

# Maldives suspended from C'wealth body

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Maldives has been suspended from the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) following the ousting of its first democratically elected president Mohamed Nasheed on February 7.

The decision to suspend the island state was taken at an extraordinary session of the CMAG, a watchdog body that deals with serious violations of the bloc's political values, on Wednesday in London.

The country, however, would not be suspended from the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma at a press conference in London said, "The group urged President Waheed and former president Nasheed to commence an immediate dialogue, without preconditions, to agree on a date for early elections, which should take place within this calendar year."

The action group received a report from a three-member ministerial mission that visited the archipelago from February 17-19.

The mission was led by Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Surujrattan Rambachan. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and her Australian counterpart were other members of the mission.

# US troops killed in violent Afghan protests

## Obama expresses 'deep regret' on burning of Quran

AFP, Kabul

President Barack Obama was forced to apologise yesterday over the burning of Qurans at a US airbase in Afghanistan, where three days of protests have killed 14 people, including two American soldiers.

Violent anti-US protests have seen furious Afghans attack French, Norwegian and US bases, shouting "death to America" after the Taliban exhorted their countrymen to kill foreign troops to avenge the incident at a US-run base.

In a letter of apology to

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Obama expressed "deep regret" over the incident that he said was unintentional and pledged that those responsible would be held accountable.

"I extend to you and the Afghan people my sincere apologies," Obama wrote in the letter presented to Karzai by US ambassador Ryan Crocker.

"The error was inadvertent; I assure you that we will take the appropriate steps to avoid any recurrence, to include holding accountable those responsible."

The two Americans were



shot dead when an Afghan soldier turned his weapon on them at their base in Khost province, eastern Nangarhar province, district governor Mohammad Hassan told AFP.

At least three Afghans were also killed by gunfire at

demonstrations in the south and east of the country, bringing the total death toll among protesters to 12 since Wednesday.

The violence came after the Taliban urged Afghans to kill foreign troops to avenge the Koran burning.

In Mihtarlam, the capital of Laghman province east of Kabul, thousands besieged the base of a US-led military-civilian provincial reconstruction team (PRT), throwing rocks and climbing up the outer walls, police said.

# Race to the bottom of the ocean

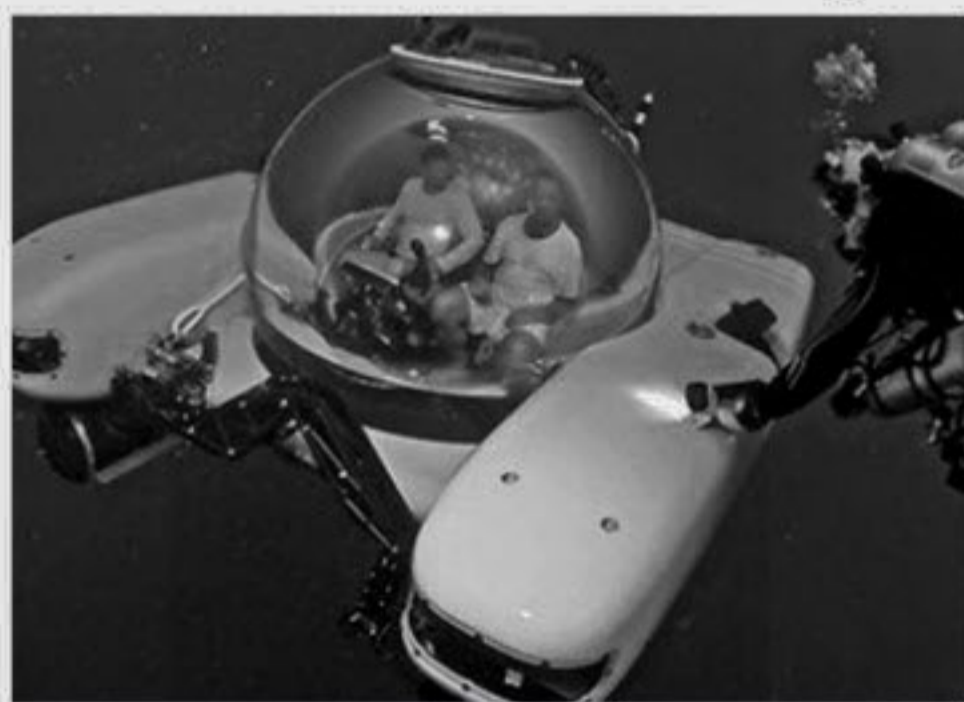
BBC ONLINE

Triton Submarines is a Florida-based company that designs and manufactures private submarines.

Currently its deepest-diving vehicle, which was recently tested in the Bahamas, can plunge 1km down.

But it forms a prototype for a vessel that will eventually be able to make the 11km journey to the bottom of the Mariana Trench.

The centrepiece of the design is a glass sphere that is 15cm (6in) thick, which is being manufactured by Rayotek Scientific in San Diego.



It will have to keep the three-man crew safe from the crushing pressures of the deep-but should also provide them with a 360-degree view during the descent.

Triton's aim is a commercial one: the team plans to put tickets on sale for those who want to take the dive.

Bruce Jones, the company's chief executive, said: "You have thousands of people that climb Everest, and Richard Branson is taking tonnes of deposits for trips into near-Earth orbit."

"We think you can get \$250,000 from some real adventuresome types to say they're one of a handful of people who've been to the deepest spot in the ocean."

The company hopes to have the craft ready in the next two years.

# PM's proposal very positive

FROM PAGE 1

Prof Yunus of international repute and merit, and he should be able to stand for the post," said delegation leader Jean Lambert, who represents the UK's Greens.

The prime minister at the end of her meeting with the visiting 7-member European Parliament delegation on Wednesday asked them (EU) to nominate Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus for the post of president of the World Bank.

Addressing a pre-departure media conference yesterday after a five-day visit, Jean Lambert however noted that the EU does not have any vote on the World Bank, but national governments do.

Asked whether they will try to persuade respective governments to forward the proposal, Lambert said she

is confident that some members of her delegation will take back the interesting idea to their governments and some will take it to the European Parliament.

In reply to a question as to whether she thinks Sheikh Hasina's proposal was a political joke, the EP delegation leader said, "When one makes such a proposal about a man of international standing for an important job, that cannot be a joke."

Lambert said Prof Yunus has quality understanding about the needs of developing countries, and vast economic ideas. "Yunus is an outstanding personality in Bangladesh and also internationally."

She said 60 organisations including Oxfam and the European Parliament

partly supports reforms to ensure transparency in the process of appointing the president of the World Bank.

It should not be automatically rest with the largest contributor, she said adding that the time has come to rethink about the selection process, and about the quality of a candidate, who should know what is needed for the world's poorest countries, and should have experience to offer.

She said for a long time poor and developing countries have been saying that they are not represented in the figure that runs the World Bank.

"It needs fresh thinking about who should hold this post, and the EU parliament has a position on the reforms," she added.

## UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following posts. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: [www.unicef.org.bd](http://www.unicef.org.bd)

- Nutrition Specialist (Temporary Appointment)-NOC**
- Nutrition Officer (Temporary Appointment)-NOB**
- Nutrition Officer (Fixed Term)-NOB, Mymensingh**

Last date of receiving applications: **8 March 2012**

Applications with CV and a filled-in P-11 form should be sent to the Chief, Human Resources Section, UNICEF-Bangladesh, Hotel Ruposhi Bangla Annex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000. Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. **Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.**

*UNICEF IS COMMITTED TO GENDER EQUALITY IN ITS MANDATE AND ITS STAFF. WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY FEMALES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.*

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unite for children



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Nasir Trade Centre (6th Floor)  
89, Bir Uttom C.R. Datta Road, Banglamotor, Dhaka.

## INVITATION FOR RETENDER

- 01) Agency** - Destiny Developers Ltd.
- 02) Invitation ref. No. & Date** - DDL-011/12/12 Date: 22-02-2012
- 03) Procuring Method** - Open Tender Method (OTM)
- 04) Budget and Source of Fund** - Own Source
- 05) Name of Work** - Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of IT Infrastructure for 'Best Western Destiny Beach Hotel and Resort' at Plot # 14, Road # 1, Hotel motel zone, Cox's Bazar.
- 06) Time for Completion of works** - 05 (Five Month)
- 07) Price of Tender document** - Tk. 5,000/- (Five thousand) only Per set of Tender document in cash.
- 08) Amount of Earnest Money** - 2% (Two) of the quoted value from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Destiny Developers Ltd.
- 09) Tender Selling Date** - From 23-02-2012 to 07-03-2012
- 10) Tender Submission Date & Time** - 08-03-2012 up to 02:30 P.M.
- 11) Tender Opening Date & Time** - 08-03-2012 at 03:00 P.M. in presence of Tenderers or their Authorized representatives in the office of the undersigned.
- 12) Name and address of the office for Selling of Tenders** - Manager (Accounts), Destiny Developers Ltd. Nasir Trade Centre (6th Floor), 89, Bir Uttom C.R. Datta Road Banglamotor, Dhaka.
- 13) Eligibility of Tenderers :**
  - a) The tenderer must have current valid enlistment certificate, Trade license, VAT registration certificate and up to date income TAX clearance certificate.
  - b) Soon after the publication of the tender notice, the intending tenderers shall have to be acquainted with nature of the work and shall be given full facility and opportunity of having familiarity with the Project site.
  - c) The tenderer must have experience in practically doing Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of IT Infrastructure in a Hotel Project, High rise building or equivalent building project to an amount of Tk. 1,00,00,000.00 (Tk. One Crore) in a single work order, duly certified by the officers not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent to be enclosed. The contractor may also submit statement of works in hand
  - d) Rate must be quoted both in figures & in words for each item of works in the bill of quantities.
  - f) Furnishing of any false and misleading documents by The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason what so ever.
  - g) If it is not possible to open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be opened on the next working date at the same time and venue.
- 14) The Contractor has to maintain the work for 1 (One) year from the date of completion.**
- 15) The officer Inviting Tender** - Chief Engineer, Destiny Developers Ltd.
- 16) The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or part of it without assigning any reason what so ever.**
- 17) If it is not possible to open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be opened on the next working date at the same time and venue.**

**Muhammad Shajahan**  
Chief Engineer  
Destiny Developers Ltd.

# Is it a change ...?

FROM PAGE 1

Yunus' vast experience is a "valuable asset" that the World Bank, by making him its next president, can use for the benefit of the world.

This is for the first time we have heard anything positive from the PM about Yunus since she took power this time. Is Sheikh Hasina's change of heart for real? Or is it a mockery, with the underlying message, "Take him away from Bangladesh?" We hope it is the former.

Countless numbers of us who have attended conferences abroad or who have done business with foreign companies, have faced relentless questions as to how the Bangladesh government could harass the very man honoured the world over.

The support that the international community extended to Prof Yunus was seen by our government more as Yunus' capacity to lobby to gather support rather than a sign of genuine respect that he enjoyed.

The spontaneity of the global outcry was totally lost on our government. It could not imagine, in its wildest dream, that another Bangladeshi, who wielded no political power, could have earned such a genuinely exalted place in the global scene.

So like a stubborn individual, the more the support for Yunus, the more the government stiffened its attitude and saw it as external interference in our internal affairs. Not for a moment did it ask why heads of states and governments were rooting for this private man who had nothing to show for his power except his reputation for the work he did for the poor, especially women.

Within the country the government, its leaders and especially the prime minister came under severe criticism for their narrow mindedness. Many termed the prime minister's attitude to be an expression of her jealousy, as some had convinced her that she deserved a Nobel Prize. She appeared to be mean, vindictive, too eager to denigrate people other than her family, and totally blind against people she dislikes for whatever reason and however unjustifiably. To make a long story short, her attack on Prof Yunus greatly diminished her, her party, her government and the country.

Nothing would please us more if Sheikh Hasina really meant what she said to EU delegation. It is never too late to correct a wrong. Yunus' possible presidency of the World Bank is of least interest to us. (It may be mentioned

that the office is always held by an American, just as the IMF's stewardship is held by Europeans. On what basis our PM made such a request to the EU is beyond our comprehension). What is far more important for Bangladesh and we as a people is that we stop dishonouring a man who needs and deserves to be respected. We stop telling lies about him and about micro-credit that is being adopted in almost all poor countries of the world, some not too poor and a few rich countries as well.

As the age old saying goes, charity begins at home. So also respect for Yunus should begin at home, at the PM's home (figuratively speaking) to be precise.

If Sheikh Hasina believes what she said to the EU delegation about Yunus' work, his experience, his reputation then she must acknowledge that inside the country by giving him the respect he deserves. Given the ego our leaders have, it is too much to ask our PM to retract all that she has said about him in the past, especially after it proved to be all false. She would definitely gain the esteem of her countrymen if she had the maturity and the self confidence to admit that she was mistaken.

That said, we can ask her to begin anew. She can start by giving Yunus an audience that he has long requested for and removing the misunderstanding that has been exploited by many smaller people surrounding the PM. She can take steps to restore this man's prestige that she has so unfairly, cruelly but at the end ineffectively, tried to take away from him.

But, on the contrary, if she does not believe what she has said, then she has only made herself an object of ridicule. The world will know that she advised the EU and indirectly the World Bank and all its members to honour the very man she herself does not honour. What it will do for her own credibility and stature, not to speak of respect among her peers, is an open question. But it is one that should be asked by her.

It is our fervent hope that the PM's words signal a change of heart. We would further like to hope that she will act according to what she has said and try to heal this festering wound that has harmed us all so much, more her than anybody else. However, if her words turn out to have been just that --- words, without any substance or meaning --- then it will stand out as having made a mockery of us all.

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