

NEWS IN

brief

Mandela 'doing well': wife

AFP, Johannesburg

Nelson Mandela is recovering well at home after being released from hospital earlier this month, his wife Graca Machel told AFP yesterday.

"He's doing well," she said after giving a speech on neonatal care just outside Johannesburg. "That's why I am here."

The 94-year-old anti-apartheid icon was released from hospital on April 6, after a 10-day stay during which he was treated for pneumonia.

Mubarak's release order awaited

AFP, Cairo

An Egyptian court yesterday ordered the release of former president Hosni Mubarak over the deaths of protesters but he will remain in custody pending investigation into fraud charges, state media reported.

The Cairo Court of Appeal ordered Mubarak's release after the expiry of the maximum temporary detention of two years, the reports said. He had been granted a retrial in the murder case, appealing against a life sentence.

Suicide attacks kill 34 in Somalia

AFP, Mogadishu

A nine-man suicide commando blasted its way into Mogadishu's main court complex Sunday, some blowing up their explosives vests while others sprayed gunfire in a rampage that left 29 civilians dead, while a separate bomb attack killed five more.

The al-Qaeda-linked Shebab militant group claimed responsibility for the courthouse attack, from which Somalia's chief justice escaped unharmed.

Musharraf's appeal rejected

PTI, Islamabad

A Pakistani election tribunal yesterday rejected former president Pervez Musharraf's appeal against the rejection of his nomination papers for a parliamentary constituency in the southern port city of Karachi.

Musharraf's nomination papers for parliamentary constituency number 250 were rejected after another candidate challenged them on the grounds that the former military ruler had violated the Constitution and sacked members of the superior judiciary during the 2007 emergency.

Many dead in Iraq serial blasts

AFP, Baghdad

Dozens of attacks across Iraq yesterday, including a brazen car bombing en route to Baghdad airport, killed at least 24 people just days before the country's first elections since US troops withdrew.

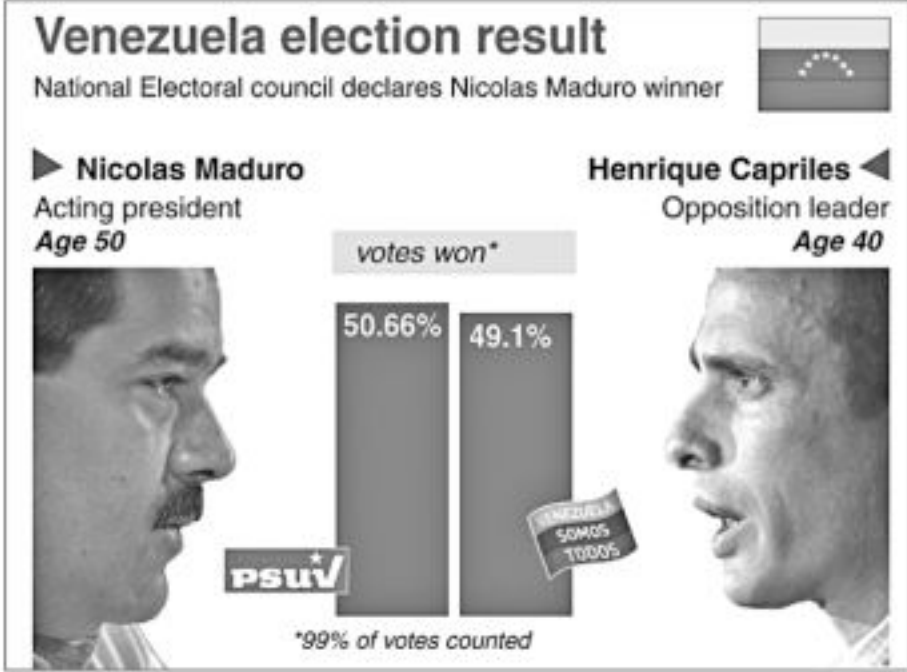
The violence, which struck during morning rush hour amid tightened security ahead of the polls, also wounded more than 210 people and raises further questions about the credibility of the April 20 vote, seen as a key test of Iraq's stability and its security forces' capabilities.

A total of 14 election hopefuls have already been murdered and just 12 of the country's 18 provinces will be taking part.

VENEZUELA PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Tight win for Chavez's heir spells uncertainty

Opposition Capriles rejects result



Nicolas Maduro celebrates with his wife Cilia Flores after knowing the results.

REUTERS, Caracas

Late socialist leader Hugo Chavez's chosen successor Nicolas Maduro won Venezuela's presidential election by a whisker but now faces opposition protests plus a host of economic and political challenges in the OPEC nation.

The 50-year-old former bus driver, whom Chavez named as his preferred heir before dying from cancer, edged out opposition challenger Henrique Capriles with 50.7 percent of the votes in Sunday's election, according to election board returns. Capriles took 49.1 percent, a difference of just 235,000 ballots.

Capriles, whose strong showing beat most forecasts, refused to recognize the result and said his team had a list of more than 3,000 irregularities ranging from gunshots to the illegal re-opening of polling centers.

"I didn't fight against a candidate today, but against the whole abuse of power," said Capriles, the 40-year-old

governor of Miranda state, demanding a recount.

"Mr. Maduro, you were the loser ... This system is collapsing, it's like a castle of sand - touch it and it falls."

A protracted election dispute could cause instability in a deeply polarized nation with the world's largest oil reserves.

Though some opposition supporters chanted "fraud", banged pots and pans and burned tires in protest, Capriles did not call them onto the streets en masse.

Maduro said he would accept a full recount, even as he insisted his victory was clean and dedicated it to Chavez.

"We've had a fair, legal and constitutional triumph," Maduro told his victory rally. "To those who didn't vote for us, I call for unity. We are going to work together for the security and economy of this country."

The election board said Maduro's win was "irreversible" and gave no indication of when it might carry out an audit.

Thatcher's death puts Cameron in spotlight

REUTERS, London

Margaret Thatcher's funeral this week may be the costliest political advert in history, if critics are to be believed - but her death is reminding Conservatives that their current prime minister pales against her ideological conviction and power.

Pollsters say David Cameron may get a small lift in the polls from public nostalgia for such a historic figure, even as figures on the right of his party pine openly for a leader who would have scorned his consensual quest for the centre ground.

"She believed in the battle of ideas - something that we would welcome returning to domestic politics today," Conor Burns, a Conservative lawmaker and friend of Thatcher's, told a parliamentary debate on her legacy last Wednesday.

Burns recounted how a taxi driver had told him there hadn't been a good premier since Thatcher, an assessment he said Thatcher shared. Cameron laughed, but it was an awkward moment for him.

Unlike Thatcher, Cameron is hamstrung by having to govern in coalition with another party, the more centrist Liberal Democrats.



David Cameron

BLACKLIST ROW

Obama adviser in Russia

AFP, Moscow

US President Barack Obama's national security adviser yesterday held bruising talks with top Russian officials in Moscow, days after the former foes exchanged Cold War-style blacklists in a row over human rights.

White House National Security Adviser Tom Donilon is the highest-ranking American to visit Russia since Obama's inauguration for a second term in January, but his trip coincides with one of the trickiest moments in bilateral relations in recent years.

BBC stands by show in N Korea row

AFP, London

The BBC refused to back down yesterday in a row with the London School of Economics over an undercover film about North Korea made by a journalist posing as one of the prestigious university's students.

The LSE has demanded that the British broadcaster pull the programme, scheduled to go out on Monday night, after calling the subterfuge "reckless and irresponsible".

It said the students on the trip would have been in "serious danger" had North Korean authorities discovered the truth about reporter John Sweeney, who apparently claimed on his visa application that he was a doctoral student in history.

However, the BBC insisted in a statement that "the public interest in broadcasting this programme is very strong indeed" as an insight into one of the world's most secretive states.

Director of programming Ceri Thomas insisted that students on the trip were informed beforehand that a journalist would be travelling with them and knew the risks.

North Korea marks founder's birthday

Tensions ease

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea celebrated the anniversary of its founder's birth on Monday and abandoned its shrill threats of war against the United States and the South, easing tensions in a region that had seemed on the verge of conflict.

The North has threatened nuclear attacks on the United States, South Korea and Japan after new UN sanctions were imposed in response to its latest nuclear arms test in February.

Many Pyongyang watchers have expected a big military parade to showcase North Korea's armed forces on the "Day of the Sun", the date the North's founder Kim Il-Sung was born.

But on Monday, the 101st anniversary of Kim's birth was marked in the North's capital, Pyongyang, with a festival of flowers named after Kim.

In contrast to weeks of tirades against its enemies, North Korean state media made hardly a mention of conflict.

The United States has offered talks, but on the precondition that North Korea abandons its nuclear weapons ambitions. North Korea deems its nuclear arms a "treasured sword" and has vowed never to give them up.

Nevertheless, US Secretary of State John Kerry, ending a trip to the region dominated by concern about North Korea, stressed his interest in a diplomatic solution.



Statues of late North Korean leaders Kim Il-Sung (left) and Kim Jong-Il (right) being unveiled in Pyongyang ahead of the 101st anniversary of the birth of Kim Il-Sung on Sunday.

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

The first private university in Bangladesh

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO. NSU-13/05

North South University is inviting sealed offer from the bona fide / reputed organization / distributors/business partners/agents for supplying of Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Machine as mentioned below:

SL. No.	Description of item	Quantity
01.	Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Machine	01 no.

Interested bidders may collect schedules of tender from the Finance and Accounts Department of NSU from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Sunday through Thursday on all working days till April 28, 2013 by paying non refundable taka 500.00(Five Hundred) only in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of quoted price in the form of pay order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on or before April 29, 2013 at 3.00 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 3:15 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director (Logistics & Resources)

North South University
Plot # 15, Block # B, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone: 8852000, Ext. 1201 & 1204
Fax: 8852016, 8845165
Website: www.northsouth.edu

শেল্টেক্ বীথিকা

মিরপুর মাজার রোডে দেশী ও বিদেশী স্থপতিদের যৌথ ডিজাইনে নান্দনিক স্থাপনা

সাবিজ : ১২৯৫ - ১৫২৫ বর্গফুট (১৮০ টি অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট)

যেখানে থাকছে . . .

সুইমিংপুল • সু-প্রশস্ত ওয়াকওয়ে • রেস্তোরাঁ • ব্যাংক/এটিএম • জিমনেসিয়াম
প্রোসারীশপ • ফোয়ারা • মনোরম ল্যান্ডস্কেপ • রেইন ওয়াটার হার্ভেস্টিং • সোলার প্যানেল
ওয়েস্ট ট্রিটমেন্ট প্ল্যান্ট • পার্কিং-এ পি.এ. সিস্টেম • ৫১% উন্মুক্ত জায়গা • ফার্মেসী • সেলুন
কমিউনিটি হল • সুপারশপ • হোম থিয়েটার • স্ট্যান্ডবাই জেনারেটর • অতিথি পার্কিং
নিজস্ব ওয়াটার পাম্পে সার্বক্ষনিক পানি সরবরাহ • বান্ধাদের খেলার জায়গা
ক্রোজ সার্কিট ক্যামেরা ও সার্বক্ষনিক নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা • নামাজের স্থান • অগ্নিনির্বাপন ব্যবস্থা

এছাড়া আরো অনেক কিছু . . .

শেল্টেক্ Since 1988

শেল্টেক্ টাওয়ার : ৫৫ বীর উত্তম কাজী নুরজ্জামান সড়ক (পশ্চিম পাশ্চপথ), ঢাকা-১২০৫
01713-091704 01713-091703 01713-091705 01713-091708 01713-091710
01713-091713 01713-091724 01713-091747 01713-091749 01713-091709

25% DISCOUNT VALID FOR ONLY NEXT 20 APARTMENTS

MA in English Admission

SUMMER 2013

Application Deadline: Sunday, 21 April 2013
Admission Test: Monday, 22 April 2013 at 10:30AM

First and the only university in Bangladesh to offer
MA in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

MA in English: Literature, Linguistics & TESOL

Eligibility:

- ◆ Four-year BA in English with a CGPA of at least 2.5 on a 4-point scale
- ◆ At least a second class in a three-year Bachelor of Arts in English
- ◆ M.A or M.S. in subjects of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
- ◆ At least a second class in B.A. (Pass) degree from a recognized university

Honors/Masters (appeared) candidates may sit for the admission test but must submit mark-sheets before admission

Key Features:

- M.A. in one or more of the three major areas: Literature, Linguistics & TESOL
- 36 credits (30 course works + 6 Thesis) for students with 4-year B.A. in English
- 48 credits (42 course works + 6 Thesis) for students with 3-year B.A. in English
- Syllabus consistent with graduate programs at leading universities of the USA
- Courses taught by faculty members from home and abroad
- Evening classes to accommodate working students

Financial Assistance/Teaching Assistantship is available for deserving candidates

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

For Information, Please Contact: Admission Office or English Department
Plot 15, Block B, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229 Phones: 880-2-8852000
ext: 2020/2021 E-mail: rashed@northsouth.edu; Web: www.northsouth.edu

CIVIL WAR IN SYRIA

Air strikes kill 12 kids

Regime breaks rebel blockade

AGENCIES

Air strikes by regime warplanes killed at least 12 children in two incidents on Sunday, one targeting a Kurdish village in northeast Syria and the other a district of Damascus, a watchdog said, reports AFP.

"Sixteen people were martyred after a warplane targeted the village of Haddad, which is majority Kurdish... including at least three children and two women," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

In the second incident, at least nine more children were killed in an air strike on the Qabun neighbourhood of northeastern Damascus, said the Britain-based Observatory.

Syria's air force launched several air strikes on rebel enclaves in and around Damascus, while fresh clashes between troops and rebels raged to the east of the capital, a monitoring group said yesterday.

"At least one civilian was killed in an air strike on Qaboon" in northeastern Damascus, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, "while regime troops pounded the district of Jubar" in the east.

Syrian government troops have broken through a six-month rebel blockade in northern Syria and are now fighting to recapture a vital highway, opposition and state media said yesterday.

Rebels had kept the army bottled up in the Wadi al-Deif and Hamidiya military bases in Idlib province. But on Sunday, President Bashar al-Assad's forces outflanked the rebels and broke through, the pro-government al-Baath newspaper said, reports Reuters.

UAE Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Nasser Al Ameri talks with Syrian refugee children near the Jordan border.

PHOTO: AFP