

NEWS IN *brief*

Romney win in Washington

AFP, Seattle
Mitt Romney picked up another victory in the race for the Republican presidential nomination late Saturday as he carried his party's caucuses in the northwestern state of Washington.
Romney declared victory in the contest after returns showed him far ahead of former senator Rick Santorum and Texas congressman Ron Paul, who struggled for second place.
With 93 percent of the ballots counted, Romney was ahead with 37 percent of the vote, Paul ran a distant second with 25 percent followed closely by Santorum with 24 percent.
Former House speaker Newt Gingrich was fourth with just 11 percent of the vote.

50 killed in Guinea road accident

BBC ONLINE
Reports say up to 50 people have died and at least 20 injured after a road crash in eastern Guinea.
"A lorry... was the cause of this serious accident which has plunged numerous families into mourning," government minister Alhassane Conde said in a statement, AFP reports.
The lorry was travelling from Moribadou to take passengers to a weekly market in the town of Beyla.
Reports say the lorry crashed into a ravine after its brakes failed.
All the victims were buried in a common grave at the accident site, reports say.

India to name new army chief

THE HINDU ONLINE
Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General Bikram Singh will be the next chief of staff of the 1.3 million Indian Army. He will succeed General Vijay Kumar Singh, who retires on May 31.
The announcement by the defence ministry on Saturday came 90 days ahead of the scheduled day of assumption of charge - as against the 60-day norm the government has been following.
Lt Gen Bikram Singh was commissioned into the Sikh light infantry regiment on March 31, 1972 and during the last four decades, he has served in a variety of command and staff appointments.
Besides having commanded a corps in the northern command, he served as deputy force commander of the multinational UN peace keeping mission in Congo. He also served as UN observer in Nicaragua and El Salvador during early 1990s.



Bikram Singh

US to continue BP oil spill case

BBC ONLINE
The US government yesterday said it will continue its case against BP over the Deepwater Horizon oil rig spill despite a deal the company reached on Friday with the largest group of private claimants.
The \$7.8b (£4.9b) deal does not address "significant damages" to the environment after the Gulf of Mexico spill, the Department of Justice said.
The company has not admitted liability and still faces other legal claims. The April 2010 explosion killed 11 workers and leaked 4m barrels of oil.

Israel to take its own Iran decisions

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel will take any decisions on Iran's nuclear activities as an "independent state," Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said yesterday, on the eve of a US-Israel summit in Washington.
"Clearly, the United States is the biggest world power and the biggest and most important country that is a friend of Israel, but we are an independent state," Lieberman told Israeli public radio.
"Ultimately, the state of Israel will take the decisions that are most appropriate based on its evaluation of the situation," he said.
But he added that any decisions should be taken "calmly, weighing the pros and cons. All this chatter doesn't help anyone."
Lieberman's comments came shortly before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is due to hold talks in Washington with US President Barack Obama today, a meeting expected to focus heavily on Iran's nuclear activities.



Avigdor Lieberman

US believes Iran stepping up aid to Syria

AFP, Washington

Iran is stepping up its military and intelligence support for Syrian government troops in their crackdown against opposition strongholds, The Washington Post reported late Saturday.
Citing three unnamed US officials with access to intelligence reports from the region, the newspaper said Tehran had increased supplies of arms and other aid for Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad as he is trying to crush resistance in the key city of Homs.
A senior US official said Iran has recently dispatched members of its main intelligence service, the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, to Damascus to assist in advising and training Syrian counterparts in charge of the crackdown, according to the report.
Reports supported by US intelligence findings indicate that an Iranian operative was recently wounded while working with Syrian security forces inside the country, the paper said.
"They've supplied equipment, weapons and technical assistance -- even monitoring tools -- to help suppress unrest," The Post quoted the official as saying of Iranians.

Mars to glow at its 'brightest' today



TIMES OF INDIA

Red planet Mars will be brightest and closest "it can get" to earth today, giving sky gazers an opportunity to see it with naked eyes.
"On March 3, Mars was at opposition to sun at a position to see it because of which it would be brightest and closest it can get to earth on March 5," General Secretary of Planetary Society of India N Raghunandan said.
In positional astronomy, opposition defines that position of a celestial object when it is on the opposite side of the sun in the sky when viewed from earth as reference, director of NGO Science Popularisation Association of Communicators and Educators (SPACE) C B Devgun said.
The planet will be shining at -1.23 magnitude and can be seen between east and northeast direction. It will be 100.78 million km away from earth, he said.
"Mars will be brightest till end of April 2012. It will be visible in the night sky until February 2013 with decreasing brightness as it gets far from us as days pass by," he said.

China military budget tops \$100b

AGENCIES

China will boost military spending by 11.2 percent this year, the government said yesterday, unveiling Beijing's first defence budget since President Barack Obama launched a policy "pivot" to reinforce US influence across the Asia-Pacific.
The defence budget will rise 11.2 percent to 670.27 billion yuan (\$106.41 billion), a double-digit increase on last year, said a spokesman for China's national parliament.
The figure marks a slowdown from 2011 when spending rose by 12.7 percent but is still likely to fuel worries over China's growing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region and push its neighbours to forge closer ties with the United States.
Li described the budget as "relatively low" as a percentage of gross domestic product compared with other countries and said it was aimed at "safeguarding sovereignty, national security and territorial integrity".
China has been increasing its military spending by double digits for most of the past decade, during which time its economy, now the world's second largest, has grown at a blistering pace.

Trains collide in Poland, 15 killed

AFP, Warsaw

Rescue workers toiled overnight to pull survivors from the wreckage of a head-on train crash in southern Poland as the death toll rose to 15 yesterday, in one of the country's worst rail disasters.
"We know that 15 people are dead. Unfortunately we have not yet been able to remove the body of the last victim. We can see it but not get to it," Pawel Fratzczak, a spokesman for the emergency services in Szczekociny told AFP.
A total of 350 passengers were on board the two trains which collided head-on at 9:00pm Saturday as they were travelling on the same track, according to Poland's PKP railways.
One train was en route to the southern city of Krakow from the capital Warsaw, while the other was bound for the capital from the south-eastern city of Przemysl.
Investigators gave no early indications as to what caused the crash, which happened on a stretch of the line which had recently been modernised.

Putin 'elected Russian president'

BBC ONLINE

Vladimir Putin has declared victory in Russia's presidential elections, returning for a third term after spending the last four years as the country's PM.
Exit polls and preliminary results gave him about 60% of the vote.
Putin told supporters at a rally in central Moscow they had won in an open and honest battle.
But opposition groups have reported widespread fraud, with many people said to have voted more than once.
They have called for mass protests in central Moscow today.
Meanwhile tens of thousands of supporters of Putin gathered with Russian flags and banners outside the Kremlin for a concert to celebrate his victory.
Making a brief appearance with current President Dmitry Medvedev, Putin thanked his supporters from "every corner" of the country.
"I promised you we would win, and we won," he said, with tears in his eyes. "Glory to Russia!"
"We have won in an open and honest battle."
"We proved that no-one can force anything on us."
Slogans on the banner included "Putin - our president" and "We believe in Putin", but there were indications that some participants had been ordered to attend.
There is tight security in the city, with 6,000 extra police brought in from outside.
The electoral commission showed preliminary results, with more than 37% of districts counted, showing Mr Putin gaining over 63%, enough to give him a first-round victory over nearest rival Gennady Zyuganov, with 17%.
The other three candidates were in single digits.
In a news conference after the polls closed, Zyuganov described the elections as



Putin casts his vote in Moscow yesterday.

"unfair and unworthy".
But he said that with increasing public anger, Putin "would not be able to rule like he used to".
"These elections cannot be considered legitimate in any way," said Vladimir Ryzhkov, one of the leaders of the street protest movement, which was not represented in the election.
Meanwhile Putin's campaign chief Stanislav Govorukhin described the poll as "the cleanest in Russian history".
The turnout was 58.3% by 18:00 Moscow time, considerably higher than in 2008 elections. Electoral officials forecast a final turnout of 62.3%.
The election was held against a backdrop of popular discontent, sparked by allegations of widespread fraud during December's parliamentary elections in favour of Putin's United Russia party.

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Position: Registrar

Applications invited for Registrar position at North South University (NSU).
Academic Qualification: Excellent academic credentials; at least a Masters Degree (No third class), with a PhD Degree.
Job Experience: 15 years work experience with university level teaching as Professor for at least 6 years and 9 years of experience in university administration; candidates with work experience in foreign universities, especially in US, Canada, UK or equivalent will receive preference. Experience and skill in student admission and registration, record-keeping, scheduling classes and knowledge of university rules and regulations, acts, statutes and policies will be considered added qualification. High level computer literacy is essential. Requirements may be marginally relaxed for exceptional candidates.
Duties & Responsibilities: Will supervise Registrar's Office as per University Statutes and Syndicate directives; will manage and preserve university documents and records related to admission, registration, examinations grade, class schedule and academic matters; exchange correspondence on behalf of the university and will act as liaison with government, UGC, other institutions, submit periodic reports and required information to Education Ministry and UGC; will act as the Secretary of Syndicate and Academic Council and other designated committees; maintain link with Deans and Department Chairs on plans, programs and schedule; will perform additional duties assigned by the Syndicate, Academic Council or the Vice Chancellor.
Age limit: 45-55 years.
Salary & Benefits: Rank and status of NSU Professor. Salary includes basic pay, 40% house rent, transport and medical allowances; benefits include provident fund, gratuity, two festival bonuses and group insurance.
Higher salary for outstanding applicant.
Candidates may apply with complete CV, two photographs, two recommendation letters and copies of certificates and other credentials by **20 March 2012.**

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Registrar's Office

Deputy Registrar: 1 position
Academic Qualification: Excellent academic credentials; Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English / Social Sciences.
Job Experience: 12 years of experience in university administration. Candidates should have the knowledge of maintaining student records, transcripts, organize and registration; scheduling meetings in consultation with Registrar, ensure compliance with academic rules, policies and statutes. Working experience in foreign universities, especially in USA, Canada, UK or equivalent will receive preference. Knowledge of Private University Act will be considered added qualification. High level computer literacy is essential.
Age limit: Not above 45 years.

Assistant Registrar: 1 position
Academic Qualification: Excellent academic credentials; Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English / Social Sciences.
Job Experience: 10 years of experience in university administration. Candidates should have the knowledge of handling Admissions, Registration, Scheduling exams, responding verification queries of student's records and maintaining liaison with the related Govt. organizations. Knowledge of Private University Act will be considered added qualification. High level computer literacy is essential.
Age limit: Not above 40 years.

Officer: 1 position
Academic Qualification: Excellent academic credentials; Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English / Social Sciences.
Job Experience: 5 years of experience in university administration. Experience and skill in student admission and registration, record-keeping, scheduling classes and knowledge of university rules and regulations, acts, statutes and policies will be considered added qualification. High level computer literacy is essential. Age limit: Not above 35 years.

Assistant Officer: 3 positions
Academic Qualification: Excellent academic credentials; Masters degree preferably in Business Administration / English / Social Sciences.
Job Experience: 3 years of experience in university administration. Experience and skill in student admission and registration, record-keeping, scheduling classes and knowledge of university rules and regulations, acts, statutes and policies will be considered added qualification. High level computer literacy is essential.
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