

## Tibet protest monk dies in detention

AFP, Beijing

A 20-year-old Tibetan Buddhist monk has died in detention after he set himself on fire in a town in southwest China that has become a flashpoint for such protests, a US-based rights group said yesterday.

Lobsang Tsultrim, a monk from the Kirti monastery in Aba town, died on Monday after setting himself alight last week, the International Campaign for Tibet said, citing Tibetan monks now living in exile in India.

The news could not be independently confirmed and local government officials contacted by AFP said they did not know anything about the monk's death.

Witnesses said Chinese security forces beat Tsultrim and dragged him away after extinguishing the flames on Friday.



PHOTO: AFP

People demonstrate in front of the Houses of Parliament against the budget in central London yesterday. The British coalition government unveiled its third austerity budget in a row yesterday to cut a huge deficit but was expected to lower the top rate of income tax for the highest earners.

## Launch

FROM PAGE 1

sank in the river at Gazaria, Munshiganj, early on March 13 after it was hit by an unidentified cargo vessel. At least 147 passengers drowned in the accident.

On that fateful trip from Shariatpur to Dhaka, the vessel was carrying about 240 passengers and around eight tonnes of goods -- an estimated 15.26 tonnes beyond its capacity -- revealed the probe body in its report.

The seven-member committee headed by Baitul Amin Bhuiyan, joint secretary of the shipping ministry, submitted its report on Tuesday to the ministry.

A copy of the report obtained by The Daily Star, however, makes no mention about overcrowding on the vessel.

The launch was built in 1991 with a capacity to carry 225 passengers at night and 332 during the day and a cargo capacity of 10 tonnes. However, it was unfit to carry any cargo due to some basic flaws in design.

In 2008, the vessel added 17 tonnes of ballast in its hull to keep it stable on the water.

After adding the ballast, the vessel lost its initial cargo capacity. But the owners had been transporting cargo beyond its capacity for the last four years, the report said.

Hit by the cargo vessel that night, the launch tilted when it failed to maintain its balance due to overloading, it added.

A half-metre hole was created at the lower part of the launch, through which water leaked into it, causing the vessel to sink quickly.

Launch owner Lutfor Rahman Chowdhury did not even tell the names of the master and engine operator to the probe committee.

The committee has blamed the owners and masters of both the vessels for the disaster and suggested taking legal action against them.

It has made a 16-point recommendation to make river transport safer.

The recommendations include bringing all cargo vessels under registration, implementing a law to stop plying of sand-laden vessels at night, taking effective measures to check overloading and overcrowding of vessels, regular drive of mobile courts, keeping records of passengers and goods at every launch terminal before the beginning of a journey, installing alarms on every vessel to check overloading, imposing a ban on carrying goods in the non-designated spaces of a vessel, stopping of embarking and disembarking passengers at unapproved terminals and stopping of night trips of launches less than 40-metre long in major rivers.

Two more committees headed by Matiur Rahman, member (finance) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, and Capt Jashimuddin, chief nautical surveyor at Department of Shipping, are probing the disaster.

## PM says crisis

FROM PAGE 20

The premier alleged that the lead donor, the World Bank, suspended its \$ 1.2 billion funding for the bridge showing a lame excuse.

"As the Padma Bridge financing was scheduled to take place through a consortium, the other co-financiers can not provide their funds, spoiling two seasons," she added.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Jamaluddin Bin Sabeh said, "Padma bridge issue will be placed in the (Malaysian) cabinet on Friday. I am hopeful that it will get approval on that day."

The high commissioner communicated this to President Zillur Rahman during a farewell call at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Jamaluddin hoped that the

signing of an agreement on the issue will take place between the two countries within a few months.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader also said that the construction work of the Padma Bridge will start during the tenure of the present government.

"Proposals for the construction of the bridge from a few countries including China and Malaysia are in our hands now. We shall take decision in this regard after a thorough review of those" he said. The minister was talking to reporters after visiting the construction site of Nabinagar-Chandra Road and inaugurating a foot over bridge near DEPZ in Savar yesterday.

## Don't trust army

FROM PAGE 1

discussions with President Yahya Khan. On arrival, he found Zulfikar Ali Bhutto there, waiting to see Yahya. Mujib, almost on impulse, led Bhutto outside the building and on to the lawn because he was afraid the place was bugged and he could not speak freely with Bhutto.

Once outside, the Beagalee leader urged Bhutto to expedite the search for a settlement because, in his opinion, the army could not be trusted to hand over power unless pressure was exerted on it by the politicians.

Sometime after this conversation, the majority and minority leaders went inside, where they met Yahya Khan together. At the beginning, Mujib asked the president if he had gone through the Awami League proposal

regarding a proclamation and whether the regime agreed to it. Yahya's response was that for a proclamation to be made public and enforced would need the agreement of the Pakistan People's Party.

The Awami League chief told the president that the responsibility to persuade Bhutto into accepting the proclamation idea lay with him (the president) and that swift steps were necessary to control a situation which was becoming increasingly parlous. As Bhutto was later to report, Bangabandhu then said that formal negotiations on the transfer of power could only begin when the PPP chief agreed to the AL's proposal on the proclamation in principle. Until then, the talks would stay confined to the infor-

## Myanmar invites int'l election observers

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar has invited US, European and other observers for by-elections next month, an official said yesterday, allowing international scrutiny of polls seen as a major test of its reform credentials.

The vote, which will see Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi stand for a seat in parliament for the first time, comes a year after a quasi-civilian government took power following the end of decades of outright military rule.

"We welcome the invitation of observers," said a spokesman for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party, Nyan Win. "They should be allowed to watch and assess freely."

Observers from the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have been invited for the April 1 polls, said a Myanmar government official who did not want to be named.

"It will be up to the countries whether they send people from overseas or inside

Myanmar," he told AFP, without specifying how many monitors would be allowed.

The US embassy in Yangon described the move as "encouraging".

"Clearly we feel the elections are important for this country's reform process," said embassy spokesman Mike Quinlan.

But he said reports of irregularities in the voting process and cases of alleged intimidation also needed to be addressed.

There was no official reaction from the European Union, but an EU official in Bangkok who did not want to be named said that at least six months of preparations were usually needed for an observation mission.

A 2010 election in Myanmar which swept the army's political allies to power was marred by widespread complaints of cheating and intimidation.

Foreign election observers and international media were not allowed into the country for that vote, which was denounced by Suu Kyi's opposition party and Western powers as a sham.

## PROTEST OVER HYGIENIC TOILET Indian bride earns president's praise

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Soon after her marriage in May last year, young tribal woman Anita Bai Narre, a resident of a non-descript village in central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, returned to her own parents when she discovered that her in-laws residence did not have an indoor toilet.

On Tuesday, Anita's bold stand came in for appreciation from none other than India's first lady President Pratibha Patil when the former met her at the presidential palace.

President Patil appreciated Anita's bold gesture and said her action will definitely initiate a strong movement in rural areas on this issue.

The president said that the decision of Anita, who hails from Betul district, to leave her in-laws house after marriage required a lot of courage.

Her insistence on having a toilet at her in-laws place not only compelled her husband Shivram Narre to take up the issue with the local panchayat but also made NGO Sulabh International adopt Anita's village for its "Total Cleanliness Drive".

The panchayat of her village came forward in organising funds for the construction of the toilet.

She returned to her in-laws place only after a toilet was built.

## 2nd war tribunal

FROM PAGE 20

Fazle Kabir in the existing tribunal.

According to the sources, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday forwarded names of two High Court judges to the government for appointment. They are Justice Obaidul Hasan and Justice Anwarul Haque.

The chief justice also approved a government proposal to appoint Shahinur Islam, a district judge and the registrar of the existing tribunal, as a member of the new

tribunal, the sources said.

The proposal for appointing the new judges was sent to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) by the law ministry, a ministry source said.

The proposal would be forwarded to President Zillur Rahman, who is likely to make the appointments today. The government would then issue a gazette notification on their appointments, the source added.

"The new judges will be appointed promptly for hearing and disposing of the

war crimes related cases," Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star.

The first International Crimes Tribunal was formed on March 25, 2010, with Justice Md Nizamul Huq as its chairman. Its two other members are High Court judge Justice ATM Fazle Kabir and retired district judge AKM Zaheer Ahmed.

The existing tribunal is dealing with eight cases of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of 1971. Six

Jamaat-e-Islami and two BNP leaders are facing war crimes charges at the tribunal.

The existing International Crimes Tribunal would be requested to bring some changes to its rules of procedure so that some of the cases could be transferred to the new tribunal, the source added.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam on Tuesday told the media that logistical and infrastructural work for the new tribunal was done and the new tribunal would begin its work this month.

## AL, BNP on same boat

FROM PAGE 1

Information available at the Parliament Secretariat shows the House boycott culture by opposition MPs began in the fifth parliament. The culture was infused with fresh blood in the seventh parliament with the new practice of returning to the House to save membership. Since then, the practice has been on the rise and has already reached new heights in the current parliament.

In the five-year tenure of the seventh parliament (1996-2001), the then main opposition BNP MPs used the practice once, while the main opposition AL MPs did it twice in the eighth parliament (2001-2006).

Meanwhile, the BNP-led opposition MPs have already returned to the House thrice in their bid to save their parliamentary membership in the three years from 2009 to March 2012.

The boycott might have hit a new record had there been no such constitutional provision against remaining absent for 90 consecutive sittings.

According to Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution, a member of parliament shall vacate his seat if he is absent from parliament, without leave, for 90 consecutive sittings.

"These records raise a crucial question as to what would have happened had the Constitution not had such a strict provision against House boycott," said parliamentary affairs expert Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed of pub-

lic administration at Chittagong University.

"I fear the opposition MPs would have opted for a permanent boycott of the House proceedings in that case," he added.

Ironically, every time they return, opposition MPs always claim they have joined the House proceedings to speak for the people.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday in parliament said Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia and her deputies had joined the parliament session only to save their membership and continue getting financial benefits as lawmakers.

She had to bear the same criticism made by former premier Khaleda Zia when Hasina returned to the House after a long boycott in the eighth parliament.

**RECORDS SPEAK REALITY**  
Information available say AL chief Hasina and her party MPs joined parliament on September 12, 2002 after remaining absent for 70 consecutive sittings since the beginning of the eighth parliament. Amid the absence of the then main opposition, the eighth parliament began its journey on October 28, 2001.

The AL MPs again started boycotting the House proceedings on January 31, 2004. The boycott continued till February 2006. They returned to parliament in April 2006 after remaining absent for 72 consecutive sittings.

In the fifth parliament, the

situation was different. The main opposition AL MPs did not boycott any of the 112 sittings of the first five sessions from April 5, 1991 till April 1992.

On some political issues, they opted for a boycott of the House proceedings and remained absent in 16 of a total of 45 sittings in the sixth and seventh sessions in 1992. But they started joining parliamentary proceedings in January 1993 and did not boycott any single sitting of the next five sessions that year.

The party, however, started boycotting House proceedings in 1994 in the wake of a political situation. Following rigging in the parliamentary by-polls in Magura by the ruling party, the AL MPs demanded the introduction of a caretaker government system that would hold parliamentary polls. To press home their demand, they began enforcing agitation programmes on the streets along with boycotting the House.

MPs belonging to the Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami followed suit as their parties started simultaneous agitation with the AL to press home the same demand. The then opposition MPs did not return to parliament to save their membership; they resigned from the House in December 1994.

After the opposition MPs started boycotting the House proceedings, the fifth parliament had 119 more sittings without the participation of the opposition till it was

dissolved on November 24, 1995.

The House boycott culture was born in the fifth parliament. But the culture of returning to the House to save membership began in the seventh parliament. The then opposition BNP MPs started boycotting the House proceedings in July 1999 and remained absent for a consecutive 77 sittings till July 2000. Then they returned to the House to save their membership. Earlier, they boycotted 31 sittings between 1997 and 1998.

In the current ninth parliament, the BNP-led opposition lawmakers have already used the practice thrice in only three years. They joined the inaugural sitting on January 25, 2009 but opted for boycotting the House in phases.

First, they started to keep away from the House proceedings in June 2009 and continued the boycott till February 2010. Having remained absent for 64 consecutive sittings, they returned to parliament on February 11 that year.

A fresh boycott began in June 2010 and did not end till March 16, 2011, by which time the opposition was out of the House for 74 consecutive sittings. It then stormed out of parliament on March 24 and started boycotting the House again.

Remaining away from at least 77 consecutive sittings, the opposition lawmakers returned to parliament's current session on March 18.

## Aspirin

FROM PAGE 20

fresh evidence suggests.

The three new studies published by The Lancet add to mounting evidence of the drug's anti-cancer effects. Many people already take daily aspirin as a heart drug.

But experts warn that there is still not enough proof to recommend it to prevent cancer cases and deaths and warn that the drug can cause dangerous side effects like stomach bleeds.

Prof Peter Rothwell, from Oxford University, and colleagues, who carried out the latest work, had already linked aspirin with a lower risk of certain cancers, particularly bowel cancer.

But their previous work suggested people needed to

take the drug for about 10 years to get any protection.

Now the same experts believe the protective effect occurs much sooner -- within three to five years -- based on a new analysis of data from 51 trials involving more than 77,000 patients.

And aspirin appears not only to reduce the risk of developing many different cancers in the first place, but may also stop cancers spreading around the body.

The trials were designed to compare aspirin with no treatment for the prevention of heart disease.

But when Prof Rothwell's team examined how many of the participants developed and died from cancer, they found this was also related to


aspirin use.

Taking a low (75-300mg) daily dose of the drug appeared to cut the total number of cancer cases by about a quarter after only three years - there were nine cancer cases per 1,000 each year in the aspirin-taking group, compared with 12 per 1,000 for those taking dummy pills.

It also reduced the risk of a cancer death by 15% within five years (and sooner if the dose was higher than 300mg).

And if patients stayed on aspirin for longer, their cancer death risk went down even further - by 37% after five years.

At the same time, aspirin cut the risk of heart attacks and strokes, but it also increased the risk of a major bleed.



**ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LTD.**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
**Ashuganj, B.Baria-3402, Bangladesh**  
Fax: +88-08528-74014, 74044  
E-mail: [apscl@apscl.com](mailto:apscl@apscl.com), [apsclbd@yahoo.com](mailto:apsclbd@yahoo.com), Website: [www.apscl.com](http://www.apscl.com)

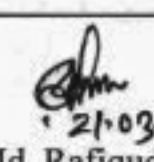
Memo No. APSCL/Pro-02/2012/372

Date : 21/03/2012

**"Invitation For Tender"**

01. Ministry / Division	:	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources / Power Division.
02. Agency	:	Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd.
03. Procurement Method	:	Open Tendering Method.
04. Source of Funds	:	APSC's Own Fund.
05. Tender Publication Date	:	22/03/2012.
06. Tender Last Selling Date & Time	:	15/04/2012 during office hour.
07. Tender Closing Date & Time	:	16/04/2012 at 12.00 BST.
08. Tender Opening Date & Time	:	16/04/2012 at 12.15 BST.
09. Name & Address of the Offices	:	
a. Selling Tender Documents.	:	(i) Asst. Chief Engineer (Generation), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan (1st floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. (ii) Manager (Finance), APSCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria.
b. Receiving & Opening Tender Documents	:	Office of the Manager (Procurement), APSCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria
10. Eligibility of Tenderer	:	Renowned Supplier having experience of supply as specified in the Tender Document.
11.	:	

Sl. No	Name of Supply	Price of Tender Documents	Amount of Tender Security	Completion time
a.	Supply of 01 (one) Brand New Sedan Car for APSCL.	Tk. 1,000.00 (Non refundable)	BDT 87,500.00	30 days from the date of Contract Signing.
12.	Name of official Inviting Tender	:	Md. Rafiquddaula	
13.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	:	Manager (Procurement)	
14.	Address of official Inviting Tender	:	Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.	
15.	Contract details of official Inviting Tender	:	Tel : 0088 08528 74033 Fax : 0088 08528 74044. E-mail: <a href="mailto:procurement@apscl.com">procurement@apscl.com</a> , Website : <a href="http://www.apscl.com">www.apscl.com</a>	
16.	Special Conditions	:	a) Price of Tender documents should be paid in favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without explaining any reason.	



(Md. Rafiquddaula)  
Manager (Procurement), Additional Charge  
APSCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria.