

NEWS IN brief

Spain health minister quits over graft scam

Spanish Health Minister Ana Mato resigned on Wednesday after being linked to a massive corruption scandal involving an alleged kickback scheme at the heart of the Spanish prime minister's conservative Popular Party. Mato has not been named as an official suspect in the corruption probe, but a judge said earlier Wednesday that she had "benefited from" holidays, cash payments and other gifts when she was married to Jesus Sepulveda, a former Popular Party mayor of a Madrid suburb.

Wintry weather sparks travel havoc in US

More than 9,000 flights were cancelled or delayed in the US northeast as a winter storm snarled travel for Americans eager to celebrate yesterday's Thanksgiving holiday, which kicks off one of the year's biggest travel weekends. For all of Wednesday, 1,469 flights were cancelled and another 7,997 were delayed.

Egypt court sends 78 youths to jail

A court in Egypt has given 78 youths up to five years in prison for protesting with the Muslim Brotherhood. The boys, from 13 to 17 years old, joined rallies calling for the return of ousted President Mohammed Morsi. On Wednesday, the Egyptian government approved a draft anti-terrorism law giving sweeping powers to curb opposition groups for a range of new offences.

Two civilians killed in east Ukraine

Ukraine's military yesterday said that two civilians were killed in the latest clashes in east Ukraine. A patrol of three monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were also shot at by a rocket-propelled grenade and an anti-aircraft gun as they were escorted by the Ukrainian military in the conflict zone Wednesday, the OSCE said in a statement.

China coal mine explosion kills 11

Eleven people died yesterday in a coal mine explosion in China, state media reported, in the second deadly accident in two days in the country's notoriously dangerous mining industry. The blast ripped through the Songlin mine in the southwestern province of Guizhou in the morning when 19 miners were working underground. Eight of them managed to survive. The accident came a day after a fire at a coal mine in Liaoning province in the northeast killed 26 people.



Indian soldiers are seen at their positions following an attack by militants at the Pindi Khattar belt of the Arnia border sector, some 45 kms from Jammu district, yesterday.

Militants attack army in Kashmir

Three soldiers among 9 killed

Militants attacked an army patrol in Indian Kashmir yesterday, leaving three soldiers and three civilians dead as fighting continued near the border with rival Pakistan, security officials said. The group of heavily armed militants attacked the army column near a base in the town of Arnia in Indian Kashmir, about four kilometres from the undisputed, internationally-recognised border with Pakistan. "Three of our soldiers were martyred in the operation which is still ongoing," army spokesman for the area, Manish Mehta, told AFP, updating the toll from one, after two soldiers shot during the encounter died of their injuries. Three civilians were killed in crossfire and three militants shot dead in the attack which started early in the morning, local deputy inspector general of police Shakeel Beig said. The rebels, suspected to have crossed from Pakistan, entered an "abandoned bunker" which Indian forces then surrounded, triggering the gun battle. The attack came as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif shook hands but failed to hold a formal meeting at the just-ended summit in Kathmandu, in signs of growing mutual distrust. Analysts say India has taken a more assertive stance against its neighbour since Modi's Hindu nationalist party stormed to power in May. The attack comes a day before Modi is expected to address a campaign rally in the nearby town of Udhampur for ongoing elections in the Himalayan region. BJP is striving to win power in the Muslim-majority region for the first time.



Modi accused of breaching diplomatic norms in Nepal

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'suggestion' to Nepal's political parties on how to write the new Constitution has been criticised by Nepal's leading newspapers and politicians. Yesterday, the country's top Nepali dailies said Modi breached diplomatic norms and displayed the "old Indian habit of interfering in Nepal's internal matters". During his remarks at the inauguration and handover ceremony of Trauma Centre for Bir Hospital in Kathmandu on Tuesday, Modi, while pointing out the perils of delay in writing the new Constitution, urged political parties to write the statute by consensus. "Indian PM breached diplomatic Lakhman rekha (norms)," the Kantipur wrote in its editorial. "He also has not taken into account provisions in our Interim Constitution by asking the parties not to decide on the Constitution on the basis of numerical strength."

Kabul blast hits embassy vehicle

Briton among 6 killed

A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-packed car into a British embassy vehicle in Kabul yesterday, killing one Briton and five Afghans in the latest attack to highlight fragile security as Nato troops withdraw. A British security contractor and an Afghan employee of the embassy died in the blast, which hit their vehicle on a stretch of road notorious for suicide attacks. At least four Afghan bystanders were also killed, and more than 30 others were injured. "I am deeply saddened to confirm that a British national civilian security team member and an Afghan national working for the embassy were killed," British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in London. "I condemn this appalling attack on innocent civilians supporting our diplomatic activity." A second British contractor with the G4S firm was injured in the bombing, which threw the embassy's 4x4 vehicle onto its side. The roof was blown off and car parts scattered across the Jalalabad road, a main route where many fortified foreign compounds and military facilities are located. It has often been the scene of insurgent strikes, and attacks across the city have increased in recent weeks. At least seven blasts have hit Kabul over the last 10 days, including attacks on foreign compounds and on a female Afghan MP who was injured in a suicide bombing that targeted her car. The Taliban said they were behind yesterday's blast in a message on a recognised Twitter account.

Nine injured in south China knife attack

Nine people were rushed to the hospital after a man stabbed them at a grocery store in south China yesterday, state media reported, the latest in a series of knifings that has unnerved the country. A man in his 20s attacked several people at the entrance to a supermarket in Nanning, the capital of China's Guangxi region, the official Xinhua news agency said. The China News Service said the assailant, surnamed Zhou, carried out the attack because of a personal dispute and that he had been captured by police. Two of the victims appeared to be seriously injured, it said. Violent crime is rare in China compared with many other countries, but there have been a series of knife attacks in recent years, many on school children.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Suu Kyi woos military MPs ahead of talks

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has invited military lawmakers to dinner in a bid to build ties ahead of a proposed summit on changing the constitution, which bars her from the presidency, a senior member of her party said yesterday. On Tuesday, parliament unanimously endorsed talks among Suu Kyi, President Thein Sein, the speakers of the two houses of parliament, military chief Gen Min Aung Hlaing, and a member of a party representing an ethnic minority. Yesterday evening, Suu Kyi hopes to dine in the capital, Naypyitaw, with unelected military MPs who hold a quarter of parliamentary seats, said Nyan Win, a spokesman for her National League for Democracy Party (NLD). Mutual understanding has long been in short supply in Myanmar, which emerged in 2011 from 49 years of rule by military generals who unleashed bloody crackdowns on pro-democracy demonstrators and imprisoned political activists. Suu Kyi has endorsed reforms by the semi-civilian government of former general Thein Sein. She was famously pictured watching a military parade in Naypyitaw last year, alongside members of the previous junta that had kept her under house arrest for more than 15 years. But over the past year Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, has been critical of the government, accusing it of stalling the reform process. Her party has gathered about 5 million signatures in support of a petition to amend the military-drafted constitution to reduce the military's role in politics. With just a few hours remaining before yesterday's event at a hotel in the Myanmar capital, the military lawmakers had not responded to Suu Kyi's overture. No date has been set for the proposed constitutional talks and they can only go ahead if Thein Sein and Min Aung Hlaing agree to take part, said Andrew McLeod, director of the Myanmar program at the law faculty of Oxford University. "I don't think anybody really thinks it's feasible to have constitutional change before the election," he said.



Afghan intelligence personnel inspect the site of a suicide attack on a British embassy vehicle along the Kabul-Jalalabad road in Kabul, yesterday.

Hope rises for green revolution

Graphene could hold key to clean and cheap electricity

A recently discovered form of carbon graphite - the material in pencil lead - has turned out to have a completely unexpected property which could revolutionise the development of green energy and electric cars. Researchers have discovered that graphene allows positively charged hydrogen atoms or protons to pass through it despite being completely impermeable to all other gases, including hydrogen itself. The implications of the discovery are immense as it could dramatically increase the efficiency of fuel cells, which generate electricity directly from hydrogen, the scientists said. The breakthrough raises the prospect of extracting hydrogen fuel from air and burning it as a carbon-free source of energy in a fuel cell to produce electricity and water with no damaging waste products. "In the atmosphere there is a certain amount of hydrogen and this hydrogen will end up on the other side [of graphene] in a



reservoir. Then you can use this hydrogen-collected reservoir to burn it in the same fuel cell and make electricity," said Professor Sir Andrei Geim of Manchester University. Ever since its discovery 10 years ago, graphene has astonished scientists. It is the thinnest known material, a million times thinner than human hair, yet more than 200 times stronger than steel, as well as being the world's best conductor of electricity. In their scientific paper, the researchers speculate that there could be many applications in the field of hydrogen fuel cells and in technology for collecting hydrogen gas from the atmosphere, which would open up a new source of clean energy.

Hanged girls took their own lives

Say Indian investigators
Two girls found hanging earlier this year in northern India committed suicide and were not gang-raped and murdered as previously thought, federal investigators said yesterday. The cousins, aged 12 and 14, were found hanging from a tree in an impoverished village in Uttar Pradesh state in May, reigniting international outrage over crimes against women in India. The girls' families said they were raped and lynched by men from a higher caste after going into the fields at night to relieve themselves because their ramshackle homes did not have toilets. But after a months-long investigation, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it "has concluded that it is a case of suicide". "Based on 40 scientific reports, CBI has concluded that the two minor girls had not been raped and murdered as had been alleged in the (initial police report)," the agency said in a statement. Police arrested five men over the case in Uttar Pradesh after the families accused authorities of failing to act because they came from a lower caste.

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 3rd & 4th Floor, Ramna, Dhaka-1000 Web : www.pgcb.org.bd
IFB No.01/PGCB/Sec(TLD&QC)/6835 Date: 27 Nov. 2014

INVITATION FOR BIDS
for the SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF MONGLA-KHULNA (SOUTH) 230KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE USING FOUR CIRCUIT TOWERS ON TURNKEY BASIS (CONTRACT NO.: PGCB/230KV/TLM-K)

- Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Mongla-Khulna(South) 230kV Double Circuit Transmission Line using Four Circuit Towers on Turnkey Basis (Contract No.: PGCB/230KV/TLM-K) as defined in the bidding document (hereinafter referred to as "the Works").
- The scope of the Works is as below:
Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning on turnkey basis of 230kV double circuit transmission line using four circuit towers from proposed Mongla 400/230kV Substation to existing Khulna(South) 230kV Substation including "Rupsha" river crossing portion (river span approximately 900meter). Total route length of the above line including "Rupsha" river span is approximately 24km. Details of the scope of the Works are specified in the bidding document.
- The Works under this turnkey contract shall be completed within 18 (Eighteen) months from the effective date.
- International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with Single Stage Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.
- Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the head office of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB), Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (3rd Floor), 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Tel: 880-2-9550514, 880-2-9558054, 880-2-9553663, 880-2-95600064, 880-2-9582184, Fax: 880-2-9582382. The complete bidding documents are available at PGCB's website <http://www.pgcb.org.bd/>. In case of any discrepancy between the documents downloaded by the prospective bidder and the Bid Documents (hard copy) of PGCB, the later shall prevail.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the Company Secretary, PGCB at the above address upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD 200.00 (United States Dollar two hundred only) or Tk. 15,000.00 (Taka fifteen thousand only) in the form of **Pay Order/ Demand Draft in favor of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd.** The document may also be sent through courier for an additional fee of Taka 500.00(for local delivery) or US\$ 100.00 (for overseas delivery). PGCB shall not be responsible for any postal delay.
- The deadline for submission of the Bid is **11:00am Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) on 28 January, 2015**. The technical bid will be opened at **11:05am BST or thereafter on 28 January, 2015** at the address mentioned above in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- PGCB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids including costs and expenses related to visits to the sites of installation of the Works.
- PGCB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annual the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Md. Ashraf Hossain)
Company Secretary