

NEWS IN brief

Russia meteor's origin traced

BBC ONLINE

Astronomers have traced the origin of a meteor that injured about 1,000 people after breaking up over central Russia earlier this month.

Using amateur video footage, they were able to plot the meteor's trajectory through Earth's atmosphere and then reconstruct its orbit around the Sun. The results suggest the meteor belongs to a well known family of space rocks - known as the

Iceland seeks pornography ban

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The Iceland government is drafting plans to ban pornography, in print and online, in an attempt to protect children from a tide of violent sexual imagery.

The proposal by the interior minister, Ogmundur Jonasson, has caused uproar. Opponents say the move will censor the web, encourage authoritarian regimes and undermine Iceland's reputation as a Scandinavian bastion of

Putin signs Russia smoking ban

BBC ONLINE

Smoking in public places will be banned in Russia after President Vladimir Putin signed a tough new bill into law.

Under the new legislation, smoking in restaurants, long-distance trains and housing block entrance halls will be illegal. The government has made reducing smoking one of the cornerstones of its bid to improve public health.

Russia has one of the highest smoking rates in the world, with more than four in 10 Russians considered smokers. Parliament passed the bill earlier in February, with only one deputy in the State Duma voting against the legislation.

2 US sailors admit Okinawa rape

AFP, Tokyo

Two US sailors yesterday admitted raping a Japanese woman in Okinawa last October, news reports said, in a case that generated huge anti-American anger on the strategically vital island.

Skyler Dozierwalker, 23, and Christopher Browning, 24, attacked the woman in central Okinawa during a brief trip to the semi-tropical island chain.

Okinawa is the reluctant host of more than half of the 47,000 US military personnel in Japan. The rape provoked outrage and led to a nationwide curfew on all American military personnel in Japan.

Japan refuses to stop whaling

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's fisheries minister yesterday said the country will not stop hunting whales, despite fierce criticism from other countries and violent clashes at sea with militant conservationists.

Japan uses a loophole in an international ban on whaling that allows for lethal scientific research on the mammals, but it makes no secret of the fact that the mammals ultimately end up on menus.

Obama cabinet nominees face key votes

AFP, Washington

New picks to lead the Pentagon and the US Treasury face key hurdles in the Senate yesterday, as President Barack Obama fleshes out his second-term cabinet amid trying times for defense and finance.

If they are confirmed as expected, as soon as this week, secretary of defense pick Chuck Hagel and Treasury nominee Jack Lew will face a series of crises, including \$85 billion in automatic spending cuts set to land Friday. Democrats, who control the Senate, are confident that Hagel, a Republican ex-senator and Vietnam War veteran, will get the 60 votes needed to bring his confirmation to the floor for a vote despite a bruising confirmation hearing.

Lew, Obama's former chief of staff who was tapped last month to succeed Timothy Geithner at Treasury, was actively involved in the 2011 budget talks that led to the creation of the sequester set to take effect on Friday. Democrats have suggested Lew is likely to be confirmed.

Benedict to become 'pope emeritus'

Law changed to allow early conclave

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Benedict XVI will have the official title of "pope emeritus" and continue wearing the papal white cassock after he resigns tomorrow-- the first leader of the Catholic Church to do so since the Middle Ages, the Vatican said.

Benedict can still be addressed as "Your Holiness Benedict XVI" and will have the additional title of "Ro-



man pontiff emeritus", spokesman Federico Lombardi told the Vatican press corps yesterday.

Benedict can also still wear a white cassock normally reserved only for pontiffs -- but without the doubled shoulder cape -- and has chosen to swap his trademark red shoes for a brown pair given to him by artisans in Mexico during a trip last year, Lombardi said.

The Vatican spokesman also said that a series of meetings of cardinals to settle on a date for the start of a conclave to elect Benedict's successor could start on Monday.

Pope Benedict XVI issued a decree on Monday allowing cardinals to bring forward a conclave to elect his successor, as the resignation of a top cardinal and deepening intrigue in the Vatican clouded the run-up to the vote.

NYT to rebrand Herald Tribune

AFP, New York

For a decade the International Herald Tribune has been the global edition of the New York Times in all but name. On Monday, the parent company made it official.

In a statement, the New York Times Company said the 125-year-old offshoot of the defunct New York Herald Tribune will be rechristened sometime this fall as the International New York Times.

"The digital revolution has turned the New York Times from being a great American newspaper to becoming one of the world's best-known news providers," said New York Times Company chief executive Mark Thompson.

"We want to exploit that opportunity," said the former BBC boss, adding that a new website for international readers is also in the pipeline.

The International Herald Tribune (IHT) was co-owned by the New York Times and the Washington Post from 1967 until 2003, when the Times became its sole proprietor and restyled it as "the global edition of the New York Times."



Archbishop Desmond Tutu pose for photographs with Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi after their meeting at Suu Kyi's residence in Yangon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tutu meets Suu Kyi

AFP, Yangon

Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday said he hoped to see a "truly free" Myanmar as he met fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi during a visit to the former junta-ruled nation.

The anti-apartheid campaigner said he was "thrilled" to meet Suu Kyi for private talks at the lakeside mansion in Yangon where the Myanmar activist was locked up for years during her more than two-decade struggle for democracy.

"It is wonderful to be here and to see her. We are looking forward to seeing your country truly free," he told reporters gathered at the residence.

"The potential of this country is immense and we want to see the potential fully realised," he said, urging an end to ethnic conflict in the country.

Ongoing fighting between the army and Kachin rebels in the north and sectarian unrest in western Rakhine state have displaced tens of thousands and overshadowed Myanmar's political reforms.

Split vote puts Italy in political gridlock

AFP, Rome

Italy headed for gridlock and financial markets tumbled yesterday with a stalemate in parliament between right and left after critical elections in which the real winner might be a new protest party calling for a referendum on the euro.

Democratic Party leader Pier Luigi Bersani and his leftist coalition scraped a razor-thin victory in the lower chamber of parliament. They won just 29.55 percent to 29.18 percent for Silvio Berlusconi, with 99.9 percent of the ballots counted.

The victor's bonus will give the left a handy majority in the lower house, the Chamber of Deputies.

But in the 305-seat Senate, preliminary results from the interior ministry showed Berlusconi's coalition could win 110 seats to the left's 97 seats, with neither group winning a majority.

A majority in both chambers of parliament is required to form a government, leaving Italy in a state of limbo with a hung parliament.

European capitals fear the lack of a clear winner could bring fresh instability to the eurozone's third largest economy after Germany and France and plunge it back into the debt crisis storm. Some Democratic Party officials suggested fresh elections may have to be held within a few months after a reform of Italy's complex electoral laws.

Syria rebels make U-turn on talks

Agree to meet Kerry, dismiss Damascus offer

AFP, Berlin

Syria's opposition has taken a U-turn and cancelled a planned boycott of an international conference on the two-year conflict after appeals from Britain and the US, but rejected an offer of talks from Damascus.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and British Foreign Secretary William Hague convinced the opposition to revoke its boycott on a Friends of Syria conference in Rome on Thursday after an appeal at a joint press conference in London.

Syrian National Coalition chief Ahmed Moaz al-Khatib said on his Facebook page his group would attend after Kerry and Hague "promised specific aid to alleviate the suffering of our people".

The Coalition said on Saturday it was withdrawing from the 11-nation meeting and planned visits to Washington and

Moscow in protest at the world's silence over the mounting civilian death toll in Syria.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said in Moscow on Monday that the authorities in Damascus were ready to talk to armed rebels. But the rebel Free Syrian Army's chief of staff Selim Idriss dismissed Muallem's offer.

On the ground, fierce clashes erupted around the historic Umayyad Mosque in Syria's second city Aleppo.

Air strikes were also reported in the southern province of Daraa, the eastern outskirts of Damascus, the northwestern province of Idlib, the northern province of Raqa and the eastern city of Deir Ezzor.

The latest violence came after 154 people were killed nationwide on Monday: 54 civilians, 41 rebels and 59 regime troops, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Thein Sein in first Europe visit

AFP, Oslo

Myanmar President Thein Sein arrived in Oslo yesterday, kicking off his first trip to Europe aimed at forging stronger ties between the former pariah state and the West.

The reformist leader is in a three-day visit in the Scandinavian country to be followed by visits to Finland, Austria, Belgium and Italy before he returns to Myanmar on March 8.

The former junta general has impressed the international community with a string of reforms since coming to power in early 2011, including welcoming long-detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi into parliament.



Iran's Fars News Agency digitally altered an image of Michelle Obama announcing the Oscar for Best Picture last night, in order to make her dress appear more modest. The Photoshopped picture is shown in the inset.

PHOTO: DAILYMAIL

Kerry sees diplomatic solution to Iran crisis

Tehran, powers hint concessions at Almaty talks

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday insisted there was a "diplomatic path" to be forged with Iran on its disputed nuclear programme, as world powers and Tehran held crunch talks.

"There is a diplomatic path," said Kerry after meeting his German counterpart Guido Westerwelle in Berlin. He expressed his "hope" that "Iran itself will make its choice to move down the path of a diplomatic solution."

Iran said it was prepared to make an offer to major powers in talks on its nuclear programme, after the United States proposed limited sanctions relief in return for

a halt to the most controversial work.

The first meeting in eight months between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany - the "P5+1" - aims to resolve a dispute that threatens to trigger another war in the Middle East.

The negotiations in the city of Almaty - which follow inconclusive meetings last year in Istanbul, Baghdad and Moscow - were expected to run through Tuesday and Wednesday. But with the Islamic Republic's political elite preoccupied with worsening infighting before a presidential election in June, few believe the meeting will yield a quick breakthrough.

Faculty Search Summer 2013

North South University Center of Excellence in Higher Education

Full time Teaching Positions

Attractive salary and benefits (50% house rent, medical allowance, two festival bonuses, gratuity, provident fund, group insurance.) , Salary negotiable in case of deserving candidates

Applications are invited for teaching positions (mentioned ranks) in the following Departments

- School of Business**  
Positions : Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor  
Specialization : Marketing, Finance, Management, Accounting, International Business, Business Policy and Strategy (BPS), MIS, HR & Operations Management
- Department of Economics**  
Positions : Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor  
Specialization : Economics
- Dept. of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science**  
Positions : Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer  
Specialization : Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE), Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering (ETE), Computer Science & Engineering (CSE), MATHEMATICS
- Department of Architecture**  
Positions : Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer  
Specialization : Architectural design, Education, History and Theory
- Department of Pharmacy**  
Positions : Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor  
Specialization : Pharmacy / Pharm D
- Department of Public Health**  
Positions : Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor  
Specialization : Health Economics, Med. Entomology, Biostatistics, Medical Anthropology
- Department of English**  
Positions : Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor  
Specialization : TESOL, Applied Linguistics, Literature
- Department of Environmental Science and Management**  
Positions : Associate Professor, Assistant Professor & Lecturer  
Specialization : Civil & Environmental Engineering

**Qualification Required**

- Master degree from a reputed university for Lecturer position.
- Ph.D. in relevant field from a reputed University for Assistant Professor & above.
- Excellent academic background; no third class/division at any level
- Adequate teaching and research experience and publications for Associate Professor & above.

Apply by March 15, 2013 with completed application form

- Curriculum Vitae
- Attested copies of academic certificates & transcripts
- One passport size photo &
- Two recommendation letters.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Please apply to  
The Registrar  
North South University  
Bashundhara, Baridhara  
Dhaka 1229

For information please E-mail:  
shah@northsouth.edu  
or visit:  
http://www.northsouth.edu  
Tel: 02-885-2000  
Ext. 1161, 1165