

## North of Mali

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Ansar Dine military chief Omar Hamaha said.

While the Islamists appeared to have the upper hand, the separatist MNLA yesterday morning declared the independence of their desert homeland which they call Azawad, where several rebellions have played out in past decades.

The latest has been fuelled by a haemorrhaging of weapons from Libya following Muammar Gaddafi's downfall.

"We solemnly proclaim the independence of Azawad as from today," Mossa Ag Attaher, a Paris-based MNLA spokesman said on France 24 television, confirming a statement on the group's website.

He also told AFP the group was ready to help fight the "terrorism" of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which he said was fostered by the "lack of action by the Malian state and the lack of hope for the people of the north who were mistreated or abandoned for decades."

The international community swiftly rejected their proclamation of independence.

The African Union dismissed it as "null and of no value whatsoever."

The European Union also rejected any break-up of Mali and called for talks to resolve the crisis.

"The EU has made clear throughout the crisis that it respects the territorial integrity of Mali," Maja Kocijancic, the spokeswoman for EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton, told AFP.

After decades of fighting for independence, analysts warned it will not be easy to dislodge the Tuareg from the north now that they have staked their claim.

Amnesty International warned that north Mali was on the brink of a "major humanitarian disaster" while Oxfam and World Vision said crippling sanctions against the junta could have devastating consequences.

"All the food and medicine stored by major aid agencies has been looted and most of the aid workers have fled," said Gaetan Mootoo, Amnesty International's researcher on west Africa.

"The population is at imminent risk of severe food and medical shortages that could lead to many casualties especially among women and children who are less able to fend for themselves."

More than 200,000 people have fled since the rebellion began in mid-January.

Angry at government's handling of the insurgency a group of low-ranking soldiers led by Captain Amadou Sanogo on March 22 ousted President Amadou Toumani Toure just weeks before he was due to step down after an election.

In Bamako on Thursday, regional mediator Burkina Faso Foreign Minister Djibrill Bassole said an announcement in "the right direction" was expected from coup leader Sanogo and that sanctions could be lifted soon.

# Myanmar ruling party claims poll irregularities

## Govt launches peace talks with ethnic rebels

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's army-backed ruling party yesterday said it would lodge an official complaint about poll irregularities after being trounced in by-elections by democracy opponents led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) claimed Suu Kyi's party or its supporters were involved in some incidents, including campaigning too close to polling stations during Sunday's by-elections.

The allegations centre on Yangon and nearby Kawhmu, where Suu Kyi ran and won, but many claims were not explicitly directed at her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

Former Yangon mayor Aung Thein Linn said the complaints were not meant to question the credibility of the vote.

"We are objecting to the process, not the (opposition) party," he told reporters.

Suu Kyi has vowed to press ahead with lodging her own complaints over irregularities against the NLD, despite an overwhelming win that saw the party take 43 of the 45 available seats.

The USDP won just one seat in parliament -- the only one not contested by the NLD.

Myanmar President Thein Sein, a former general, has undertaken a raft of reforms

since taking power -- including welcoming Suu Kyi back into the political mainstream -- and he said this week that the by-elections had been a success.

The United States responded to the vote by pledging to ease restrictions on investment to Myanmar, while a senior European Union diplomat in Brussels told AFP the EU is now leaning toward a "substantial" removal of sanctions.

Meanwhile, Myanmar yesterday held its highest level peace talks so far with rebels from war-torn Karen state following a tentative ceasefire agreement inked earlier this year.

Delegates from the political and armed wings of the Karen National Union (KNU) met government officials as part of discussions marking the latest efforts aimed at ending one of the world's longest-running civil conflicts.

Immigration Minister Khin Yi told reporters on Thursday night that preliminary negotiations in Hpa-an, capital of Karen in the east of Myanmar, had covered codes of conduct for troops on both sides.

"We want peace. They also want it. So it will be a success," he said.

Myanmar considers the KNU, whose leadership is based in Thailand, to be an illegal organisation. Its armed wing has been waging Myanmar's oldest insurgency, battling the government since 1949.

## Gandhi statue vandalised in Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo

Statues of Indian independence icon Mahatma Gandhi and Britain's Robert Baden-Powell have been vandalised in Sri Lanka amid an anti-Indian and anti-Western campaign on the island, police said yesterday.

Attackers beheaded the statues of Gandhi and Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout movement, in the town of Batticaloa, 300 kilometres east of Colombo by road, a police spokesman said.

There was no claim of responsibility for the destruction. Police have launched an investigation.

Anti-Western graffiti appeared in many parts of the country after the UN human rights council last month adopted a US-led resolution urging Sri Lanka to probe alleged war crimes committed by its troops.

Neighbouring India, which had previously supported Sri Lanka, sided with the West in voting for the resolution. Several local media have criticised India after the UNHRC vote.

# Probe body formed

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conduct a departmental probe into the activities of Flight Lieutenant Mahmudul Hasan, who was among 10 Rapid Action Battalion personnel accused of looting money of a shrine in Talshara of Anwara upazila in November last year, said Rab sources.

He spent Tuesday night at the officers' mess at Jahurul Hoque Air Force base in Chittagong and worked at the Rab-7 office at Patenga from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Wednesday as part of the investigation.

Mamun, who was stationed in Kurmitola Air Force base in Dhaka, then left on a Rab-7 vehicle and checked in Hotel Silver Inn where his body was found on Thursday afternoon.

None was arrested till filing of this report last night in connection with the death.

The law enforcement agencies are yet to find out the causes of Mamun's death as they need a few more days to get autopsy

and viscera reports of the body.

Meanwhile, the deceased was buried at Air Force Shaheen Graveyard in the capital yesterday evening.

Police were interrogating the two people -- Mahmud Ali Khan, owner of Apon Restaurant at Agrabad and Mohammad Rashed, a service holder of a shipping company, who accompanied Mamun on Wednesday night.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said according to the information given by the two, Mamun felt chest pain and became ill while returning to the hotel after taking food at the restaurant.

Quoting family members, the OC said Mamun had high blood pressure and had been suffering from cardiac diseases.

"It appears that he [Mamun] might have died due to illness since no injury mark was found on his body during preliminary investigation," he said.

"Things will become

clear after we get the autopsy and viscera reports," the OC said.

The viscera sample would be sent to the forensic laboratory of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police in Chittagong today while the autopsy report could be had in a few days, he added.

A CID team collected samples from the hotel room on Thursday.

It would take around a week to get the viscera report, said Mohammad Abu Sufian, special superintendent of police of CID.

Earlier, police handed over the body to the Air Force authorities around 9:30am in the morning after an autopsy at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

His body was then taken to the Jahurul Hoque BAF base where his first namaj-e-janaza was held after Juma prayers, said Rab officials.

Moksudul Hasan Russel, a brother of the deceased squadron leader, filed an unnatural death case with the police station in this connection.

# Young Ctg scientists show

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from 47 institutions of the port city.

Prof Md Alauddin, pro vice-chancellor of Chittagong University (CU), inaugurated the festival as the chief guest.

Abul Momen, resident editor of the Prothom Alo in Chittagong, presided over the inaugural session moderated by Adnan Mannan, lecturer of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology department at CU.

In his speech, Prof Alauddin termed science as the best tool for the advancement of a country. "So we should practice science in the right way," he said.

He urged students to strive for acquiring knowledge rather than certificates and big corporate houses to contribute more in the field of research. He also emphasised holding of science fairs on a regular basis to facilitate interactions among scientists.

The Daily Star Editor and

Publisher Mahfuz Anam visited the fair and expressed satisfaction over the converging of so many science-loving minds.

Raisul Huq Bahar, Chittagong bureau chief of The Daily Star, said, "We want to project the creative works of the scientists of Chittagong to the whole country and the world as well."

Md Harun, president of institute of the Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong, thanked The Daily Star for arranging the science festival.

The event started at 10:40am with the presentation session "Advancement of research in science in Chittagong city over the last 20 years".

Prof Imran Bin Yunus, former principal of Chittagong Medical College, presented a paper on "Health and Medical Science in Chittagong" while Prof Mohammad Al Forkan of Genetic

Engineering and Biotechnology department at CU did it on "Current and Future Prospect of Life, Science and Biotechnological Research in Chittagong", Hanif Siddiqi, chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at CU on "Advancement of Research in IT and Software Engineering", Prof Md Jahangir Alam of civil engineering department of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) on "Disaster Management and its Application in Chittagong", and Prof Mohammad Saifuddin of Chittagong University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CUVAS) on "Veterinary Education and its Progress in Chittagong".

Prof Nurul Afsar of Chittagong University of Science and Technology (USTC), presided over the presentation session. ASROW, Cuet and

Robotics Club of Premier University presented a show on robotics at the science fair while Students' Climate Cell of Cuet a show on climate change and students of CUVAS held an exhibition on experimental animals and alternative medicine.

School-, college- and university-level competitions on science projects were also held in the festival. Besides, Electronic Olympiad among university students, Bio-Olympiad among school and college students, and computer games contest were also arranged.

An "Idea Contest", based on products, was also held in the fair among university students. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam inaugurated the contest.

In the inaugural speech, Mahfuz Anam said, "If you have good ideas, nothing can stop you. A good idea can change a nation."

A curious mind is needed

to become a scientist, he said, adding, "You [students] must ask questions and keep an open mind, as science is not just mere experiments, but philosophy as well."

A scientific approach is needed in every step of life as unscientific approach is the root of all irregularities, he said.

In computer games category, Raktim Farhan of CIDER International School got the first prize while Mahmudul Hasan of CU won the first prize in the Idea Contest.

In project contest category, Kamrul Alam of CU won the first prize and Indranil Devnath and Ishtiaq Rahman of Cantonment Public School and College topped in the school-level.

Alamgir Hossain of CU secured the top place in the Electronic Olympiad while Rita Rani Devnath of Cantonment Public School and College won the first prize in the Bio-Olympiad.

CU teachers Dwaipayana

Sikder of Biochemistry department, Alok Paul of Geography department, Mosharraf Hossain of Forestry department, and Tauhid Hossain of microbiology department; Soumitra Palit, teacher of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), Chittagong; Asif Imran, teacher of Premier University Chittagong, and Kishore Majumder, teacher of University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) were present, among others, as the judges of the competitions.

Chief guest of the prize giving ceremony Saroj Kanti Singha Hazari said, "We cannot improve without science and so the educational institutions must stress on science education."

Special guest Joynab Begum said the science festival would help the new generation improve their thoughts. "We should go ahead practising science in our day to day life," she added.

# Move to amend law

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A law ministry high official, however, said there is no bar to any tribunal transferring cases from it to another under the existing rules but the amendment would ensure transparency over the transfer of cases.

The cases could be transferred from one tribunal to another at any stage as per the proposed amendment, the official said, adding that the amendment proposal has already been finalised.

The first tribunal titled International Crimes Tribunal-1 has already framed charges against

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee and BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in connection with crimes against humanity in 1971.

It has also taken into cognisance the crimes against humanity charges against former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam, its present ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, and assistant secretaries general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Mollah and former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim.

The second tribunal, which is titled International Crimes Tribunal-2, has issued warrant of arrest against former Jamaat-e-Islami member Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who is known as Bachchu Razakar, in connection with his alleged crimes against humanity.

Tribunal-2 would not have any work until Abul Kalam Azad is arrested or the prosecution submits investigation report against him, or new cases are filed with it or cases transferred to it from Tribunal-1, said Mesbahuddin Ahmed, registrar in charge of the tribunal.

## Biman crisis

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tourism minister, said yesterday.

The parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism ministry on Thursday asked the ministry to dissolve the Board of Directors of Biman and form a new one with "aviation experts" to run the airliner "efficiently" and make it a profitable venture.

Earlier, the employees of Biman demanded reconstitution of the Board of Directors under the civil aviation ministry. Under the banner of "Biman Bachao Oikya Parishad", they have been agitating since March 8.

The minister was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the three-day international tourism fair, Dhaka Travel Mart (DTM) 2012, at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

Asked about the development plan of tourism sector, Faruk Khan said his ministry has plans to build an international standard tourism university in Bangladesh on the basis of public-private partnership.

The government also has plans to build the country's fourth international airport in Cox's Bazar, he said adding that the ministry will create Cox's Bazar Development Authority for the development of tourism industry in the district.

The Bangladesh Monitor, a travel and tourism publication, organised the fair.

Around 50 tourism and travel organisations from Malaysia, China, Thailand, Singapore, Nepal and host Bangladesh are participating in the fair, said Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of the publication.

Muhammad Zakirul Islam, managing director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, United Airways Chairman Tasbirul Ahmed Chowdhury, among others, spoke on the occasion.

**EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

**LOCAL TENDER NOTICE**

Tender ref: EDCL/PUR/LOCAL/TENDER/2012/438 Date: 04/04/2012

**Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Contractors having experience for successful completion of construction and supervision of interior decoration works in any single work worth of Govt/Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies during the last 5 (five) years.**

Name of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Time for completion after getting work order
Construction and supervision of interior decoration works for Conference room and related area EDCL, Dhaka such as: i) Finishing work (APC Work, Glass Work, Electrical Work) ii) Civil Work iii) Glass Work iv) Interior decoration work v) All Furniture vi) Electronic Equipments vii) Electrical /AC work etc. (Details as per design drawing and BOQ)	Tk.2.5% of quoted amount	Tk. 1,650.00/set (Non refundable)	45 (forty five) days

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

The tenderers may drop their offer alongwith detailed work plan to the tender Box kept at the Purchase Departments, EDCL, Dhaka office till 12.00 Noon on 22/04/2012 which will be opened on 22/04/2012 at 12.30 Noon in presence of the tenderers/their representatives (if any).

**EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.**

**(Md. Ali Mukarram)**  
Manager, Planning & Procurement  
For: Managing Director.

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Bangladesh is seeking applications from Bangladeshi nationals to fill the following position. Please visit our website: [www.unfpabgd.org](http://www.unfpabgd.org) for detailed job description.

<b>Vacancy No.:</b>	Job ID 12-05
<b>Post Title:</b>	Finance & Admin Analyst
<b>Category:</b>	ICS-9 (NO-B)
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Dhaka
<b>Duration:</b>	One Year Fixed Term Initially

  

<b>Vacancy No.:</b>	Job ID 12-06
<b>Post Title:</b>	Finance Officer
<b>Category:</b>	ICS-8 (NO-A)
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Dhaka
<b>Duration:</b>	One Year Fixed Term Initially

**How to Apply:**  
Applications along with CV, completed P-11 form (available at [www.unfpabgd.org](http://www.unfpabgd.org)) & a passport size photograph should be addressed to **The Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (15th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.** Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNFPA's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant. Application should be received no later than 17:00 PM, Saturday, 21 April 2012.

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