

NEWS IN brief

US okays sanctions on Venezuela

AFP, Washington
The US Congress gave its final approval Wednesday to new sanctions against Venezuelan officials accused of violating the human rights of anti-government protesters this year. Thousands of activists were arrested and more than 43 people were killed during mass demonstrations against the government of President Nicolas Maduro, the elected successor of late strongman Hugo Chavez, which raged from February to May.

Buddhist party leader backs Rajapaksa

THE HINDU ONLINE
Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa regained momentum in his bid for a third term with another leading politician abandoning the opposition to join his campaign yesterday. Udaya Gammanpala, a top official from the Buddhist nationalist National Heritage Party, defected from the opposition to become the third leading politician to support Rajapaksa in the Jan 8 election. Rajapaksa faces his former health minister and ruling party No. 2 Maithripala Sirisena. Sirisena led a revolt in Rajapaksa's ruling coalition, taking with him 11 ministers and lawmakers.

China's Xinjiang ban burqas in public

AFP, Beijing
Authorities in the capital of the mainly Muslim Uighur homeland of Xinjiang voted to ban the wearing of burqas in public, media said yesterday, as China confronts unrest with tough measures that critics have labelled discriminatory. The local legislature of Urumqi on Wednesday "considered and adopted 'Regulations for the banning of wearing of burqas in public areas in Urumqi'", the Sina web news portal said.

Pakistan detains 58 Indian fishermen

AFP, Karachi
Pakistani marine forces yesterday arrested 58 Indian fishermen for allegedly violating territorial waters in the Arabian Sea, police said. "The Maritime Security Agency arrested 58 Indian fishermen," senior police officer Shiraz Nazir told AFP, adding that the authorities also seized 11 boats. "They (Indian fishermen) have been handed over to police," he said. The agency had arrested 61 Indian fishermen for allegedly violating territorial waters in November.

Putin seals energy deals in India

AFP, New Delhi
Russia will build 10 more nuclear reactors in energy-starved India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday, after talks with President Vladimir Putin aimed at shoring up ties between the long-time allies.

Putin is in New Delhi seeking to strengthen energy, defence and strategic ties in Asia in an attempt to revive Russia's economy, badly hit by US and EU sanctions over its backing of an uprising in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea. At a joint press conference Modi, who has sought to cultivate closer ties with the United States since taking power in May, pledged India's continued support for Russia.

"The importance of this relationship and its unique place in India's foreign policy will not change," he said. Modi, who swept to power promising to boost flagging growth, said energy security was "critical for India's economic development and creating jobs for our youth". "We have outlined an ambitious vision for nuclear



Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor light an inauguration lamp at The World Diamond Conference at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, yesterday.

energy of at least 10 more reactors," he said. Russia has supplied two reactors to a plant at Kudankulam in southern India under a long-delayed agreement, and has been pushing to supply more. The two countries signed 20 agreements -- including pledges to boost defence cooperation and explore joint energy projects in the Arctic -- during talks that Putin said focused on "international issues".

"Our approaches to key global and regional issues are either similar or very close," he said. The strong ties between India and Russia date back to the 1950s after the death of Stalin. But trade between the two countries was just \$10 billion last year, which Putin, who is on his first visit to India since Modi was elected, said was "not enough". "He (Putin) wants to show the world that he isn't isolated

and to a certain extent he's not -- he still has the BRICS countries," said Nandan Unnikrishnan, Russia expert from Delhi-based think-tank Observer Research Foundation, referring to the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Moscow is seeking greater investment from Indian state-run companies in Russian oil and gas projects. Russia, which has the world's second-biggest natural gas reserves,

cancelled a \$50 billion South Stream pipeline meant to pump gas to Europe without going through Ukraine. But Putin has poured cold water on a proposed pipeline pumping gas to India, saying it might not be cost effective, instead emphasising current arrangements to ship liquefied natural gas in tankers. During Putin's visit, Russia agreed to produce helicopters in India, which is seeking to boost its manufacturing industry, and agreed to advance a long-delayed project to develop a joint fighter jet. Modi said Russia would remain India's "most important partner" in defence after the United States recently overtook it as the biggest seller of arms to India. Putin and Modi attended the World Diamond Conference, with both leaders keen on ramping up direct exports to India. The acting leader of Crimea, the strategic peninsula that Russia annexed in March, was also holding unofficial talks Thursday with business leaders in Delhi, a move likely to irk Washington.



UN declares June 21 as Yoga Day

PTI, United Nations

Less than three months after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea, the UN general assembly yesterday adopted an India-led resolution declaring June 21 as 'International Day of Yoga', recognising that "Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being."

The resolution on 'International Day of Yoga' was introduced by India's ambassador to UN Asoko Mukerji and had 175 nations joining as co-sponsors, the highest number ever for any general assembly resolution.

It is also for the first time that such an initiative has been proposed and implemented by any country in the UN body in less than 90 days.

Through the resolution, adopted under the agenda of 'Global Health and Foreign Policy', the 193-member general assembly decided to proclaim June 21 every year as the 'International Day of Yoga'.

It recognised that Yoga "provides a holistic approach to health and well-being" and that wider dissemination of information about benefits of practising Yoga would be beneficial for the health of the world population.

In introducing the resolution, Mukerji quoted Modi's UNGA address in which he had asked world leaders to adopt an international Yoga day, saying that by changing lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change.

EULOGISING GANDHI'S KILLER India's Rajya Sabha witnesses protests

IANS, New Delhi

India's Rajya Sabha witnessed protests yesterday as opposition leaders raised the issue of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse being eulogised in Maharashtra.

"Nathuram Godse 'shaurya divas' (bravery day) is being observed in Maharashtra," said Congress leader Husain Dalwai, raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha. He alleged that two legislators were also in the list of invitees.

"They are deliberately observing the 'shaurya divas' of the man who killed the father of the nation. There was forced conversion in Agra, and now this..." Dalwai said, alleging that groups associated with ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were responsible for this.

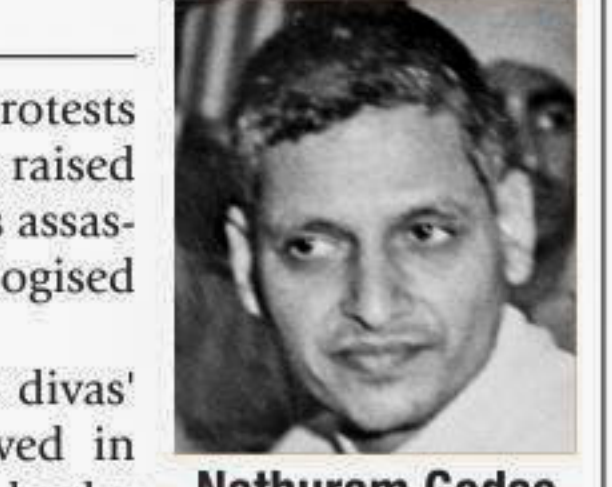
"I have written to Maharashtra chief minister on this," he added.

This was followed by a ruckus in the house, with other opposition parties joining in.

Some members also trooped near the chairman's podium, raising slogans against the government.

An angry minister of state for parliamentary affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said government is not supporting the killers of Mahatma Gandhi in any way.

"This kind of language is unacceptable," Naqvi said. As ruckus continued, deputy chairman P J Kurien adjourned the house till noon. When the house met again for question hour at noon, the ruckus continued, forcing another adjournment for 10 minutes.



Nathuram Godse

Blasts rock Kabul; 7 killed US says it has no more detainees in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Two suicide attacks in Kabul, one targeting a play at a French-financed school, killed at least seven people yesterday, the latest in a wave of violence assaulting the city as Nato forces pull out.

The Afghan capital has been hit by a series of deadly Taliban attacks in recent weeks, highlighting the fragility of the security situation as foreign combat troops leave after more than a decade of war.

The attacks targeted a bus carrying Afghan troops in the city's suburbs in the morning, and late in the afternoon a theatre performance at the Istiqlal High School, which is attached to Kabul's long-established French cultural centre.

"A suicide bomber blew himself up among the audience in Istiqlal High School," Afghan interior ministry spokesman Sediqi Sediqqi told AFP.

At least seven people were wounded in the attack, senior Kabul police official General Farid Afzail, told AFP, adding that the bomber is thought to have been a teenager.

Afzail and the interior ministry said one foreign national was killed, without giving

further details. But French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said the "barbaric" attack had left several people dead.

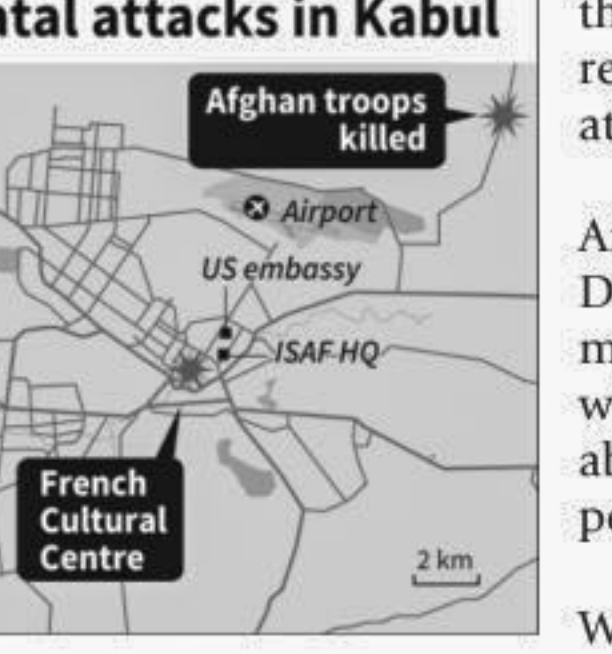
In the earlier attack, the bomber who was on foot targeted a bus carrying Afghan troops in Tangi Tarakhil on the outskirts of the capital, Afzail told AFP.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack on the soldiers in a message sent to the media, but could not be reached after the school attack.

Nato's force in Afghanistan will change on December 31 from a combat mission to a support role, with troop numbers cut to about 12,500 -- down from a peak of 130,000 in 2010.

The attacks came as Washington announced it no longer holds any prisoners in Afghanistan, a day after a damning US Senate report on the brutal treatment of "war on terror" detainees.

In March 2013, Afghan forces took control from the US of the notorious Bagram prison, renamed Parwan, located on the sprawling US military airbase, but American forces had remained in charge of non-Afghan prisoners.



Fatal attacks in Kabul

Ebola toll hits 6,388

AFP, Geneva

Nearly 6,400 people have now died from Ebola, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, amid a ballooning case load in Sierra Leone.

The UN health agency reported 17,942 cases of the deadly virus across eight countries as of December 7, resulting in a total of 6,388 deaths -- all but 15 of them in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone meanwhile reported 397 new cases during the week of December 7 -- three times as many as Liberia and Guinea combined, WHO said.

The country now counts a total of 7,897 Ebola cases, including 1,768 deaths, according to Wednesday's tally. A full third of the new cases, or 133 of them, were reported in the capital Freetown, at the heart of the ongoing surge in cases seen in the west of the country.



RDRS Bangladesh

Invitation for Proposal on Developing Software

RDRS Bangladesh seeks proposal from individuals/ consulting firms/ organizations to undertake a short term assignment to develop Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS) for RDRS Bangladesh.

Interested individuals/ consulting firms/ organizations are requested to visit <www.rdrsbd.net> or <bdjobs.com> for further details. Please apply addressing to Head of Human Resources, RDRS Bangladesh, Jail Road, Radhaballav, Rangpur and submit the electronic copy of technical and financial proposals to <hrmrdrs@gmail.com> by 05:00 pm of 22 December 2014. RDRS reserves all rights to accept or reject any of the proposals.

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208

Ref. No. EDCL/PUR/Tender/Consultant/2014/135 Dated: 10.12.2014

APPOINTMENT OF HVAC CONSULTANT

Essential Drugs Company Limited, 100% share owned by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is interested to appoint a HVAC consultant for Cephalosporin Project of EDCL at Thanthania, Bogra. HVAC facilities of that area will be required to ensure the requisite temperature, humidity and others GMP concern parameters. Interested firms having similar working experience in the relevant field and specialized in drawing, design and supervision of installation, commissioning and validation of HVAC system maintaining man and material movement, air flow, temperature, humidity and differential pressure, particle count, cross contamination & microbial control etc in context of FDA/cGMP may drop their offer/application to the tender box kept in our purchase department, EDCL Dhaka within 21/12/2014.

Application should accompany with all relevant papers, certificates and documents in support of their experience in different reputed pharmaceutical industry, for preliminary evaluation and selection by the authority. Interested firms may also submit their expecting remuneration giving break up like (i) Design and drawing including preparation of tender documents (ii) Works inspection & supervision and (iii) Documentation, validation & balancing of system etc.

Interested person/firm is advised to visit the site (Cephalosporin Project Bogra) prior to drop their offer to have a clear concept about the HVAC work to be required.

Scope of HVAC consultancy services for the selected person/firm to be finalized while appointment will be confirmed. EDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Deputy General Manager Planning & Procurement For: Managing Director.

Plastic garbage choking oceans

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

There are an estimated 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic floating in the world's oceans, weighing a total of nearly 270,000 tons, according to a new study.

Plastic has "spread throughout all the world's oceans" with as much in the southern hemisphere as the northern, the researchers said, adding that this was surprising as more of it originates in the north.

In an article for the Plos One journal, they said the figures were "highly conservative" and did not take into account "the potentially massive amount" that is no longer afloat.

Julia Reisser, a researcher with the University of Western Australia, told The

Guardian: "We saw turtles that ate plastic bags and fish that ingested fishing lines."

"But there are also chemical impacts. When plastic gets into the water it acts like a magnet for oily pollutants."

"Bigger fish eat the little fish and then they end up on our plates. It's hard to tell how much pollution is being ingested but certainly plastics are providing some of it."

The article cited trade body Plastics Europe as saying 288 million tons of plastic were produced world-

wide in 2012. "Our estimate of the global weight of plastic pollution on the sea surface, from all size classes combined, is only 0.1 per cent of the world annual production," it said.



উত্তরা হাই স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ

রোড-০১ ও ২৭, সেক্টর-০৭, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

উত্তরা হাই স্কুল এন্ড কলেজে প্রতিষ্ঠানের ১০০% বেতনে নিম্নলিখিত পদে শিক্ষক কর্মচারী নিয়োগ করা হবে।

ক্র:নং:	পদের নাম	পদের ধরন	যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
০১	অধ্যক্ষ	প্যাটার্নভুক্ত পদ	সরকারী বিধি মোতাবেক ও অধ্যক্ষ হিসেবে ন্যূনতম ৭ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।
০২	সহকারী শিক্ষক (জীব বিজ্ঞান)-১জন	সৃষ্ট পদ	সরকারী বিধি মোতাবেক। প্রাণি বিদ্যা/ উদ্ভিদ বিদ্যা বিষয়ে অনার্স-মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে।
০৩	ক্লিনার-২ জন	সৃষ্ট পদ	৮ম শ্রেণি পাশ।

- * আবেদন পত্রের সাথে ২কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
- * ভারপ্রাপ্ত অধ্যক্ষ বরাবর যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক থেকে ১নং পদের জন্য ১০০০/- টাকা ও ২নং পদের জন্য ৫০০/- টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ডার দিতে হবে।
- * আবেদন পত্র প্রেরণের শেষ তারিখ ৪ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন হতে ৩০ দিন পর্যন্ত।
- * আবেদন পত্রে মোবাইল নম্বর থাকতে হবে।
- * লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ পরে মোবাইল ফোনে জানিয়ে দেওয়া হবে।

মোঃ আনোয়ার হোসেন অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত) উত্তরা হাই স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: www.ilo.org/dhaka/aboutus. All Applications along with completed ILO PHF MUST be sent to ILO Dhaka, H # 16, R # 99, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212 or recruitment_dac@ilo.org by no later than 16:30 hrs, Sunday, 28 December 2014.

The ILO values diversity among its staff and aims at achieving gender parity. We welcome applications from qualified women and men, including those with disabilities.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The ILO is a non-smoking working environment.