Protesters test limits in new Myanmar

REUTERS, Yangon

As long-isolated Myanmar opens up, its people are flexing their newly democratic muscles and testing the boundaries of freedom in a series of protests over chronic power outages.

On Tuesday evening, several hundred people in the commercial capital Yangon marched at Sule Pagoda, the focal point of demonstrations in 2007 and 1988 that were crushed by the military which ruled for nearly half a century until last year.

Protesters returned to the streets of Myanmar's main city Yangon for a second day yesterday, defying a police request to disperse as they explore the extent of freedoms under the reformist regime.

since a deadly 2007 crackdown on monk-led protests are being closely watched as a test of the new quasi-civilian government's tolerance of public discontent.

The country's first major demonstrations

"We have plans to hold similar protests in all these cities tonight," rights activist Ko Htin Kyaw, an organizer, said yesterday.

The protests pose a difficult test for reformist President Thein Sein who has freed hundreds of political prisoners, relaxed state censorship, started peace talks with ethnic minority rebel groups and held historic by-



Myanmar demonstrators hold a candlelight protest against severe power cuts in Yangon on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

elections that catapulted Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party into a semi-civilian parliament.

Bread-and-butter issues have been known to turn violent in Myanmar, also known as Burma. The biggest and bloodiest uprisings against military rule, in 1988 and 2007, were sparked by discontent over soaring inflation

and fuel prices.

But Thein Sein, a former general, has stunned the world with the most dramatic reforms in the former British colony since a 1962 military coup, including authorising peaceful protests though authorities must be notified days in advance.

"The government is in a very difficult

position now," said Aung Thu Nyein, a Myanmar economist who moved to Thailand after taking part in demonstrations two decades ago.

"These protests are both a sign of dissatisfaction about public services and how the opening of democratic space is making interest groups more active than before."

But the demonstrations have gone smoothly with no arrests, and no unrest. In Yangon, police watched as protesters stuck candles in front of a gold Buddhist shrine, chanting prayers for electricity, but they did nothing to stop them.

The protesters accuse the former military government of enriching themselves at the public's expense by selling natural gas to neighboring China while Myanmar, among Asia's poorest nations, faces frequent power outages.

"Our country is abundantly rich in natural gas but the former military regime sold it to foreign countries without any consideration

for the people," said activist Ko Htin Kyaw, 49. Now, they want the present government to take action to reverse the deals and ensure electricity to people.

He and other protesters were on Tuesday evening nearly outnumbered by enthusiastic crowds of domestic media covering an event that would have been off limits to journalists for decades.

India, Pakistan to get gas from Turkmenistan

AFP, Avaza

Turkmenistan yesterday signed agreements with India and Pakistan to deliver gas through a new pipeline that will transit Afghanistan, the first contracts in the ambitious project. The 1,700-kilometre TAPI pipeline aims to transport more

than 30 billion cubic metres of gas annually from Turkmenistan to energy-hungry consumers in Pakistan and India as well as relieving shortages in Afghanistan.

The sale-purchase agreements for the yet-to-be-built pipeline were signed at a ceremony on the sidelines of the annual Turkmenistan oil and gas congress in its Caspian Sea resort of Avaza, just outside the city of Turkmenbashi.

They were inked by the head of the state gas company Turkmengaz Sakhatmurad Mamedov with representatives of India's Gail Ltd and Pakistan's Inter State Gas

System. "Today we are witnesses of a historic event, not just of regional but of world scale," said Turkmenistan Deputy Prime Minister Baimurat Khodzhamukhamedov.

Turkmenistan and Afghanistan signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the gas sector but no contract. Khodzhamukhamedov said negotiations were contin-

uing with Afghanistan on the price of deliveries. The TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) natural gas pipeline, which is backed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is regarded with suspicion as a wildy ambitious pipedream by some analysts.

Much of the pipeline will go through Afghanistan which neighbours both Turkmenistan and Pakistan but remains

wracked by violence and instability.

US missiles kill four in Pakistan

AFP, Miranshah

US missiles killed four militants in a Taliban stronghold of Pakistan yesterday, officials said, amid increasing strains with the West over a six-month blockade on Nato supplies into Afghanistan.

A drone targeted a compound near Miranshah, the main town of the tribal district where Pakistan has resisted US pressure to launch a sweeping offensive against militants fighting US troops in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The area is a stronghold of the Haqqani network and Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud.

US officials say its leaders are based in Waziristan, the most notorious militant stronghold in Pakistan's semi-autonomous northwestern tribal belt.

It was the third US drone

strike reported in Pakistan since parliament in March demanded an end to the attacks.

Demonstrators carrying the national flag of Nepal participate in a mass gathering organised by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry demanding peace, social harmony and the punctual implementation of a new constitution in Kathmandu yesterday. Nepali politicians on Tuesday proposed ignoring a Supreme Court deadline giving them until Sunday to draw up a new constitution for the Himalayan republic, saying they needed more time to agree on the boundaries and names of new states.

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার ডিজাস্টার এন্ড ক্লাইমেট রিস্ক ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইন এগ্রিকালচার (ডিসিআরএমএ)প্রকল্প

(সিডিএমপি ২/ ডিএই অংশ) কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর, খামার বাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

স্মারক নংঃ ডিসিআরএমএ/ডিএই/টেন্ডার/২০১১-০১৭

তারিখঃ ২১-০৫-২০১২

পুণ: দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ডিজাস্টার এন্ড ক্লাইমেট রিস্ক ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইন এগ্রিকালচার প্রকল্পের (সিডিএমপি ২/ ডিএই অংশ) দাপ্তরিক প্রয়োজনে ব্যবহারের জন্য মাসিক ভিত্তিতে একটি মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়া গ্রহনের লক্ষ্যে মাইক্রোবাসের প্রকৃত মালিক, পরিবহন ব্যবসায়ী ব্যক্তি/ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

٥	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	**	ডিজাস্টার এন্ড ক্লাইমেট রিন্ধ ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইন এগ্রিকালচার প্রকল্প (সিডিএমপি ২/ ডিএই অংশ), কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর (ডিএই)।		
٦	দরপত্রের বিষয়/ চাহিদাকৃত যানবাহনের বিবরণ		প্রকল্পের দাপ্তরিক প্রয়োজনে ব্যবহারের জন্য ২০০৬ পরবর্তী মডেলের এসিযুক্ত ডিজেল চালিত মাইক্রোবাস মাসিক ভিত্তিতে ভাড়া।		
9	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	:	২৪-০৫-২০১২ খ্রিঃ		
8	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) পদ্ধতি		
œ	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	ডিসিআরএমএ/ডিএই/টেভার/২০১১- ০১৭ তারিখঃ ২১-০৫-২০১২ খ্রি:		
৬	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস				
٩	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	:	কক্ষ নম্বর-৭৩৩ (৭ম তলা), মধ্য বিল্ডিং, ডিএই, খামারবাড়ী, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫।		
ь	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	:	১২-০৬-২০১২ খ্রি: তারিখ মঙ্গলবার পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।		
b	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	3 .	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কক্ষ নম্বর- ৭২৬ (৭তম তলা), মধ্য বিভিং, ডিএই, খামারবাড়ী, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫।		
٥٥	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	১২-০৬-২০১২খ্রি: তারিখ মঙ্গলবার দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।		
22	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	_	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কক্ষে আগামী ১২-০৬-২০১২ খ্রি: তারিখ মঙ্গলবার বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হবে।		
ડર	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	মাইক্রোবাসের প্রকৃত মালিক, পরিবহন ব্যবসায়ী ব্যক্তি/ প্রতিষ্ঠান		
30	চুক্তির মেয়াদ		চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ থেকে প্রকল্পের মেয়াদ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৪ পর্যন্ত।		
78	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	•	ক. দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রসিদ। খ. দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন নম্বরসহ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি। গ. দরপত্র জামানতের ব্যংক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ডার। ঘ. গাড়ির ও চালকের লাইসেন্স, গাড়ির ব্লু-বুক, হালনাগাদ ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট, ট্যাক্স-টোকেন, ইন্যুরেন্স সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।		
26	দরপত্রের বিবরণ (বিষয় পরিচিতি)		দরপত্রের মূল্য দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমান যানবাহন সরবরাহের সময়সীমা (অফেরতযোগ্য) (ফেরতযোগ্য)		
	সিএনজি/ পেট্রোল চালিত এসিযুক্ত মাইক্রোবাস		৫০০.০০ ১০,০০০.০০ (ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ কার্যাদেশে বর্ণিত সময়ানুযায়ী পে-অর্ডার আকারে)		
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	** 2	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, কক্ষ নম্বর- ৭২৬ (৭তম তলা), মধ্য বিল্ডিং, ডিএই, খামারবাড়ী, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫।		
39	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	漢	* গাড়ির জ্বালানি, চালকের বেতন এবং গাড়ির রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও মেরামত, লাইসেন্স, বীমা ইত্যাদির ব্যয়ভার কার্যাদেশপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বহন করতে হবে। * গাড়ীর মাসিক ভাড়া, কিলোমিটার প্রতি খরচ (ডিজেল) এবং গাড়ী চালকের ওভারটাইম রেট ঢাকা বা ঢাকার বাহিরে আলাদা আলাদা ভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। * গ্রহনযোগ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানকে উদ্ধৃত দরের বাৎসরিক হিসাবে ৫% অর্থ কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত হিসেবে পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে জমাপূর্বক প্রকল্পের প্রকল্প পরিচালকের সাথে চুক্তি সম্পাদন করতে হবে। * নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে যানবাহন সরবরাহ করতে ব্যর্থ হলে কার্যাদেশপ্রাপ্ত		

করা যাবে এবং কার্যাদেশ বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

প্রকল্প পরিচালক

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন

Indian state declares war on tiger poachers

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A western Indian state has declared war on animal poaching, allowing forest guards to shoot hunters on sight to curb attacks on tigers, elephants and other wildlife.

The government in Maharashtra says injuring or killing suspected poachers will no longer be considered a crime.

Forest guards should not be "booked for human rights violations when they have taken action against poachers", the Maharashtra forest minister, Patangrao Kadam, said on Tuesday. The state will also send more rangers and jeeps into forests, and will offer secret payments to informers who give tips about poachers and animal smugglers, he said.

India has about half of the world's estimated 3,200 tigers in dozens of wildlife reserves set up since the 1970s. But illegal poaching remains a serious threat, with tiger parts sought in traditional Chinese medicine fetching high prices on the black market.

According to the Wildlife Protection Society of India, 14 tigers have been killed by poachers in India so far this year one more than for all of 2011.

The tiger is considered endangered, with its habitat range shrinking more than 50 percent in the last quartercentury and its numbers declining rapidly from the 5,000-7,000 estimated in the 1990s, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Encounters are rare between guards and poachers, who generally hunt the secretive and nocturnal big cats at night, according to Maharashtra's chief wildlife warden, SWH Naqvi.

Instead, he predicted that the state's offer to pay informers from a new government fund worth about 5m rupees would be more effective in curbing wildlife crime.

Pakistan jails Laden doctor for 33 years

REUTERS, Peshawar

A Pakistani doctor accused of helping the CIA find Osama bin Laden has been jailed for 33 years for treason, television channels and a local government official said.

The official said Shakil Afridi was accused of running a fake vaccination campaign believed to have helped the American intelligence agency track bin Laden in a Pakistani town, where he was killed in a US special forces raid last

The imprisonment is likely to anger ally Washington at a sensitive time, with both sides engaged in difficult talks over re-opening Nato supply routes to US-led troops in Afghanistan.

US officials had hoped Pakistan, a recipient of billions of dollars in American aid, would release Afridi, detained after the unilateral operation which killed bin Laden and strained ties with Islamabad.

ECONOMY WOES

Indian PM says govt must 'do better'

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has acknowledged the "large unfinished agenda" facing his government after three years in power, and vowed to tackle corruption and fiscal mismanagement. "I will be the first to say we

Manmohan Singh need to do better," Singh said late Tuesday as he presented his graft-tainted coalition's annual report card at a function in New Delhi. Singh's second term in office has been marked by slowing economic growth, accusations of policy paralysis and a

series of corruption scandals that have combined to undermine optimism about India's future development. "Some people have questioned the sustainability of our growth process. I am confident we will prove the sceptics wrong," Singh said, after listing achievements such as prog-

ress tackling poverty and improving primary education. India's economy is predicted to have grown 6.9 percent in the last fiscal year to March 2012, the slowest pace since the 2008 global financial crisis, while widening trade and cur-

rent account deficits have added to concerns. The Indian rupee has fallen to record lows against the dollar in recent days, reflecting declining foreign fund inflows and frustration among potential foreign investors

about India's inability to push through reforms. Singh, who first came to power in 2004, has seen his reputation badly damaged in recent years by corruption scandals linked to organisation of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in

Delhi and the sale of mobile phone licences.



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড **Bangladesh Power Development Board**

Central Secretariat BPDB WAPDA Building (1st Floor) Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 Ph: 880-2-9554209, Fax: 880-2-9564765

Memo No. 1134-BPDB(Sectt)/Dev.-205/2011

Date: 21/05/2012

Time Extension Notice for Submission of Tender for the Construction of "Chapainawabganj 100 MW ± 10% P/Plant Project (HFO Fired Engine Generating Sets)"

Last date of submission of the tender for the construction of "Chapainawabganj 100 MW ± 10% Power Plant Project (HFO Fired Engine Generating Sets)" against tender invitation No.: 2781-BPDB(Sectt)/Dev.-205/2011 date: 09-Oct-2011 is hereby amended as mentioned below:

SI No.	Reference clause of tender document	Item descriptions	Amendment
01.	Tender notice SI. No. 16, 17 & 18	Last date and time for selling the tender document: Date: 22/05/2012 Time: 04.30pm (BST) Last date and time for submission the tender document: Date: 23/05/2012 Time: 10.00am (BST)	Last date and time for selling the tender document: Date: 24/06/2012 Time: 04.30pm (BST) Last date and time for submission the tender document: Date: 25/06/2012 Time: 10.00am (BST) Date and time for opening of the tender document: Date: 25/06/2012

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Biddyut/Jana-1596(5)/21/5/12 GD-2242

Secretary Bangladesh Power Development Board

Time: 11.30am (BST)

2 aid workers kidnapped in Afghanistan

AFP, Kunduz

Gunmen have kidnapped two foreign women aid workers and their three local colleagues in a remote province in northeast Afghanistan, officials said yesterday.

The group had been travelling on horseback when they were attacked and police have launched a search for them, believing they had been taken to Shahri Buzurg district east of the provincial capital Faizabad, he said.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ)

Catering Services



UNDP Bangladesh seeks quotations from interested and qualified vendors specializing in catering services to supply foods in the event to be held at BICC, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka on 9 & 10 June, 2012. All interested Bidders may visit UNDP Country Office Web site http://www.undp.org.bd/proc.php for the details of Bidding documents (RFQ).

Submission of Quotation: The envelope should state "Quotation for Catering Services" and should be submitted to the UNDP Registry, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

The deadline for submission of quotation is May 30, 2012, 4.30 p.m.