

Suu Kyi to step outside Myanmar after 24 yrs

REUTERS, Yangon



Nobel laureate and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will travel outside Myanmar for the first time in 24 years next week to deliver a speech at an international forum in Thailand, her party said yesterday.

Her decision to venture outside the country she had only expected to return to temporarily in 1988 comes after a year of dramatic change in Myanmar after almost a half century of military rule.

Suu Kyi, 66, won a parliamentary seat in April after engaging with the reformist rulers once part of the junta that locked her up for 15 years for her fight against dictatorship.

An official from her National League for Democracy (NLD) party told Reuters Suu Kyi had accepted an invitation to attend the World Economic Forum on East Asia in Bangkok next week.

Separately, NLD spokesman Nyan Win said Suu Kyi would head to neighboring Thailand on Monday. Organisers could

not confirm whether or not she would attend.

Suu Kyi, the daughter of the leader of Myanmar's campaign for independence from British rule, spent years away from home, including many in Britain after marrying a British academic, Michael Aris.

She returned to her homeland in 1988 to take care of her dying mother and got caught up in a student-led democracy uprising that swept the country that year and which the military eventually crushed.

Suu Kyi was first detained in 1989 and spent 15 of the next 21 years in detention until her release from

house arrest in November 2010.

She refused to leave the country during brief periods when she was not held by authorities, for fear of not being allowed to return, even after her husband was diagnosed with cancer. Aris died in 1999.

Suu Kyi had announced in April she would make Britain and Norway her first ports of call, but her plans appear to have changed.

EU summit ends in stalemate

Eurozone tunnel darkens over Greece, eurobonds

AFP, Brussels

Eurozone tensions rose again yesterday with grim signals from business, and a flight of capital into Germany after an EU summit disagreed on solutions to the crisis.

Hanging over European Union governments, and business and finance, is the possibility of Greece leaving the eurozone.

An informal summit of European Union leaders overnight resulted in little apart from attempts to talk around deep differences between France and Germany on diluting economic reforms in debt-ridden members with growth stimulus.

The May survey of eurozone business confidence showed the worst monthly fall for nearly three years. The data for Germany was the worst for six months and an industrial index for France the worst for 37 months.

At Capital Economics in London, senior European economist Jennifer McKeown commented: "Spreading economic downturn will further reduce the currency union's chances of survival."

The euro slumped to a 22-month dollar low point of \$1.2516, last reached in July 2010. It later stood at \$1.2544.

If Greeks vote in new elections on June 17 against the budget cuts and reforms tied to a second debt rescue, the EU, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank are expected to curtail drastically financial lifelines for Greece.

FROM PAGE 20

procedures. We are hoping to increase the price from July," Salim Mahmud, a member of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), told The Daily Star.

He said Petrobangla had sent a proposal to the BERC, requesting it to increase gas prices, except for domestic consumers, from July 1.

The Petrobangla proposal said the new tariffs were proposed to curb gas wastage and adjust prices as the price of gas on the international market was on the rise.

Under the proposal, price of per 1,000 cubic metre natural gas for power plants, including the private ones and those run by Power Development Board, would rise by 5.24 percent to Tk 84.

Petrobangla has proposed increasing gas prices by 9.71 percent to Tk 80 from Tk 72.92 for fertiliser factories and by 32.60 percent to

Tk 220 from Tk 165.91 for industrial users.

Privately-run smaller power plants known as captive power plants will see their tariffs for gas uses go up by 102.94 percent to Tk 240 from Tk 118.26.

Mahmud said the doubling of the prices of gas in the captive power plant is logical, as a lot of gas is wasted to produce electricity.

Prices have been proposed to increase by 30.55 percent to Tk 350 from Tk 268.09 for commercial consumers, by 20.55 percent to Tk 200 from Tk 165.91 for tea estates and by 39.10 percent to Tk 905.92 from Tk 651.29 for CNG gas refilling stations.

This is the second time the government is going to increase the prices of gas after coming to power three years ago. In 2009, gas prices went up on an average by 11.11 percent.

Free all leaders

FROM PAGE 1

arrests of opposition leaders on charges of arson during the April 29 countrywide hartal enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance.

BNP MPs-- M K Anwar, AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee-- Liberal Democratic Party President and lawmaker Oli Ahmed, and Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman and lawmaker Andaleev Rahman Partho were recently detained and

put behind bars in connection with torching of a vehicle near the Prime Minister's Office on that day.

Another 28 top leaders of the alliance are currently behind bars in the arson case. A Dhaka court on Wednesday rejected their bail pleas.

Farooque at the protest programme also demanded release of BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and other detained leaders of the alliance.

Criticising Speaker Abdul

Hamid, the opposition chief whip said he was acting in favour of the ruling party men and had thrown his neutrality overboard.

"Had the Speaker been neutral, he would have enquired about the arrests. But he [Abdul Hamid] did not even ask the home minister why the lawmakers were detained," Farroque added.

He demanded withdrawal of the "false" cases filed against opposition leaders and workers, including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Mirza Fakhrul.

The 13th session of the 9th parliament, budget session, will begin at 5:30pm on Sunday.

BNP MPs Barkatullah Bulu, Jafurul Islam Chowdhury, Mosharraf Hossain, Abul Khair Bhuiyan, Ashrafuddin Nizan, Rumana Mahmud, Asifa Ashrafi Papiya and Rehana Akhter Ranu, among others, were present at the human chain.

Ministry favours

FROM PAGE 1

Mahmud paid it without objection.

On May 10, the appellate authority led by Additional Secretary Auparup Chowdhury let the Hall-Mark off, glorifying the company as a cent percent export oriented group, according to documents obtained by The Daily Star.

DoE Director Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, in his document submitted to the appellate authority, said the company's appeal was unlawful and unethical, as it had already confessed to the crime and paid the penalty money.

Still, the appeal body asked the company to obtain environmental clearance in three months, paying no heed to the fact that part of the occupied area is river wetland and rest is designated as rural settlement in the Detailed Area Plan of Dhaka City.

Hasan Mahmud, minister for environment and forests, said he was unaware of the issue and asked this correspondent to talk to the officer concerned and the chief of DoE.

Auparup Chowdhury,

who gave the order on the appeal, could not be contacted as he was travelling to Germany.

Mesbah ul Alam, secretary of the ministry, said they could look into an appeal body's anomaly only if a specific complaint is filed.

Asked why there had been a delay in depositing the penalty money, Monowar Islam, director general of DoE, said, "I do not know. I have to check it."

"We have to comply with the ministry order as it is the highest authority," he said on the ministry's role in this regard.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Md Tanvir Mahmud after one Maksudur Rahman filed a case alleging that the company had grabbed the latter's land at Janata Housing.

Waliza Hasan, chairperson of Janata Housing Environment Protection Forum, said the company had forcibly occupied several hundred plots at the 600-acre project to set the industrial park at Tentuljhora in Hemayetpur.

Over a hundred affected plot owners have so far filed formal complaints against Hall-Mark with Savar police, who have not yet moved for any legal action, she said.

Contacted several times at Hall-Mark's head office for the company's version, telephone operator Abdul Kuddus took note of the name and telephone number of this correspondent, saying Tanvir would call back if he wished to talk.

But nobody has called back yet.

Nazrul's birth anniversary today

FROM PAGE 20

offering flowers at the poet's grave on Dhaka University campus in the morning.

The inaugural ceremony of the programme will start at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) at 9:30am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the programme while Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad will preside over the function.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages paying deep respect to the memory of the rebel poet yesterday evening, reports UNB.

In his message, Zillur Rahman expressed his firm hope that the ideals and spirit of Nazrul will provide inspirations towards establishing peace, justice and humanity in society.

"Nazrul's name will remain ever shining in the history of Bengali language and literature," he said.

In a similar message, Hasina said Nazrul was a poet of equality, humanity and youth. "He was blessed with extra-ordinary talent and amazing mental

strength," she said.

"I pray for the salvation of his departed soul and wish all success for all programmes chalked out to celebrate his 113th birth anniversary," she added.

The decision to observe the anniversary in Dhaka was taken during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh last year.

To attend the programme as guest of honour, Indian Minister for Law and Justice and Minority Affairs Salman Khurshid arrived in the capital yesterday, reports our diplomatic correspondent.

The inaugural event at BICC will feature music renditions, recitations and dance based on the poem "Bidrohi" -- by noted artistes of the country.

Discussion and cultural performances will be held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the evening. Poet Muhammad Nurul Huda will read out a keynote paper in the session, while Prof Mohitul-Alam and Nabarun Bhattacharya of India will discuss on the paper.

Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury will pre-

side over the session.

Tomorrow, the programme will begin through a discussion at the National Theatre Hall.

Dr Lina Taposhi Khan will read out the keynote paper,

while Dr Nashid Kamal, Salauddin Ahmed and Badhan Sengupta of India will discuss on the topic.

Prof Mohammad Abdul Quayum will preside over the session.

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Vacancy Announcement
Issued on: 25 May 2012
Deadline for Application: 14 June 2012

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified candidates to the following vacant position to be filled as soon as possible:

- **National Consultant- Communication, Networking and Reporting** (UN Salary scale and benefits for similar position apply).

Interested qualified candidates will find the post descriptions, the link to the Personal History Form (PH-Form) and the information on how to apply in the following web link: <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/bangladesh>. Hard copies of the completed PH-Form must reach the **FAO Representation in Bangladesh, House # 37, Road # 8, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205** in a sealed envelope by close of business on **14 June 2012**.

Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the position of **Driver Cum Messenger - (ICS-2) with UNCDF**

The duration of the fixed term appointment contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will drive the vehicle within / outside Dhaka city to meet the transportation requirement, day-to-day maintenance of the vehicle, maintain a log book, arrange repairs where necessary, collect / deliver mail or documents when required. He/she will also have to provide day to day office support to UNCDF.

Qualifications and Experiences: The incumbent should have at least secondary education, with at least five years of relevant experience. The incumbent must have a valid heavy / light vehicles driving license. Good knowledge of road network in Dhaka and surrounding areas and adequate knowledge and skills in vehicle maintenance and minor repair are essential. She/he must have working knowledge of communicative English. Experience of UN or government organizations would be an asset.

Submission of Application: Application should be marked 'Confidential' and the position applied for i.e. **Driver-cum- Messenger - UNCDF** should be clearly written on the **A4 Size** envelope. Application including curriculum vitae and a recent passport-size photograph should be sent to the **HR Cluster, UNDP-Dhaka, GPO Box: 224, Dhaka-1000**, or deposited at the Deposit Box at the **IDB Bhaban (Ground Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 by June 8, 2012**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants.

Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Career Opportunity **msh**
Management Sciences for Health (MSH) is a non-profit organization with a mission to close the gap between what is known about public health problems and what is done to save them, particularly in developing and transitional countries. Headquartered in the United States, we have operations in more than 30 countries and employ staff from over 60 nations.

The SIAPS project provides technical support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Directorate General of Health Systems (DGHS), and Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) of Bangladesh for the strengthening of supply chain management systems, required to manage health commodities. The project works to strengthen procurement planning and management systems, logistics management information systems, warehousing and distribution capacity. It supports the development of public sector capacity in supply chain management (e.g. capacity building of national indigenous institutions). SIAPS project will provide technical support to the national TB program.

MSH invites applicants to apply to the following local positions:

Senior Technical Advisor - Monitoring and Evaluation
(Local Hire), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Overall Responsibilities:
The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Senior Technical Advisor (STA) will ensure that data designed to assess results, achievements and outcomes are collected, analyzed, communicated and applied in a systematic and consistent approach. The STA will support implementation of the Results Framework and develop an effective M&E plan based on the program's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP). S/he is also responsible for ensuring the collection, compilation and sharing of regular reports, including technical reports coordinated with partners. S/he will support the country director and implementing managers on an ongoing basis to gather and use evidence for decision making.

Key Qualifications Include:
Master's degree in health statistics, project management, public health, communications, or related field. At least 5 years previous experience working in M&E. Experience on USG-funded health and/or other development programs preferred. Fluent in both written and spoken English. Excellent writing skills, experience drafting reports necessary.

Interested applicants should submit applications at <https://jobs-msh.icims.com/jobs/4795/job> no later than May 31, 2012.

Senior Technical Advisor - PLMC
(Local Hire, 2 vacancies), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Overall Responsibilities:
Senior Technical Advisor - provides technical assistance on procurement management systems to the MOHFW especially Procurement and Logistics Management Cell (PLMC). This position will be located within the office of the MOHFW and report to the Country Project Director.

Key Qualifications Include:
Advanced degree in logistics, supply chain management, pharmacy, medicine or business management with background in public health or related field. Significant experience in providing technical assistance in procurement management or experience of managing a procurement system preferably based on the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) / International Development Association (IDA) guidelines. Experience in national procurement processes in Bangladesh and experience in procurement of essential health commodities desired. Sound knowledge and understanding on Bangladesh procurement laws and rules e.g. PPA, PPR etc. and also World Bank Guidelines. Significant experience in international public health with at least three years' experience related to procurement and supply chain strengthening, pharmaceutical management, preferably in work funded by USAID. Strong organizational skills and ability to work in a team-oriented, culturally diverse environment. Experience and ability working with senior government officials. Experience with USAID and other donor agencies desirable.

Interested applicants should submit applications at <https://jobs-msh.icims.com/jobs/4796/job> no later than May 31, 2012.

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