

## 9 climbers killed in Nepal avalanche

AFP, Kathmandu

At least nine climbers including a German and a local guide have been killed in Nepal after they were buried by an avalanche on one of the world's most deadly mountains, officials said yesterday.

The group of French, Germans and Italians were near the top of Manaslu ahead of a final push to the 8,156-metre summit when they were hit by a wall of snow on Saturday night, police said.

Manaslu, the eighth highest mountain in the world, is considered one of the most dangerous, with scores of deaths in recent years and just a few hundred successful ascents.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 metres, including the world's highest, Mount Everest, and attracts thousands of mountaineers every year.



Rescuers assist a foreigner who was injured following an avalanche at the Mount Manaslu base camp in Gorkha District yesterday. At least nine climbers including a German and a local guide have been killed in Nepal after they were buried by an avalanche on one of the world's most deadly mountains, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

## I have personal regrets: Suu Kyi

BBC ONLINE

Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese dissident and Nobel Peace Prize winner, spent most of the past two decades under house arrest in Rangoon, thousands of miles from her husband and children in the UK. She has rarely talked about the pain of this separation.

"I think she's genuinely strong. And you know even if she's sad at something, she knows she's got to get on with things. She's not going to waste time crying about it," says Kim Aris, Aung San Suu Kyi's son.

Every day for almost 20 years, Aung San Suu Kyi faced a choice - to remain imprisoned in her house in Rangoon or re-join her family in Oxford, knowing that if she chose to leave she might never be allowed to return and lead her people.

"Of course I regret not having been able to spend time with my family," says Suu Kyi.

"One wants to be together with one's family. That's what families are about. Of course, I have regrets about that. Personal regrets.

"I would like to have been together with my family. I would like to have seen my sons growing up. But I don't have doubts about the fact that I had to choose to stay with my people here," she says.

Suu Kyi is the daughter of Burma's independence hero, General Aung San, assassinated when she was only two.

She always believed it was her destiny to serve the people of Burma, even telling her English husband-to-be Michael this on the eve of their marriage.



Suu Kyi with her family

After a period working overseas, she and Michael settled into Oxford academic life, raising their two young sons, Alexander and Kim, until Suu Kyi's mother became critically ill in Rangoon in 1988.

When she returned to Burma to care for her mother, Suu Kyi became a figurehead for democracy protests, founding the NLD party.

The military junta which seized power confined Suu Kyi to her house - and family life came to an end.

The military junta thought it could pressure Suu Kyi to leave Burma by exploiting this fact. But Suu Kyi stayed in Burma, committed to the struggle for political reform - although the personal sadness remained.

The pressure on Suu Kyi increased when her husband - still living in the UK - was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1997.

The military regime said that she could leave to be with him - but she believed she would not be allowed back.

"There never was a point when I thought of going. I knew that I wouldn't go. And he knew too," she says. Michael died in 1999. Ten years later, Suu Kyi's was freed.

Today, Suu Kyi and many NLD members have been elected to the parliament led by the generals, though full democracy remains a distant prize.

Although the legacy of personal sacrifice remains, Suu Kyi remains optimistic for the future.

"We know that something remarkable is going on. We are all aware that this is a very unusual time for Burma. This is an extraordinary moment for our country."

## Pakistan govt rejects film maker bounty

AFP, Islamabad

The Pakistan government yesterday distanced itself from a \$100,000 bounty offered by a cabinet minister for the death of the maker of an anti-Islam film that has sparked protests across the Muslim world.

Railways Minister Ghulam Ahmed Bilour invited members of the Taliban and al-Qaeda to take part in the "noble deed", and said given the chance he would kill the film-maker with his own hands.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf rejected Bilour's comments, made on Saturday, a day after angry protests across Pakistan against the "Innocence of Muslims" left 21 people dead and more than 200 injured.

"This is not government policy. We completely disassociate (ourselves) from this," the spokesman told AFP.

More than 50 people have died in protests around the world linked to the movie.

## UPA has support of over 300 MPs

Says Indian health minister

PTI, Jammu

Slamming Trinamool Congress, Union Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad yesterday said steps such as allowing FDI in retail sector, hiking diesel prices and limiting cap on domestic LPG could have been taken earlier if there was no pressure from parties like the one headed by Mamata Banerjee.

Ruling out any threat to the UPA government following withdrawal of support by TMC, the senior Congress leader said, "Our government has support of over 300 MPs in the Lok Sabha, including members from parties giving inside and outside support."

For a simple majority, government needs the support of at least 273 MPs in a House of 545.

Azad was talking to reporters here on the sidelines of a function to pay tributes to former King of Jammu and Kashmir Maharaj Hari Singh on its 117th birth anniversary at Dogra Chowk area of the city.

Stoutly defending the decisions, he said every country needed to take strong steps for the betterment of its economy. "This strong step will be better for the country," he said.

Azad said the Prime Minister has already clarified that if these steps were not taken, the country would have faced 1991 like situation when gold had to be mortgaged to tide over economic crisis.

"India has managed well on the economic front despite global economy facing recession during the past few years," he said.

## Advani slams UPA for FDI decision

PTI, New Delhi

Attacking the Congress-led UPA government on the issue of allowing FDI in multi-brand retail, BJP yesterday said the party had opposed the measure when NDA was in power.

Senior BJP leader LK Advani said "leading" Congress leader Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi in December 2002 had said bureaucrats were being pressurised by multi-national retailers for FDI.

He said when Dasmunshi raised this issue in parliament, then Commerce and Industry Minister Arun Shourie immediately stood up and said that as per the existing policy since 1997 foreign direct investment in retail trade is not permitted.

Advani accused the ruling UPA government of compromise on the issue forsaking the greater interest of the country.

## A battle between

FROM PAGE 20

The incident happened at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital in 2009. This "disheartened" Sohel and led to his resignation from the home ministry the same year and from parliament in July this year, they added.

The top party leader, a presidium member of the AL and a close relative of Sheikh Hasina, faced harsh criticism within the party for his "misconduct" and that is why he is supporting Afsaruddin instead of Rimi, according to the sources.

"We are sure about this as we got information from Dhaka," Nazrul Islam, president of Bangabandhu Sainik League in Kapasia, told this correspondent.

"Afsaruddin considers himself the stronger candidate as that top leader is backing him," Nazrul said, "But, he [the top leader] is not doing it publicly as our

leader [Sheikh Hasina] herself has nominated Rimi."

Rimi's campaign convener Abdul Kabir Ali and Kapasia AL president Asgor Rashid Khan say they expect a big win for Rimi, however big the "conspiracy" may be.

"We aren't worried about any backdoor conspiracy and that's why we don't want to make any comment on that matter," Kabir Ali told The Daily Star on Saturday.

Sana Ullah, general secretary of Kapasia AL, echoed the view of the two.

Zakir Hossain, sports secretary of Kapasia AL, said Afsaruddin was looking to win the election with blessings from the "top leader" and a few other leaders sacked from the party. "But his dream will not come true as almost all the Awami League leaders are with Rimi."

Afsaruddin, a former

state minister, also expects that BNP and Jamaat supporters will vote for him, which is making him even more upbeat, some locals said.

Others say Afsaruddin may also benefit from the division in the local AL.

But Rimi's supporters say Afsaruddin does not live in Kapasia and is therefore detached from the voters while Rimi is involved with various social activities, including setting up libraries in different unions in Kapasia.

"Besides, she [Rimi] is the daughter of Tajuddin Ahmad and our leader [Sheikh Hasina] has nominated her as the party candidate. So all the Awami League voters will vote for her," said a local AL supporter.

Bangladesher Communist Party-backed Asadullah Badal is the other candidate contesting

## SC against technocrat ministers

FROM PAGE 1

The 1972 constitution had introduced the provision, conditionally allowing appointment of a person, who is not an MP, as a member of the council of ministers.

The condition was that he/she must be elected to parliament within six months of the appointment. In the instance of failure to be elected within that time, he/she would cease to be a member of the council of ministers.

But as per present provision, if a person, who is not an MP, is once appointed a member of the council of ministers, he/she can continue in office till the last day of the government's tenure or till the day the prime minister asks him/her to resign.

On May 10 last year, the

then chief justice ABM Khairul Haque, who led the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in declaring illegal the 13th amendment to the constitution, said democratic practice and empowerment of people had been reflected at every stage of the original constitution.

But the changes brought into the provision later damaged this spirit, said the judgment, the full text of which was released last week.

The apex court, however, refrained from making any announcement on it, as the matter was not under the court's consideration, Justice Khairul said.

The fourth amendment to the constitution in 1975 brought about significant changes in the provision on the appointment of non-

elected individuals as members of the council of ministers.

The amendment gave the president absolute authority to appoint anybody as prime minister or minister regardless of whether he/she was an MP. And the condition imposed on non-elected people to be elected within six months was done away with.

Military ruler Ziaur Rahman, amending the constitution through martial law proclamations in 1978, limited the president's discretionary power to appoint ministers. The changes made it mandatory for the president to appoint a prime minister from among MPs, one who commands the support of the majority.

Regarding the appointment of ministers, the

changes said not more than one-fifth of the members of the council of ministers shall be chosen from among persons qualified for election as MPs.

The constitution's 12th amendment in 1991, through which the country switched back to the parliamentary form of government, also brought about changes to this provision on technocrat ministers. The changes say that not less than nine-tenths of the ministers shall be appointed from among MPs and not more than one-tenth of the ministers may be chosen from among persons qualified for election as MPs.

None of the previous changes restored the original provision of the 1972 constitution.

The issue, however, was raised during the last consti-

tutional amendment. Members of the parliamentary special committee formed to prepare proposals for amendments spoke for a restoration of the original provision on technocrat ministers. But the committee failed to come up with a recommendation to do so.

In their defence of the abolition of the caretaker government system, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet colleagues have been saying the CG consisted of unelected persons and the constitution in no way allows unelected people to rule the country.

But the law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister, industries minister and state minister for science and technology are unelected persons, and they have been holding office since January 2009.

## 6-month maternity leave

FROM PAGE 20

Talking to the reporters, the minister said the government had decided to increase house rent and medical allowance for teachers and employees enjoying MPO facilities. Amounts to be increased will be fixed after a discussion with the finance ministry.

Since 1984, the teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges have been getting only Tk 100 for house rent and Tk 150 in medical allowance.

The government would soon finalise the job rules of the third and fourth class employees of the non-government institutions, Nahid said.

He also assured the teachers of bringing an amendment to the recently announced organogram, according to which a person having a third division/class in any examination during his/her education would be ineligible for headmaster and assistant headmaster posts.

"All their [teachers of the non-govt institutions under MPO] problems have been discussed at the meeting," Nahid said, urging the teachers' organisations to call off their grand rally programme on September 30.

Bangladesh Shikshak Samity had announced the rally to press home its 21-point demand, including

an increase in medical allowance and house rent, nationalisation of the entire education system, a rise in their yearly increment and implementation of time-scale facility. Other teachers' associations expressed solidarity with it.

Quazi Faruque Ahmed, chief coordinator of the National Front of Teachers and Employees; Prof Asadul Haque, general secretary of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association, and Abdur Rashid, president of Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association, among others, were present at the meeting.

## PM reaches

FROM PAGE 1

F Kennedy International Airport at 9:00am New York time.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Akramul Qader and Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Abdul Momen, leaders of Awami League USA chapter received the prime minister at the airport.

A large number of leaders, workers and supporters from different states of the USA came to the airport to greet Hasina.

From JFK airport, the prime minister in a motorcade was taken to Hotel Grand Hayatt where she will be staying during her visit.

Ambassador-At-Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shaikh Md Wahid-Uz-Zaman, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Foreign Secretary Mijarul

Quayes accompanied the prime minister.


A 26-member business delegation led by President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) AK Azad also arrived here with Hasina.

The prime minister will address the UNGA on September 27. She will attend a number of high-level events and receptions to be hosted by US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

She is also scheduled to attend a reception to be hosted by Bangladesh community in New York.

On September 27, Hasina will attend a meeting on autism to be arranged by Michelle Obama at Roosevelt House.

She will leave New York for Dhaka on September 30.



**BIWTC**  
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation  
(An Inland Shipping Organization)  
5, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

নিরাপদ নৌ চলাচল ও উন্নত যাত্রী সেবা  
প্রদানে বিআইডব্লিউটিসি অঙ্গীকারবদ্ধ

### Invitation for Re-Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping.
2	Source of funds	BIWTC's own fund.
3	Tender package No.	W-6/2012-2013.
4	Invitation for tender Ref.	BIWTC/XEN/C/213/2012 & 179/09/(2 <sup>nd</sup> part).
5	Tender name	1) Construction of boundary wall (east side) of BIWTC Terminal-1 at Strand Road, Chittagong. 2) Construction of boundary wall (south side) of BIWTC Rest House at Khulna. 3) Renovation works of caretaker's quarter of Khulna Rest House of BIWTC, Khulna.
6	Time for completion of the works	120 (one hundred twenty) days for SI No-01, 90 (ninety) days (each) for SI No-02 & SI No-03.
7	Eligibility of tenderers	1 <sup>st</sup> class contractors working in govt/semi-govt organization with minimum experience of 05 years in similar works.
8	Price of tender document	Tk 500/= (five hundred) (non-refundable) for each set.
9	Amount of tender security	Tk 25,000/= (twenty-five thousand) for SI No-01, Tk 10,000/= (ten thousand) for SI No-02, Tk 7,500/= (seven thousand five hundred) for SI No-03 in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of BIWTC.
10.	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	1) Cash Section (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), BIWTC, Head Office, 5, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. 2) DGM (Commerce) Office, BIWTC, Chittagong. 3) Manager (Commerce) Office, BIWTC, Khulna.
11	Name and address of the office receiving tender	1) Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) (5 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 5, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. 2) Divisional Commissioner Office, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. 3) Sr Asst Secretary, Room No. 819 (8 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Building No-6, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000.
12	Name and address of the office opening tenders	Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) (5 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 5, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
13	Last date and time for selling tender document	In all working days up to 14-10-2012 during office hour.
14	Last date and time for submission of tenders	15-10-2012 up to 12-00 hrs.
15	Date & time for opening of tender	15-10-2012 at 14-00 hrs.
16	Special instruction	a) No document will be sold on the date of receiving tender. b) Should the receiving date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tender shall be opened at the same time on the first subsequent working day. c) Tenderers or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening tender. d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders prior to acceptance.
17	Brief description of works	1) Construction of boundary wall (east side) of BIWTC Terminal-1 at Strand Road, Chittagong. 2) Construction of boundary wall (south side) of BIWTC Rest House at Khulna. 3) Renovation works of caretaker's quarter of Khulna Rest House of BIWTC, Khulna.

BIWTC/PR/35/2012-2013  
GD-3658

**Engr Mohammad Ali**  
Executive Engineer (Civil)  
BIWTC, Dhaka