

Opposition halts protests in Maldives

AFP, Colombo

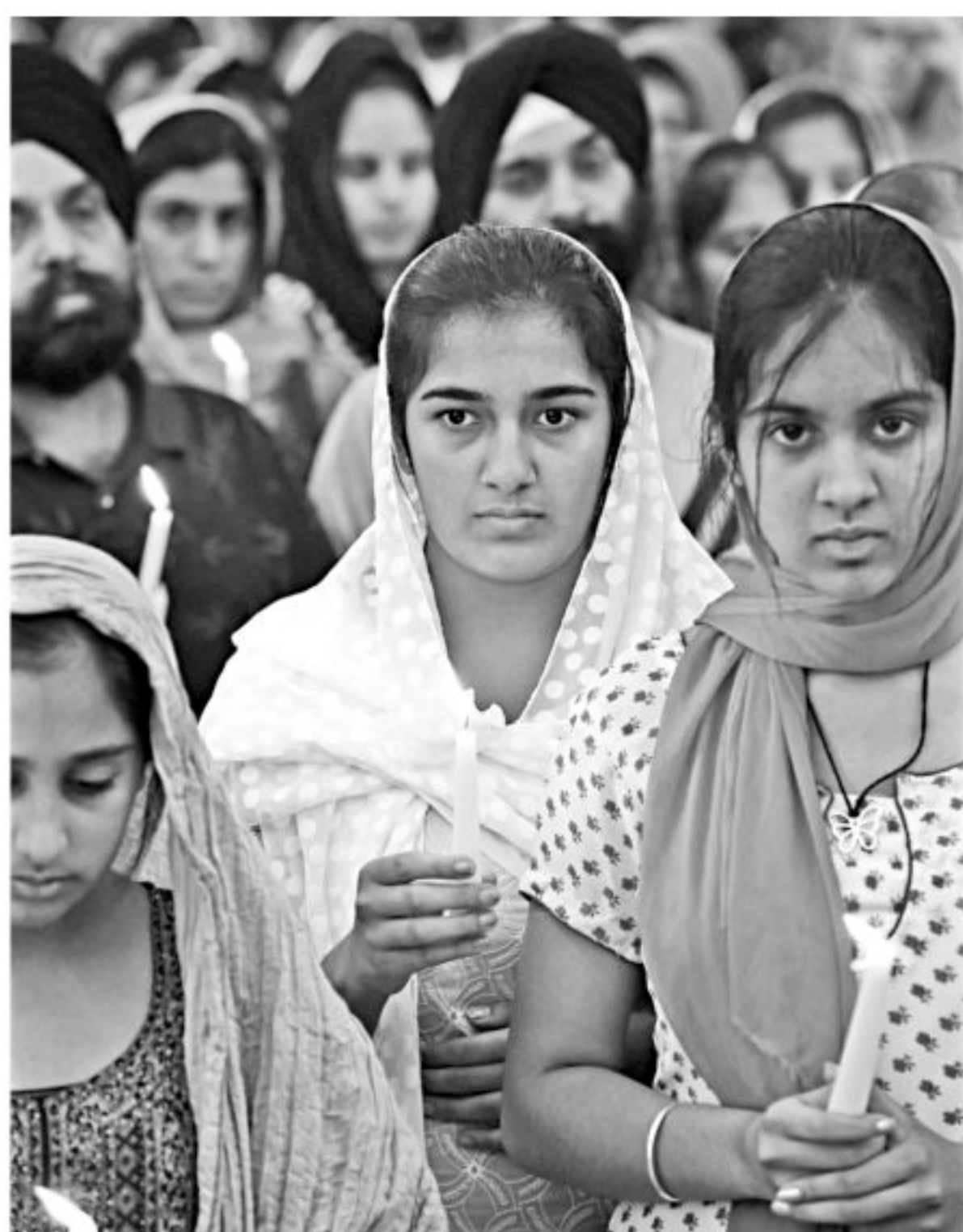
The main opposition party in the Maldives yesterday announced an end to six months of street protests triggered by what it called a "coup" that ousted former president Mohamed Nasheed.

Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) said it was to create a "conducive" environment for talks on early elections.

The capital Male has been hit by demonstrations since Nasheed stepped down in February after weeks of anti-government protests, capped by a police mutiny.

Nasheed and his party later said that he was the victim of a military coup.

The political upheaval has badly damaged the vital tourism industry.



Guests attend a candlelight vigil in honour of the victims of the Sikh Temple killing in USA. US President Barack Obama yesterday called Indian PM Manmohan Singh to offer condolences over the shooting. PHOTO: AFP

3 Nato troops killed in Afghan suicide attacks

AFP, Asadabad

A double suicide attack killed three Nato soldiers in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, Afghan and Western officials said.

Nato's US-led International Security Assistance Force said three of its troops died in an "insurgent attack" in the east but gave no further details in line with policy.

The nationalities of the soldiers were not disclosed.

Local police told AFP that two insurgents wearing suicide vests blew themselves up as a group of foreign troops walked to the nearby governor's compound.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but similar attacks in the past have been claimed by the Taliban.

Asean mulls assistance for Myanmar Rohingya

Turkey sends FM to observe situation after massacre reports

AFP, Jakarta

Southeast Asian nations are considering humanitarian assistance for Muslim-minority Rohingya facing "pain and suffering" in Myanmar, the head of the ASEAN regional bloc said yesterday.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretary general Surin Pitsuwan said the bloc should be "part of solution to the problem" that escalated in June with a bloody clash that displaced around 60,000 people, mostly Rohingya.

"I have made a proposal (to our member countries) that Asean should once again offer humanitarian assistance, like we did during the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis four-and-a-half years ago," Surin told reporters, referring to a storm which left 138,000 people dead or missing in Myanmar in May 2008.

He said the offer to assist the Rohingya had garnered support from several Asean members and that Indonesia and Malaysia had also offered to directly assist the Rohingya.

Around 80 people, both Buddhists and Rohingya, were killed during the June violence in western Myanmar's Rakhine state, according to official figures, while rights



Ahmet Davutoglu

groups claim higher death tolls.

"Myanmar becoming the chair of the Asean will be the focus of the attention of how it is handling such an issue. There must be some roadmap to the solution", Surin said on the sidelines of Asean's 45th anniversary celebrations.

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu yesterday left to observe the situation in Myanmar, from where he said Turkey was receiving "conflicting information" regarding deadly religious violence.

The foreign minister said he had to go himself and "observe the situation on the ground" to have healthy information, but his main purpose was "to make sure help reaches those people in no time."

Decades of discrimination have left the Rohingya stateless, and they are viewed by the UN as one of the world's most persecuted minorities.

Myanmar's government considers the estimated 800,000 Rohingya in the country to be foreigners while many citizens see them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and view them with hostility.

Afghan civilian casualties down 15pc: UN

AFP, Kabul

The number of Afghan civilian casualties has fallen for the first time in five years, dropping by 15 percent in the first half of 2012, the United Nations said yesterday.

"This is the first time we have seen a sustained decline in civilian casualties which actually reverses a sustained five year trend of increasing of civilian casualties," UN human rights official James Rodehaver told AFP.

The United Nations said 1,145 Afghan non-combatants lost their lives, mostly in Taliban and other insurgent attacks, between January 1 and June 30 compared to 1,510 for the same period in 2011. Another 1,954 civilians were wounded, it added.

Last year, a record 3,021 civilians died as part of the decade-long war between Taliban insurgents and the Nato-backed Kabul government, the UN has said.

Eid sales frustrate

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did not exceed Tk 20,000 per day.

Sarkar apprehends his hope of making a bigger sale would soon dismiss on him since he sells unstitched garments, which shoppers normally buy a long time before the Eid as the items need tailors to turn them into complete dresses.

Eid-ul-Fitr is the culmination of the biggest selling season of the country, when a majority of the population at least buy apparel items and footwear.

The Eid is less than two weeks away but shop-owners say their sales have not peaked yet compared to that of the previous years. The shop-owners at the city's top stores and markets said the sales had gone down by 50 percent compared to that of last year.

Habibur Rahman, a sales assistant of Dorjibari at Bashundhara Shopping Mall, also shared the same feelings. "We hope the sales will go up after the 20th Ramadan."

Ahsan Habib Shiplu, a lecturer of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, came to Bashundhara Shopping Mall with his two friends. He said the price of the items is high.

"So, the shoppers are giving much thought behind every purchase," said Shiplu, 28, who bought panjabis for his four cousins.

HSC student Hridoy Hossain, who came to shop with his seven-year-old cousin Nishat, agrees with Shiplu as far as the price of items is concerned. He said, "I bought a pair of shoes with Tk 1,700. The same pair cost Tk 1,100 last year."

"Price of every item has gone up in the similar fashion," he said.

Delwar Hossain, a manager of boutique house Onnomela, said the price of items at his store had to be enhanced by 15 to 20 percent this year compared to last year, as the production cost had increased sharply.

Nurul Islam, a sales manager of Milon Garments in

New Market, the country's largest shopping centre, said the customers were mostly struggling with their limited incomes.

Shop-owners fear although the sales shoot up in the last week of Ramadan, particularly on the last couple of days, this time it may happen otherwise, as the city-dwellers may start leaving the capital for village homes as early as August 14, when the 11-day holiday starts.

The bearish trend in sales has also hit other businesses, such as furniture and electronics.

Biplob Saha, a manager of Hatil, one of the renowned furniture-makers in the country, said the average sales are lower than the previous years.

The dip in sales also hit shopping bag-seller Nowsher Ali. The 22-year-old, who has been selling bags at the New Market for 10 years, said he used to sell at least 20 bags a day last year, but this Ramadan he is selling 12 to 15 bags a day.

Mollah fired on people

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at least 57 people at Ghatarchar that day and narrated how the incident was orchestrated at a meeting of local Razakars, an auxiliary force of Pakistani invaders, with Quader Mollah.

On May 28, the tribunal framed six charges of crimes against humanity against Quader Mollah's direct involvement in killing Bangladeshis during the Liberation War in 1971.

Earlier on August 1, Shafiq Mollah, the fifth prosecution witness in the case, told the tribunal Quader Mollah directly took part in the killing of 360-370 Bangladeshis at Alubdi village in Pallabi of Dhaka on April 24, 1971. He also said he had seen the Jamaat leader shooting at the people of Alubdi.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the case proceeding until August 12. Defence counsel Abdus Sobhan Tarafder asked only two questions before adjournment.

Majid yesterday told the tribunal he woke up hearing sound of gunshots in the early morning on November 25, 1971 and saw fire everywhere after coming out.

"I slowly marched towards north as the sounds of gunfire were coming from that direction and stopped near the Ghatarchar School field," said the witness, adding that there were bushes in their village at that time.

"I hid behind a tree and saw Pakistani army men were killing the people [at the school field]," said Majid, adding, "There were some civilians in punjabi and pyjama with the Pakistan army and one of them was Abdul Quader Mollah."

"There was a rifle in Quader Mollah's hand and he was shooting too," said the witness, adding that the massacre continued from early morning to 11:00am and after that Pakistani army and "force of Quader Mollah" left the spot. There were some people wearing veil to hide their identity, added the witness.

"When they left the spot, we called people and tried to identify the bodies. Around 60 people, both Hindus and Muslims, were killed there," said the witness. "When we were identifying the bodies, Mozaffar Ahmed Khan, freedom fighters' commander of Keraniganj [first prosecution witness], came to the spot and we briefed him about the incident."

Majid said when the Pakistani army and their auxiliary forces left the spot, he came to know that the short man, wearing punjabi and pyjama, was Abdul Quader Mollah.

In his testimony, Mozaffar quoted Majid and said on November 23 or 24, Dr Joynal, KG Karim Babla, Mokhter Hossain [local anti-liberation activists] organised a meeting at Ghatarchar in connivance with then Islami Chhatra

Sangha leader Abdul Quader Mollah. Quader Mollah took part in the meeting which decided to kill the unarmed people and the decision was executed on November 25.

Majid during his 22-minute testimony also said a meeting was held on the previous night of the incident at Dr Joynal's house, which was very close to Majid's place.

Majid identified Quader Mollah at dock and said he gave his statement to the investigation officer of the case on June 27 this year.

PROSECUTION ABUSING POWER: DEFENCE

Meanwhile, the defence yesterday alleged the prosecution is "abusing" its power given by section 9 (4) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 in case of bringing additional prosecution witnesses.

Abdur Razzaq, chief of the defence of the detained Jamaat leader, said the pros-

ecution submitted a list of 40 witnesses on December 28, 2011 but only three of them have given their testimony.

In April and May, the prosecution also submitted two lists of six witnesses but three of them were testified, said Razzaq, adding that the tribunal on Tuesday again allowed a prosecution petition for tendering three more witnesses in the case.

Once the prosecution completed tendering 40 witnesses, they can bring additional witnesses upon permission of the tribunal, said the defence chief, adding, the defence have to give at least three weeks' notice before tendering additional witness.

Opposing the defence's argument, Mohammad Ali, conducting prosecutor in Quader Mollah's case, said as per the Act, the prosecution can bring additional witnesses "at any stage of the trial" and there is no provision of law that

the defence have to notify before three weeks for bringing additional witnesses.

The tribunal said it would give reasonable time to the defence for preparing their case.

ACCUSED THREATENING WITNESSES: PROSECUTION

Mohammad Ali yesterday told reporters at least three prosecution witnesses have received threats or been lured by men of the accused. Of them, one was from Alubdi village where Quader Mollah allegedly committed atrocities in 1971.

Through media, the prosecutor urged the prohibition force to guard the witnesses so that Jamaat, Muslim League and BNP men cannot prevent them from giving testimony.

Abdur Razzaq, however, rejected the prosecution's allegation saying, "It is not true."

TENDER NOTICE

1	Agency	Police Reform Programme (PRP)					
2	Procuring Entity Name	Police Reform Programme (PRP)					
3	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka					
4	Invitation for	Supply of Event Management Services for conducting Training/ Workshop/ Conference in different places (private venue and police venue) of Bangladesh during September 2012 to March 2013					
5	Invitation Ref No & Date	2012/958					
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)					
7	Budget and Source of Funds	UNDP & DFID					
8	Project (if applicable)	Police Reform Programme (PRP)					
9	Tender Package Number & Name	Package No. 01 : Supply of Event Management Services					
10	Mode of Payment	Credit					
11	Tender Publication Date	August 09, 2012					
12	Tender Last Distribution Date	August 23, 2012					
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	August 30, 2012 Time: 11:00 Hours					
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	August 30, 2012 Time: 12:00 Hours					
15	Name & Address of the office(s)	Addresses					
	- Selling Tender Document	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.					
	- Receiving Tender Document	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka					
	- Opening Tender Document	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka					
16	Pre-tender Meeting	Pre-Tender meeting will be held on August 27, 2012 at 10.00 AM in the Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.					
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of Five years of overall experience in the supply of Event Management Services for conducting Training, Workshop and Conference in the private venue or government venue. (ii) The Tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 03 (three) numbers of similar types (Training, Workshop and Conference) of Event Management programmes within last three years supported by the certificate issued from competent authority. (iii) The satisfactory completion of similar service of minimum 15 lac under maximum three contracts in the last three years. (iv) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk. 3,000,000.00 supported by the certificate issued from scheduled bank. (v) Tender may submit either for individual lot or any combination of lots.					
18	Identification of Packages, Lots, Tender Security and Price of Tender Document						
	Pkg. No.	Lot No.	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in BDT (by Pay Order/Bank Guarantee)	Completion Time	Price of Tender Document (in cash)
	Pkg.-1	Lot - 1 Lot - 2	Event Management Services for conducting Training/ Workshop/ Conference in different places of Bangladesh	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.	Tk. 280,000/= Tk. 450,000/=	As per delivery schedule mentioned in the tender documents.	Nil
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Henk van Zyl					
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Manager					
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.					
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: (8802) 9567831-33 Ext: 148, 152		Fax: (880-2) 9567835		email: raz_sadia@prp-bd.org; shahadut@prp-bd.org	
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.						



Henk van Zyl
Project Manager
Police Reform Programme (PRP), UNDP

RESTRICTED
E in C's Branch
Works Directorate
Dhaka Cantonment

Invitation for Tenders

Notice No. 300/Ad/68/E-3 Dated: 24 July 2012

Military Engineer Services

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.				
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services.				
3.	Procuring entity name	E in C.				
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.				
5.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).				
6.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.				
7.	Development partners (if applicable)	None.				
8.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Cantonment Public School at Halihsahar (Chittagong) and Cantonment Public School at Rajshahi.				
9.	Selling of tender will commence from	12 August 2012 (during office hour).				
10.	Selling of tender will close on	26 August 2012 (during office hour).				
11.	Last date & time of submission of tender	27 August 2012 at 1200 hours.				
12.	Date & time of opening of tender	27 August 2012 at 1230 hours.				
13.	Name & address of the office(s)					
	- Selling tender document	a. Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project, Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. b. DW & CE(Army)/(Navy)/(Air). c. CMES (Army)/Dhaka/CMES(Navy)/CMES(Air).				
	- Receiving tender document	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project, Dhaka.				
	- Opening tender document	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project, Dhaka.				
14.	Eligibility of tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractors Class- 'B' & 'C' for Lot No. 15(a). b. On receipt of DGFI clearance with others Department (equivalent classes) contractors may also apply for tender. c. Satisfactorily completed similar nature of work mentioned in Lot No. 15(a) amounting Tk.70,00,000.00 in a single tender during last 05 (five) years.				
15.	Brief description of Works					
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (non-refundable)	Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. (Taka)	Completion time in weeks/ months
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	a.	Manufacture & Supply of Furniture for School wing, Admin wing & Library of Cantonment Public School at Rajshahi	AGE (Army) Rajshahi	3,000.00	3,30,000.00	03 (three) months
16.	Name of official inviting tender	Director of Works.				
17.	Designation of official inviting tender	Director of Works.				
18.	Address of official inviting tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Web address: www.army.mil.bd				
19.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 8752870	Fax No. 8752906	E-mail: wksdte@army.mil.com		
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.					

A/Director of Works
Works Directorate
Engineer in Chief's Branch
Dhaka Cantonment

ISPR/Army/2012/1339
GD-3044