

NEWSIN brief

21 drown in rough seas in Karachi

AFP, Karachi

At least 21 bathers have drowned in rough seas off Pakistan's biggest city Karachi, officials said yesterday, after defying a ban on swimming during the monsoon season. The bathers were among thousands who had taken to the beaches to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr holiday, which began on Tuesday and continues until Friday.

Thai army arrest general for extortion

AFP, Bangkok

A Thai army general has been arrested on suspicion of extortion in a notorious Bangkok red light district, officials said yesterday, in a rare case of authorities prosecuting a member of the military. Major-General Jenronnarong Detwan, 56, was arrested by the military early Wednesday. Patpong is a strip of go-go bars catering mainly to foreigners attracted by Thailand's huge sex industry.

Boat tragedies kill 25 in Indonesia

AFP, Jakarta

At least 25 people in Indonesia, including six children, have died and 13 are missing in two separate boat sinkings, officials said yesterday, as millions travel across the country for the Eid holiday season.

Islamists seize key Libya army base

AFP, Tripoli

Islamist groups have seized the army special forces headquarters in Libya's Benghazi after days of fighting left at least 35 soldiers dead and plunged the country deeper into lawlessness. An Islamist and jihadist alliance announced the capture of the main military base in the eastern city in a statement Wednesday, which was confirmed by an army official.



Rescue workers recover the body of a landslide victim from the mud as heavy rain falls at the scene in Malin village in Pune district of India's western state of Maharashtra, yesterday. Inset, Women react to the tragedy. Rescuers battled through heavy rains in a desperate search for victims of a landslide in western India that buried dozens of homes, with fears the death toll could reach 150.

PHOTO: AFP



'Rahul prevented Sonia from taking PM's post'

AFP, New Delhi

Sonia Gandhi's shock decision not to take over as India's prime minister a decade ago followed an appeal by her son Rahul who feared she would be assassinated like her husband, according to a former family confidant.

Sonia, who was widowed when former premier Rajiv Gandhi was slain by a suicide bomber, had been expected to assume the premiership in 2004 after leading the Congress party to an election victory.

But she instead stood aside in favour of Manmohan Singh who went on to serve two terms as prime minister. In a television interview to promote his new memoirs, former foreign minister Natwar Singh said that Sonia had been in tears at a family meeting after Rahul pleaded with her to turn down the job.

"He was very adamant and wouldn't let her become prime minister," Singh told the Headlines Today network Wednesday night.

"As a mother she didn't want to agonise him," he added.

Rahul was devastated by his father's assassination by a Tamil extremist in 1991, seven years after his grandmother Indira was gunned down by two of her Sikh bodyguards while she was prime minister.

The Italian-born Sonia, who remains president of the party, caused a major upset in 2004 when she steered the centre-left Congress to victory over the BJP. Natwar Singh fell out with the Congress leadership after he was sacked as foreign minister over a corruption scandal and his book contains claims that the "Machiavellian" Sonia frequently undermined Manmohan Singh's premiership, according to excerpts.

Asked about the book, Sonia told the NDTV television station that she planned to put the record straight herself at some stage.

"I can't be hurt. I have seen my mother-in-law riddled by bullets, my husband dead...I am far from getting hurt with these things," she said.

"I will write my own book and then everyone will know the truth."



India cancels Taslima's resident permit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Controversial writer Taslima Nasreen, who is living in exile since 1994, has been refused a one-year visa by Indian government and instead given permission to stay in India for two months.

The 51-year-old writer had applied for a resident permit and the Home Ministry granted her the same type of visa but only for two months beginning August 1.

A verification process of Nasreen's visa application has also been initiated by the Indian government and the two-month visa has been given pending a decision on the longer-term visa. "After the verification process is completed, we will take an appropriate decision," an official of Indian Home Ministry said today.

Upset over India's decision to grant her 2-month visa, Nasreen, who had to leave Bangladesh in 1994 in the wake of death threat by fundamentalist outfits for her alleged anti-Islamic views, said the decision was "beyond my imagination". Taslima is now a citizen of Sweden. She has been continuously getting Indian visa since 2004.



ously getting Indian visa since 2004.

She had been living in exile since 1994 and has lived in the US, Europe and India in the last two decades.

However, on many occasions she had expressed her wish to live in India permanently, especially in Kolkata which she has described as her second home.

The writer had to leave Kolkata in 2007 following violent street protests by a section of Muslim groups against her works.

We are excited about Modi

Says Kerry in New Delhi as he seeks to revive US-India ties

AFP, New Delhi

US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday voiced optimism about working with India's new right-wing government as he paid a first visit aimed at reviving a relationship clouded by mistrust.

The United States and India have described each other as natural allies with common concerns about a rising China and Islamic extremism, but the world's largest democracies have weathered an unusually large number of disputes in the past year.

Kerry, who met senior Indian leaders in New Delhi, said that he wanted to "see things move in a very positive way" after Prime Minister Narendra Modi swept to power in May elections.

"We want a new relationship. We want to see things move in a very positive way," Kerry told India's NDTV television.

"We are excited about Prime Minister Modi's direction and wanting to provide jobs," Kerry said.

Kerry will meet Modi today, a Hindu nationalist who was shunned by Washington until his election campaign over allegations of complicity in anti-Muslim riots as leader of Gujarat state in 2002.

In a dramatic turnaround since his election, Western powers



have raced to court Modi who will visit Washington in September to meet President Barack Obama.

"We will welcome Prime Minister Modi. Of course he will get a visa, no questions whatsoever and we look forward to a terrific meeting with President Obama," said Kerry.

Modi has shown no outward sign of holding a grudge over Washington's past cold shoulder. But he took office amid a slew of fresh disputes between the two countries.

Indian perceptions that the United States is insensitive to its concerns broke into the open in December, when US authorities arrested an Indian diplomat for allegedly mistreating her servant.

Allegations that Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party had been the target of surveillance operations by the US National Security Agency while it was in opposition have added to the sense of grievance on the Indian side.

More recently, India threatened to block a global pact to streamline customs procedures before Thursday's ratification deadline unless the World Trade Organisation (WTO) approves its stockpiling of food for the poor. Rich nations say the policy distorts global trade.



Brazil tribe makes first contact with world

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Isolated native people wearing loincloths and carrying bows and arrows have emerged from the Amazon rainforest and made contact with the outside world in a video released by Brazil's indigenous authority.

The video shows indigenous people from the Panoan linguistic group making contact with the Ashaninka native people of northern Brazil along the banks of the Envira River, near the Peruvian border.

In one scene, an ethnic Ashaninka in athletic shorts gives bananas to two loincloth-clad natives who appear wary of approaching, quickly grabbing the fruit and then retreating out of arm's reach.

Brazilian experts said the indigenous people likely crossed the border from Peru facing pressure from illegal logging and drug trafficking at home.

After the native people made initial contact with the Ashaninka on June 26,

a team from Brazil's National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) traveled to the area and filmed a second encounter on June 30, according to news portal G1, which posted the video online.

The people, identified as members of a group known as the Rio Xinane, at first emerged only briefly and then returned to the forest, said FUNAI official Carlos Travassos.

Two Panoan indigenous interpreters were then called in to speak with them on their next visit.

"They speak our language. I was so happy we could talk to each other," said one of the interpreters, Jaminawa Jose Correia.

He said the natives had come in search of weapons and allies.

"They described being attacked by non-native people and many died after coming down with the flu and diphtheria," he told G1.

The Brazilian Amazon has the largest number of uncontacted tribes in the world at 77, FUNAI estimates.

শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানী।		গ্যাস প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।				
BAPEX BANGLADESH PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COMPANY LTD. (A Company of Petrobangla) BAPEX Bhaban (4th floor), 4, Kawran bazar, C/A, Dhaka-1215.						
(Construction Division)						
Invitation for Tender						
1.	Name of the Organization :	Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd. (BAPEX)				
2.	Source of Funds :	Bapex Revenue.				
3.	Tender Package no :	Begumgonj # 3				
4.	Tender Notice Ref :	124. 60. 13				
5.	Tender notice Date :	21/07/2014				
6.	Eligibility of Tenderer :	Enlisted contractors of Govt./ Semi-Govt./ Sector Corporation and other Autonomous Organizations having experience as mentioned in the tender document. Interested tenderers may view the document at the office of the undersigned during office hours.				
7.	Special Instructions :	a) Intending contractors/ Tenderers may visit the work site before submission of Tender. b) Intending contractors/ Tenderers must read carefully and go through the terms, conditions and all relevant point written in the light of PPR-2008 in the Tender Schedule. c) The Tenderer must enclosed original money receipt of purchased Tender documents, Pay order/Bank Draft as tender security deposit, attested copy of up to date Trade license, valid vat registration certificate and up to date TIN certificate along with the tender otherwise the tender will be declared non responsive. d) Tenderer must quoted their rate within 5% (Five percent) below or above the official estimate of the work. Tender quoted more than 5% above or below the official estimate the tender will be rejected. e) The tenderer must enclosed attested photocopy of similar nature of work experience certificate along with the tender document . f) Successful bidder would be needed to submit 10% cash equivalent performance security of quoted amount to get the work order.				
8.	Security deposit :	As described in SI No- 15. is to be submitted in favour of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and production company limited (BAPEX) in the from of pay-order / bank-draft from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.				
9.	Name and address of the Offices selling Tender Document :	a) Accounts Division, BAPEX Bhaban (4 th floor), 4, Kawran bazar, C/A, Dhaka- 1215. b) Accounts Division, Petrobangla, Petrocentre, 3, Kawran bazar, Dhaka. c) Titas Gas (T&D) Co.Ltd. Titas Bhaban, 105, Kawran bazar, C/A, Dhaka-1215.				
10.	Name and address of the Offices Receiving Tenders :	a) Construction Division., BAPEX Bhaban (4 th floor), 4, Kawran bazar, C/A, Dhaka- 1215. b) Petrobangla, Petrocentre, 3, Kawran bazar, Dhaka.				
11.	Name and address of the Office Opening Tenders :	Construction Division., BAPEX Bhaban (4 th floor), 4, Kawran bazar, C/A, Dhaka				
12.	Date and Time for Selling Tender Document:	03/08/2014 to 18/08/2014 Up to 02.00 PM.				
13.	Date and Time for Submission of Tenders :	19/08/2014 upto 12.00 Noon No tender will be accepted after the dead line for submission.				
14.	Date and Time for Opening of Tenders :	19/08/2014 at 02.30 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers/their representatives.(If Tender are not received or opened under unavoidable circumstances or Govt. declared holiday on schedule date & time then the Tender will be received or opened on the next working day at the same time schedule.				
15.	Name of the work	Location of the work	Estimated cost (Tk.)	Security deposit Tk	Completion time	Cost of tender paper (Tk.)
	Construction of Two storied office-cum-dormatory building at Begumgong gas field well no #3.	Begumgonj gas field well #3	1,35,42,887.80	2.5% of quoted amount.	180 Days (One hundred eighty) days	Tk. 5,000.00
16.	Special Instructions :	Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason without accepting any liability.				
17.	Brief Description of Works :	Construction of Two storied office-cum-dormatory building at Begumgong gas field well no #3.				
<div><div>Engr. M. Yusuf Haroon</div><div>Director (Operation)</div><div>&</div><div>General Manager (Construction)</div></div>						
GD-2929						