

NEWSIN brief

Pirates kidnap two US sailors

REUTERS, Abuja/London

Pirates have attacked an oil supply vessel off the Nigerian coast and kidnapped the captain and chief engineer, both US citizens, security sources said yesterday.

Pirate attacks off Nigeria's coast have jumped by a third this year as ships passing through West Africa's Gulf of Guinea, a major commodities route, have increasingly come under threat from gangs wanting to snatch cargoes and crews.

Iran temporarily halts uranium enrichment

AFP, Tehran

Iran has temporarily halted its production of enriched uranium to 20 percent purity as it has sufficient stocks to fuel its Tehran research reactor, a lawmaker was quoted yesterday as saying.

"There is no production at all ... as right now there is no need for the production of 20 percent (enriched) uranium," the parliament website reported conservative MP Hossein Naqavi Hosseini as saying.

Iran's nuclear enrichment programme is at the core of its dispute with world powers, who suspect it masks a drive for atomic weapons despite repeated denials by the Islamic republic.

\$450m needed to tackle malaria: WHO

AFP, Manila

Hundreds of millions of dollars are needed to stop a deadly form of drug-resistant malaria jumping from Southeast Asia to the rest of the world, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

Resistance to the anti-malaria drug artemisinin has now been detected in Myanmar and Vietnam, the WHO said, five years after it warned that the drug was no longer effective in treating the disease on the Cambodia-Thailand border.

Malaria, which is caused by a parasite infecting mosquitos that feed on humans, kills 660,000 people each year, according to WHO figures.

Gunmen kill policeman in Egypt's Sinai

AFP, Cairo

Suspected Islamists militants yesterday killed a policeman in a drive-by shooting in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, where troops are battling to contain near daily violence, security officials said.

The attack in the North Sinai provincial capital of El-Arish came a day after militants killed a soldier in the central Sinai, and two days after roadside bombs killed a security force member and a civilian.



Pakistani villagers display mortar shrapnel allegedly fired across the border at the border Tahir Joian village near the eastern city of Sialkot in Punjab province, yesterday. Right, a Pakistani villager points to a hole in his roof caused by a mortar shell allegedly fired across the border. Firing along the disputed Line of Control (LoC) that separates Kashmir into Indian and Pakistani sectors has taken place sporadically ever since 2003. But the recent rise in incidents has caused alarm.

PHOTO: AFP

Rebel attack causes power outage in Syria

AFP, Damascus

Syria is set to hand over a detailed plan for destroying its chemical arsenal today, the international watchdog said, as a rebel attack near Damascus triggered widespread power outages.

The Syrian opposition meanwhile said it would meet November 9 to decide whether to attend a Geneva peace conference that the United Nations is trying to convene in parallel with the disarmament efforts.

US ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, who has built up a close relationship with opposition leaders, huddled with key figures in Istanbul seeking to coax them to the negotiating table.

Syrian authorities were working to restore power several hours after rebels attacked a gas pipeline, causing blackouts across the country and setting off a huge fire near the airport, where a key power plant is located, an AFP correspondent in Damascus reported.

Electricity Minister Emad Khamis said Thursday that the fire had been extinguished and that power was being "gradually" restored to some provinces after authorities secured an alternative source of fuel for the plant, according to the official SANA news agency.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said power outages were reported in the Damascus region as well as in Aleppo in the north and Homs in the centre.

"It is likely this was a large-scale operation planned well in advance," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman.

In September, a similar outage was caused after a high voltage power line was sabotaged.

Some 115,000 people have been killed and millions driven from their homes since a brutal crackdown on Arab Spring-inspired protests in the spring of 2011 set off a full-scale civil war.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said the Syrian government was expected to hand over its disarmament plan by Thursday, the latest step under the terms of a US-Russian deal to head off punitive military strikes on Syria after an August 21 gas attack.

The rare accord, enshrined in a UN Security Council resolution, calls for all its chemical weapons and production facilities to be destroyed by mid-2014.

A joint UN-OPCW team, in Syria since the start of the month, has inspected 18 of 23 declared sites, destroying production equipment in almost all of them.

Indo-Bangla ties deep rooted: Pranab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee yesterday said relations between India and Bangladesh were "deep rooted" as he met here a 100-member youth delegation from the neighbouring country.

He also conveyed India's message to its neighbour through the young ambassadors that-- "we are with you".

Welcoming the delegation, the President said India and Bangladesh have a common history, heritage and culture. The bondage between the two countries is deep-rooted.

He said he was delighted to meet them as he has deep personal attachment with Bangladesh, a Rashtrapati Bhawan statement said.

The President said the youth "can decide the future course of action they want whether it should be conflict or conciliation, destruction or development".

Indian PM assures on Rahul's safety

Expresses disappointment with Pak PM over border firings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said his government would take all "precautions" to ensure that any threat to Rahul Gandhi does not materialise.

"Well, I and all sane persons should be worried about the politics of hatred sweeping the country. As regards to the threat to the life of Rahul Gandhi, government will take all possible precautions that this threat does not materialise," Singh told journalists accompanying him on his return from a trip to Russia and China.

He was asked about Rahul Gandhi's statement at a public rally in Rajasthan state yesterday that he could be eliminated like his grandmother Indira Gandhi and father Rajiv Gandhi.

Speaking at an election rally in Rajasthan state yesterday, Rahul had accused India's main opposition BJP of fanning communal flames and indulging in "politics of hatred" and said he may also be assassinated like his grandmother Indira Gandhi and father Rajiv Gandhi.

Singh said he was disappointed with Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and asked him "even at this late hour" to recognize that what was happening on the de facto border between the two countries is not good for the two countries.

India has accused Pakistan of repeatedly violating the ceasefire by shelling Indian positions.

"Let me say I am disappointed because in the New York meeting (with Sharif last month), there was a general agreement on both the sides that peace and tranquillity should be maintained on the border and it has not happened. It has come to me as a big disappointment," Singh said.

India resumes arms supply to Nepal

PTI, Kathmandu

Ending an eight-year-old ban on military supplies, India has handed over some of the equipment, including vehicles and arms, it had pledged to provide to Nepal ahead of crucial polls to be held next month.

Over 360 vehicles, including 25 mine-protected vehicles, have already arrived while arms and ammunition, which are in the pipeline, will come soon, sources in the Nepalese army headquarters said on Wednesday.

This is the first time that military equipment is being provided to Nepal by India after ending a ban on the supply of such gear, including lethal arms, that was imposed when former King Gyanendra seized executive powers in February 2005, said a statement issued by army headquarters.

Nepal has said the equipment is needed by 62,000 troops who will provide security for the constituent assembly elections to be held on November 19. The country recently amended its constitution to allow the army to be mobilized to ensure free and fair polls.

The equipment provided by India so far includes 216 light vehicles, 154 heavy vehicles and some arms. Among the heavy vehicles are 58 trucks with a capacity of 7.5 tonnes, four ambulances and 25 mine-protected vehicles, sources said.

The assistance will help smoothen regular operations of the Nepal Army, modernize the force and increase its efficiency for military operations, the official statement said.

"This will also help in strengthening and further deepening Nepal-India mutual cooperation," it said.

'Climate of fear' behind Myanmar unrest: Suu Kyi

BBC ONLINE

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has blamed what she described as a "climate of fear" for exacerbating tensions between Muslims and Buddhists.

Asked about the fate of 140,000 Muslims who have been forced to leave their homes, she said that many Buddhists had also fled Burma, also known as Myanmar.

Suu Kyi denied that Muslims had been subjected to ethnic cleansing.

She has been criticised for not defending Muslims since she emerged from house arrest two years ago.

Over the past two years, violence between Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims has broken out in the state of Rakhine. There have also been clashes between Buddhists and Muslims in central Burma.

Muslims have borne the worst of the violence, with hundreds killed, often by mobs armed with knives and sticks.

"I think the problem is due to the fear felt by both sides," she told the BBC's Mishal Husain.

"Muslims have been targeted but Buddhists have also been subjected to violence.

"This fear is what is leading to all this trouble."

She said tensions had also been inflamed by a worldwide perception - also felt in Burma - that global Muslim power was "very great".

She said that it was down to the govern-

ment to bring an end to the violence and the return of Buddhist refugees who had been forced to leave the country in recent years to escape political persecution.

"This is the result of our sufferings under a dictatorial regime. I think that if you live under a dictatorship for many years people do not like to trust one another - a dictatorship generates a climate of mistrust," she said.

Suu Kyi said that the effective implementation of the rule of law was essential.

"Before people can sit down and sort out their differences they have to feel safe. If they



feel that they are going to be killed in their beds they are not going to talk about harmony or learn to understand one another."

She said that Burma still had a long way to go before becoming fully democratic.

"People assume too readily that on a path to democracy - that we are democratising at a fast rate - but it is not happening like that at all."

Sonia Gandhi contests case filed against her in US court

TNN, Jalandhar

Congress party president Sonia Gandhi has retained a New York law firm to represent her in a US federal court in a case for allegedly protecting the perpetrators of the November 1984 riots against Sikhs.

The case against Sonia Gandhi was filed by a US based human rights group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) last month.

Her lawyer Ravi Batra submitted to the court that she was at a hospital for treatment of an undisclosed medical condition and was not served with summons and also contested that the court had no jurisdiction over the matter.

The summons were issued by the US court on September 3. The SFJ affidavit also claimed that a security agent was also handed over the summons as the court had allowed service of summons through hospital staff or security agents.

Faculty Search

James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University invites applications for the posts of
Professor □ Biostatistics : 1 position
□ Non Communicable Diseases: 1 position

Candidates must have a PhD in the relevant field from a reputed university with a minimum of ten years of teaching experience and must have a very good publication records. We are especially interested in candidates with a commitment to teaching, course development and research at all levels.

Candidates may fill up application form available at BRAC University website (http://www.bracu.ac.bd/about/download/ApplicationForm_Job.doc) or send CV with a Cover Letter to e-mail address: recruitment.sph@bracu.ac.bd

Please mention the position in the subject line of your email: Professor.

JPGSPH will consider applications till 07 November 2013. Only selected candidates will be called for an interview. BIGH, BRACU is an equal opportunity institution and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

For details: Tel: 9827501-4 ext. 6043 or visit www.jpgsph.org.



Baby's HIV 'cure' not a fluke': Scientists

AFP, Washington

A little girl who was treated for HIV shortly after birth still shows no sign of infection at age three, suggesting her apparent cure was not a fluke, US researchers said yesterday.

The story of the first child known to have been cured of HIV through early treatment with powerful doses of antiretroviral drugs -- what researchers call "sustained remission" rather than a cure -- was initially announced in March when she was two and a half.

A handful of HIV-infected adults around the world have been described in medical literature as newly free of the disease, most famously Timothy Brown, also known as "the Berlin patient," who was given a bone marrow transplant for leukemia that wiped out his HIV as well.

But no easy method has emerged to eradicate the three-decade-old human immunodeficiency virus that infects 34 million people globally and is responsible for 1.8 million deaths each year.

The girl's updated case report in the New England Journal of Medicine also sought to answer questions raised by outside experts over whether she was ever really infected, by describing DNA and RNA tests that were positive for HIV just over a day after birth.

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF BANGLADESH (ICAB)

NOTICE

Special Coaching Classes for PE-III Examinees

This is for information of all concerned that the PE-III examinations will be held from 14 December 2013. Since the November-December-2013 Examination is the last opportunity for the PE-III Level students, the Institute has decided to provide Special Coaching assistance to the examinees which will be commenced from 5th November-2013.

Students intending to attend the Special Coaching Classes will be required to enroll/register their names and deposit fee @ Tk. 5,000/-per subject in the form of Pay Order/ Demand Draft drawn in favour of ICAB from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. The last date for registration is 04 November 2013.

The aforesaid Coaching Classes will be held only for:

- (i) Financial Management (FM); and
- (ii) Strategic Management (SM)

For further information, please contact:
Deputy Director-LPD-ICAB, Dhaka
Tel : 9115349, 9117521, 9115340 (Ext. 110)

Prof. Dr. Mahfuzul Hoque
Secretary (In-Charge), ICAB

Distance Learning Program (DLP)

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh

Website: www.badas-dlp.org

● **ADMISSION NOTICE** ●

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DIABETOLOGY (19th Batch)

Applications are invited from doctors (MBBS with permanent BMDC registration) for admission into the Certificate Course on Diabetology for the session January-June 2014.

This course is run by the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS) to create Certified Diabetologist who will provide comprehensive care to the diabetic population. The course was jointly designed by Experts on Distance Learning of Open University, UK and Diabetologists of BADAS. Currently the course is being conducted in centers at Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Faridpur.

Doctors willing to get admitted into the course are requested to fill up the downloaded Admission Form available in the web-site and submit to DLP Office, Room No: 339 (2nd floor) BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka as per schedule given below. The eligible candidate will get admitted on first come first serve basis.

- Submission of Application Form from 26th October to 14th November 2013 between 8.30am to 1.30pm on working days only.
- The course will start on Friday, 24th January 2014.
- For more details please visit the web site.

Prof A K Azad Khan
President BADAS & Chairman, DLP
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS)