

# Myanmar promises to curb military ties with N Korea

AFP, Yangon

South Korea's president won a promise from Myanmar to refrain from military cooperation with nuclear-armed North Korea during a two-day trip that included a meeting with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Lee Myung-Bak's visit is the first by a South Korean leader to the country formerly known as Burma since a North Korean attempt to assassinate one of his predecessors in Yangon almost three decades ago.

Lee told reporters yesterday that he had urged President Thein Sein in talks a day earlier to refrain from any activities with North Korea that may "be considered as violating various UN Security Council resolutions".

Reports of military cooperation between Myanmar and North Korea have been a cause for concern for Seoul in the past.

Thein Sein denied any nuclear cooperation with Pyongyang, and said his country would abide by UN Security Council resolutions on the North's nuclear and missile programmes, a South Korean presidential spokeswoman told AFP. The resolutions also ban weapons exports



by the North.

Myanmar has also agreed to free a North Korean refugee serving a five-year prison term since 2010 for illegally entering the country, the spokeswoman said.

The Myanmar leader, who has won international praise for a series of sweeping political and economic reforms since taking office last year, has previously denied any nuclear cooperation with the North.

In November a US official accompanying Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on a landmark visit said there were no signs "of a substantial effort" by Myanmar on acquiring nuclear arms.

Lee praised Suu Kyi's long struggle for democracy and said he was optimistic about the future.

"I believe that this country is now entering into a new era of change and I think that thanks to the leadership of Miss Suu Kyi that has become possible," he said, speaking through an interpreter.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, who won her first seat in parliament in by-elections last month, said the pair agreed that "prosperity is no substitute for democratic rights" and sounded a note of caution about the reform process.

# India to cut Iran oil purchases by 11%

AFP, New Delhi

India yesterday said it would cut purchases of Iranian oil by 11 percent following pressure from the United States to join a drive to isolate the Islamic republic over its disputed nuclear programme.

Indian refiners expect to import 15.5 million metric tons of crude from Iran in the fiscal year that began April 1, the country's junior oil minister told parliament in a written reply, down from 17.44 million tons last year.

The move comes after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last week urged India to reduce its imports of Iranian oil as Washington readies a law to go into effect next month to slash sanctions on nations that buy oil from Tehran.

The US embassy in New Delhi said it could not immediately comment on whether the reduction in Iranian imports would be enough to avert US sanctions.

The sanctions, from which the European Union and Japan have already been exempted, will affect banks from countries that keep buying Iranian oil.

Energy-scarce India, which imports four-fifths of its crude, says it shares the US goal of preventing Iran from building a nuclear weapon.

But New Delhi also says the Islamic republic remains an "important source of oil" and it cannot take any drastic action to slash imports as Iran is key in meeting India's growing energy needs.

# NEWS IN brief

## Rekha takes oath in Rajya Sabha

THE HINDU ONLINE



Cine superstar Rekha yesterday took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha, becoming yet another personality from the tinsel town to enter the portals of Parliament.

The 57-year-old actor of arrived in the Upper House at 10.57 hours and was surrounded by members who greeted her profusely.

She was greeted with thumping of desk when her name was called for taking oath.

"I Rekha Ganesan" she said, swearing in the name of God in her brief oath in English.

## Iran executes Israeli spy

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday hanged a man convicted of playing a key role in the 2010 murder of a top nuclear scientist and of spying for Israel, the official IRNA news agency reported quoting Tehran prosecution office.

"Majid Jamali Fashi, the Mossad spy and the person who assassinated Masoud Ali Mohammadi, our nation's nuclear scientist was hanged on Tuesday morning," IRNA said.

Jamali Fashi stood trial as the main suspect in the killing of Ali Mohammadi, a particle physics professor at Tehran University who was killed in a bomb attack outside his home in January 2010.

## Ukraine postpones ex-PM's appeal

AFP, Kiev

The Ukrainian high court yesterday postponed until June 26 hearing the appeal of former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko against her seven year jail term on abuse of power charges.

The Kiev court, Ukraine's highest judicial instance, took the decision following a motion brought by prosecutors but vehemently contested by the defence who angrily accused the authorities of dragging out the process.

The long delay marks a new complication in the legal controversy surrounding Tymoshenko's conviction, which is threatening to overshadow its hosting of the Euro 2012 football.

# HC expects Humayun

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He appealed to the court to take necessary steps to have the information in the novel "Deyal" corrected. Otherwise, he said, readers would get wrong information about the August 15, 1975 tragedy.

It issued a suo moto rule and asked the authorities concerned to furnish the writer with copies of relevant documents and judgements of the Bangabandhu killing case, so that he [Humayun] could present the information in a correct manner in the book.

On May 11, two chapters of the novel were published in the daily Prothom Alo, in which it was stated that huddled on a bed, the two daughters-in-law of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and little Russell were trembling with fear. When the killers broke into the room Russell hid behind the clothes rack. From there he cried, "Don't shoot me".

The child was taken from there and shot dead, according to the novel.

On May 14, the attorney general placed the copy of the newspaper before the HC bench.

He told the court that according to the documents and judgement of the

Bangabandhu killing case, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 13 of his family members were assassinated on August 15, 1975 by a group of disgruntled army personnel. The killers snatched Sheikh Russell from AFM Mohitul Islam, the then personal assistant of Bangabandhu, saying that they would take him to his mother.

Russell, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 10-year-old son, had asked Mohitul whether they would kill him. Mohitul told the boy that they would not. But the killers took Russell from the ground floor and shot him dead on the first floor, said the attorney general.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said Khondker Moshtaque, the main conspirator of the assassination, had been portrayed in the novel as if he did not know anything about the killing beforehand.

The HC bench yesterday made the secretaries of the ministries of education, cultural affairs and information respondents of the suo moto rule and asked Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain to provide necessary papers and documents to Humayun Ahmed.

# Iran hails constructive nuke talks with UN

REUTERS, Tehran

Iran's talks with the UN nuclear watchdog about Tehran's atomic activities are going well, a senior Iranian official said yesterday, the second day of discussions.

The talks will test Iran's readiness to address UN inspectors' concerns over military links to its nuclear work, ahead of wider diplomatic negotiations on the program's future in Baghdad next week between Tehran and world powers.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) aims at the meeting in Vienna to gain access to Iranian sites, documents and officials involved in suspected research activity that could be used to develop atomic bombs.

"We had good talks. Everything is (on the) right track. The environment is very constructive," Ali Asghar Soltanieh told reporters as he entered an Iranian diplomatic mission to continue the meeting with the Vienna-based IAEA.

Western diplomats will be watching the talks for any sign Iran is ready to make concrete concessions, saying this would send a positive message ahead of the meeting in

# 2G SCAM India's ex-telecom minister gets bail

AFP, New Delhi

India's former telecoms minister A Raja, who faces trial over a massive corruption case involving mobile telephone licences, was granted bail yesterday after 15 months in prison.

Raja was arrested in February 2011 for allegedly conspiring with officials and businessmen to sell second-generation (2G) telecom licences at throwaway prices in 2008 to favour some firms, costing the treasury up to \$39 billion.

The allegations are among a series of graft scandals that have damaged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who has been widely criticised for ineffective leadership as India struggles with worsening economic data.

A New Delhi court granted Raja bail despite opposition from prosecutors who argued that he could try to influence witnesses who may be called in his trial.

# Recruit only thru' govt

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Presently, there are over four lakh Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia. Of them, 270,000 are irregular, and have got registered with the Malaysian immigration authorities for getting regularised.

Subramaniam said the presence of 2.7 lakh irregular Bangladeshi workers indicated problems in the recruitment process, and it was good that Bangladesh government suggested a system to overcome those.

And Malaysian Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein has said Kuala Lumpur and Dhaka would share intelligence on the movement of Bangladeshi workers between the two countries, reports Malaysian daily The Star Online.

He said a team of security and finance experts would visit Bangladesh within two weeks to work out strategies to tackle human trafficking syndicates.

"The meeting (during its visit) will work out an operational framework where the two countries can exchange information and track down known and suspected traffickers, known as dalal in Bangladesh," Hishammuddin said.

Meanwhile, Malaysia is likely to reopen its labour market soon. It imposed restriction on recruiting Bangladeshi workers in early 2009 following alleged malpractices in the process.

He mentioned that the government was aware of this and had come up with the idea to ensure a reasonable migration cost for the workers.

# Assaulted, then sued

FROM PAGE 1

an apparently failed bid by the state minister to reach an agreement concerning the issue of the beating.

Tuku's nephew Aminul Haque on Monday beat up Abdullah Al Mamun, zonal correspondent of Daily Kaler Kontho, for publishing a report on the alleged corruption by the relatives of Tuku.

A case was filed in this connection against six people including Aminul.

Md Helal Uddin, father of Firoz, one of the six accused in the assault case, filed the extortion case against Mamun and two others.

In the case statement, Helal claimed that the three accused demanded Tk 50,000 extortion from him and that the journalist was

beaten up by angry locals because of the extortion.

Officer-in-Charge of Bera Police Station Md Abdul Hai Sarkar said that Helal filed the case hours after filing of the assault case.

Meanwhile, on Monday night, Shamsul Haque Tuku arranged a meeting at his residence with local elites to resolve the matter.

"The journalist is a resident of my village. He was victimised over village related issues. When I came to learn about the matter I called the elderly persons of the village and asked them to solve the matter. I expect the village elite would take steps to solve it," the state minister said.

When asked about the extortion case, he said everyone has the right to ask for

legal protection.

"The minister engaged village elite to solve the matter through the village arbitration," the OC said adding that because of this reason they are not conducting any drives to arrest those accused in the two cases.

On the other hand, journalists of Bera upazila in Pabna brought out a procession yesterday morning demanding arrest of those who attacked Mamun and also withdrawal of the extortion case.

The other two accused in the extortion case are Sarkar Arifur Rahman Arab, president of Bera Upazila Reporters' Unity, and Mamun's nephew Md Shiplu.

ladies standing by the road side. It led me to wonder why they stand there like that. Later I found out the reason."

Proud about his heritage, Harishankar said after retirement he will live in the fishermen's community for the rest of his life.

He said if he could be reborn, he would want God to give him the power to end the sufferings of the fishermen's community.

Other than his father, Harishankar's biggest idols have been his high school teacher Milon Kanti Sarker, and his grandmother Paraneshawri Jaladas who inspired him to become what he is today.

# From fishing nets

FROM PAGE 1

nothing stopped him from completing his masters in Bangla and then a PhD. His research topic for the PhD was "River based Bangla novels and fishermen's life".

And against many odds, he became a school teacher. Now he is working as the principal of Chittagong City College.

From 1999 Dr Harishankar started writing books.

"I did not start writing to put my name in the league of Manik Bandyopadhyay," said 57-year old Harishankar while talking to The Daily Star in his Patenga home recently. "They taunted me as son of a fisherman. I started writing in protest."

Harishankar wrote five research based books and four novels. His first novel "Jalaputra" that tells a story about the fishermen community was published in 2009.

His second book "Dohonkal", published next year, won Prothom Alo's literature award in 2010. In the next two years, two more of his books were published -- "Kosbi" and "Ramgolam".


More than 2,000 copies of Ramgolam were sold in the Ekushey book fair this year, and it recently won City Anando Alo award given by Channel-i. Ramgolam is a story about sweepers. "They are more neglected than fishermen. Sweepers' chil-

dren are never accepted as equals by the elite even if they are educated," said Harishankar.

His book "Kosbi" that deals with prostitution received critical acclaim of reviewers. "I believe prostitutes are treated like toys for entertainment. Many characters in my book are based on real people," Harishankar said.

He explained why he chose to write about prostitutes. "My grandparents lived in Shahebpara, close to Madarbari in Chittagong. When I was 10 years old, I used to go to a cinema hall in that area. While passing through Shahebpara, I used to see some dressed up

## Request for Expressions of Interest



**THE WORLD BANK**  
**Bangladesh**

**Request for Expression of Interest**  
**Consulting Services**

**Public Investment Management (PIM)**  
**Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program (SPEMP)**

The Government of Bangladesh has requested World Bank's assistance in providing a series of non lending technical assistance activities to strengthen analytical capacity of the Programming Division of the Planning Commission (PC), line ministries/agencies and other relevant stakeholders in the area of public investment management (PIM). Strengthening PIM in Bangladesh is critical to improving selection, appraisal, implementation and evaluation of investment projects.

The objective of this assignment is to provide a set of analytical support activities under a Bank executed arrangement in order to improve PIM and hence contribute to raising the quality of expenditures in the national development budget and the alignment of expenditures with the national five-year plan. This will be achieved through the following activities:

1. Provide analytical support to preparation of multiyear estimates to break down the macro level outputs from the 6th Five Year Plan to actionable measures that are easier to link to appropriate development projects.
2. Review existing guidelines for formulation, processing, appraisal and approval and make recommendations for necessary updates and revisions.
3. Provide analytical support to improving quality of ADP implementation by providing guidance for enhancing analytical capacity of monitoring.
4. Developing capacity of Programming Division and agency/ministry officials by providing appropriate training and workshops.
5. Undertake appropriate reviews and studies to make recommendations for further improvement in any of the areas of PIM.

The work will need to draw on international best practice, but should be fully adapted to the local context.

The World Bank Office Dhaka now invites eligible consulting firms to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for the above services. Interested consultants (firms) are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following:

1. Experience of the consultant (firm) in other works/assignments
2. Experience of the consultant (firm) in similar field
3. Registration of consultant (firm)
4. Availability of key professional staff (list of management, key personnel)
5. Demonstrated capacity to handle such assignment in terms of resources
6. Support service of the consultant (firm)

The consultant (firm) will be selected based on a Quality and Cost based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers. In accordance with the QCBS method of the Guidelines, based on the submissions of expressions of interest (EOI), the Bank will short-list firms with the most appropriate qualifications/ experience and references as described above. The short-listed firms shall be asked to submit combined separate technical and financial proposals. The successful firm will be invited to negotiate the contract.

Interested consultants may use the contact details given below if any clarification is required.

EOIs must be delivered through WBG eConsultant (www.worldbank.org/wbgeconsultant) by May 30, 2012. For this assignment, eConsultant number is 1069372. In case, the consultant is unable to submit EOI through WBG eConsultant due to technical difficulties (i.e. eConsultant system down, unable to upload applications etc.) then they may submit EOI to the below address by email or through hard copy.

Rubaba Anwar  
The World Bank Dhaka, Office  
E-32, Agargoan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh  
Tel: + 880-2-815-9001  
E-mail: ranwar@worldbank.org