted to power, the manifesto promised launching a UP skills and employment mission to provide job related skills and training to 20 lakh youths and placement in jobs through this mission in the next five years.

The manifesto was released here jointly by HRD minister Kapil Sibal, Law minister and chairman of the manifesto committee Salman Khursheed and UPCC president Rita Bahuguna Joshi. It was simultaneously released in nine other cities in the state.

For the minorities, the manifesto promised timely implementation of the UPA government's policy of 4.5 per cent quota in central government jobs, PSUs and educational institutions besides aim towards a sub quota for them in UP as part of the OBC quota in the state government jobs and educational institutions commensurate to their population.

High turnout in Punjab, Uttarakhand

TNN, New Delhi

A record voter turnout of 77% in Punjab and high 70% polling in Uttarakhand threw political parties into a tizzy as the current round of assembly polls reaches the half-way mark with a major four-cornered contest looming in UP besides a smaller, but no less hard-fought showdown in Goa.

The voting can also mean both Congress and the Akali-BJP combine have mobilised their bases well. Results will be published on March 4.

The long lines at polling booths also seem to indicate that despite anti-politician movements like Team Anna's Lokpal stir that seeks to run down the authority of elected legislatures, grassroots democracy is alive and kicking. Lokpal and corruption are poll issues, but there is no cynicism about the political process.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education

Shikkha Bhaban, 3rd Block, 2nd Floor

16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka -1000

Invitation for Tender (National)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education.
3	Procuring entity name	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Supply, Service and Installation of Internet Modem with Connectivity
7	Invitation Reference No.	মাঠশি/আইসিটি/সিআইইউ/ইন্টারনেট মডেম ক্রয়/৩৯/২০১২/২০২
8	Date	30/01/2012.

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Fund.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code	5040.
13	Project/programme name	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project.
14	Tender package No. and lot No.	GD 5, Lot No.3
15	Tender package name	Computers and Accessories with Internet Connections for the Selected Institutions.
16	Tender publication date	01/02/2012.
17	Tender last selling date	29/02/2012.
18	Tender closing date and time	01/03/2012, 01:00 pm.
19	Tender opening date and time	01/03/2012, 02:00 pm.

20	Name & address of the office(s)	
-Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Project Director, ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project, Shikkha Bhaban, 3 rd Block, 2 nd Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000	
-Selling tender document (others)	Office of the Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin. 2), Ministry of Education, Room # 1723 (17 th Floor), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.	
-Receiving tender document	(i) Office of the Project Director, ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project, Shikkha Bhaban, 3 rd Block, 2 nd Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000. (ii) Office of the Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin. 2), Ministry of Education, Room # 1723 (17 th Floor), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.	
-Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director, ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project, Shikkha Bhaban, 3 rd Block, 2 nd Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.	

21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable
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INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	1. Local supplier having distributorship/agency/dealership certificate from the manufacturer or principal of the product (where applicable). 2. The tenderer shall have minimum 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. 3. The tenderer shall have specific experience of successfully completing minimum 2 (two) supplies of contract of Internet Modems and related services within last 3 (three) years and the total value of supply shall be not less than BDT 10.00 (ten) lac under 2(two) contracts. 4. The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is BDT 500.00 lac. 5. The tenderers shall have average annual turnover of BDT 500.00 lac (minimum) during the last 5 (five) years. 6. The tenderers shall have qualified audit report for the last 3 (three) years. 7. Other qualification criteria mentioned in the TDS.
23	Brief description of goods and related services	Supply, service and maintenance of 20,500 numbers of Internet Modem with Connectivity for 20,500 numbers of Educational Institutions under 64 districts of Bangladesh.
24	Brief description of related services	After sales service (technical) and service for internet connectivity.
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	BDT 5000.00 (five thousand) only through Treasury Challan, Code No. 1-2501-0001-2366.

	Package & Lot #	Identification of package	Location of delivery	Tender security amount (BDT)	Completion time in weeks/months/days
	GD 5, lot 3	Supply, Service and Installation of Internet Modems with Connectivity	21 Training Centers/District Education Offices	BDT 22.00 (twenty-two) lac only	Within 90 days after signing contract

26	Name of official inviting tender	Abul Kalam Azad
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project.
28	Address of official inviting tender	ICT for Education in Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Project, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Shikkha Bhaban, 3 rd Block, 2 nd Floor, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: +880-2-9550477, Fax: + 880-2-9550548, E-mail: pd.ict.project@gmail.com
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	

GD-512

Abul Kalam Azad
Project Director

BPDB's Local Tender Notice

"বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয়ী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন"

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.			
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.			
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Guy Assembly with complete set.			
7	Invitation for tenders Ref. No.	Pur-241/2011-12/Rev.			
8	Date	24/01/2012.			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and source of funds	BPDB's Revenue Budget (Local).			
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
14	Tender package No.	GDL-41 (FY: 2011-2012).			
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Guy Assembly with complete set.			
16	Tender publication date	24-01-2012.			
17	Tender selling date	29-01-2012 to 27-02-2012.			
18	Tender closing date and time	28-02-2012 at 11.00am.			
19	Tender opening date and time	28-02-2012 at 11.30am.			
20	Name & address of the office	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
	Selling tender document (other)	Not applicable.			
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Renowned Local Manufacturer/Supplier.			
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of Guy Assembly with complete set.			
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.			
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand only) as Pay-Order (non-refundable) from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of the Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.			
26	Lot	Identification of lot	Location of delivery	Tender security amount in Tk	Completion time in weeks/months
	-	Guy Assembly with Complete Set -5,000 sets	BPDB's Central Store at Tongi	Tk 2,50,000.00	Completion of supply within 120 days from the date of contract signing.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
27	Name of official inviting tender		Abul Basar Khan.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender		Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
29	Address of official inviting tender		WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender		Tel: + 88 02 9550532, 7120089 Fax: + 88 02 7126151		
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.				
Biddyt/Jana-874(4)/26/1/12 GD-474			Abul Basar Khan Director Directorate of Purchase BPDB, Dhaka		

Biddyt/Jana-874(4)/26/1/12
GD-474