

NEWS IN
briefSonia Gandhi
admitted to hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Congress party President Sonia Gandhi was admitted to a hospital yesterday for treatment of lower respiratory tract infection. "She has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here for further treatment of the infection," Congress general secretary Ajay Maken told PTI.

Ebola toll rises to more than 6,900: WHO

AFP, Geneva

More than 6,900 people have now died from the Ebola virus, almost all of them in west Africa, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday. As of December 14, there were 18,569 cases of infection of the deadly virus in the three worst affected countries, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Colombia's FARC calls 'unlimited ceasefire'

REUTERS, Bogota

Colombia's Marxist FARC rebels have declared an indefinite unilateral ceasefire beginning on Dec 20 which they have promised to end if they come under attack by government forces, the group said on its website on Wednesday.

Indian SC extends Jayalalithaa's bail

PTI, New Delhi

The Indian Supreme Court yesterday extended by four months the bail of former Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa in a disproportionate assets case and asked the chief justice of Karnataka high court to constitute a special bench to decide her plea expeditiously within three months.

Heavy snow kills 5, disrupts travel in Japan

AFP, Tokyo

At least five people have died in heavy snow that has blanketed swathes of Japan, reports said yesterday. There was also widespread disruption to travel, with around 100 domestic flights cancelled, adding to the 450 that were grounded on Wednesday.



Pakistani students hold placards yesterday as they protest in Karachi, against an attack by militants on an army-run school that killed 148 children and teachers in Peshawar. Pakistan began three days of mourning from Wednesday for the 132 schoolchildren and nine staff killed by the Taliban in the country's deadliest ever terror attack as the world united in a chorus of revulsion.

PHOTO: AFP

Auschwitz guard, 93, to stand trial

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

He will almost certainly go down in history as the last Nazi death camp guard to face justice. Yet 93-year-old Oskar Gröning says he merely worked as an "accountant" in Auschwitz and feels duty-bound to confront those who claim the Holocaust never happened.

After decades of legal inaction, Gröning is to face charges of being an accessory to the murder of 300,000 Auschwitz prisoners while he worked at the camp. On Tuesday, Hanover state prosecutors ruled he was fit to stand trial.

Gröning's trial opens in a German court next April.

His case highlights the failure of the German judiciary adequately to bring Holocaust perpetrators to justice since the end of the Second World War. An estimated 1.2 million were murdered at Auschwitz. Some 6,500 SS guards worked at the camp but only 49 have been convicted of war crimes.

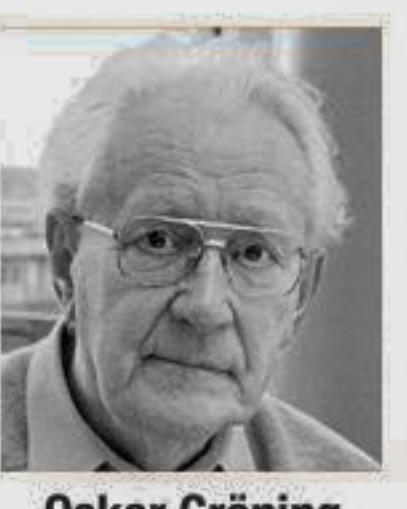
Efraim Zuroff, chief Nazi hunter at the Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, said he welcomed the decision to prosecute Gröning. "The passage of time does not diminish the crimes of the Holocaust," he told The Independent.

Gröning was one in a line-up of a so-called "dirty dozen" of surviving Auschwitz guards who have been

identified over the past two years. He is the only one to face trial. Charges against the remaining 11 suspects were dropped because they were considered too frail or ill.

In the decades after the Nuremberg trials, German prosecutors relied almost exclusively on evidence, largely from eyewitnesses, that linked suspects to specific murders in order to convict them. The practice explains the low conviction rate of Nazi death camp guards. It took a new generation of prosecutors to bring about the recent change in the German judiciary's attitude to Nazi war crimes. In 2011 they set a legal precedent by securing the conviction of the former Sobibor Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk by a Munich court.

Demjanjuk was found guilty of being an accessory to the murder of 28,000 Dutch Jews at Sobibor, an "extermination-only" camp in Nazi occupied Poland, in which all prisoners were gassed within hours of their arrival. There were no eyewitnesses at Demjanjuk's trial. But judges for the first time accepted the prosecution's argument: he was an accessory to mass murder simply by having worked as a guard at the camp. Prosecutors will use the same legal arguments at Gröning's trial. However Gröning has already denied the charges.



Oskar Gröning

The mullah behind the Pak school attack

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Once, if you wanted to speak with the man known as "Mullah Radio", you had to travel to the remote, mountainous lands of Swat province in north-west Pakistan. There, between radio segments, a bearded preacher who would later assume command of a Taliban insurgency that on Tuesday killed more than 100 schoolchildren, would perhaps drop by on his white horse.

That's what happened when the journalist Nicholas Schmidle arrived at the mullah's compound in 2007. At the time, the mullah, Maulana Fazlullah, was riding high.

Tens of thousands of people in Swat were tuning in to his illegal FM radio station, from which he excommunicated the evils of female education and urged jihad. A cult figure was born.

By Fazlullah's twisted logic, the attacks made sense. The killings were a response to a recent military crackdown on Taliban activities.

In 2012, Fazlullah claimed responsibility for an assassination attempt on Malala Yousafzai. So Fazlullah allegedly dispatched a gunman who shot her in the head.

Born in 1975, he grew up with the name Fazle Hayat in a simple rural family, according to a New America Foundation report.

In 2004, Fazlullah launched an unauthorised radio channel people took to calling "Maulana Radio". His conservative, anti-American, anti-technology, anti-vaccination message resonated with the local population.

The fervour he inspired made him an attractive candidate to take over the Taliban late last year when the CIA killed his predecessor, Hakimullah Mehsud, in a drone strike.

And then came Tuesday's assault on the school in the north-western city of Peshawar.



'Mullah Radio' Fazlullah

India's largest rocket launched successfully

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Taking an important step towards sending humans into space, India successfully flight tested the atmospheric re-entry of an experimental unmanned rocket after its heaviest launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III blasted off yesterday.

After its lift-off from Sriharikota in southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the 42.4 m expendable rocket of Indian Space Research Organization ascended to the sky with a one-way ticket as its design life span is just around five minutes.

The Rs 155-crore mission tests the rocket's atmospheric flight stability powered by two engines with around four-tonne luggage.

Just over five minutes into the flight, the rocket threw out the giant cupcake shaped crew module at an altitude of 126 km.

The crew module was navigated by remote-control and made to re-enter the atmosphere at a massive velocity. It was slowed down with massive parachutes, the largest ever to be used by India, before it plunged into the Bay of Bengal.

If India can send astronauts to space using an indigenous rocket, it will become the fourth country in the world to have the technology of sending humans into space, after the United States, Russia and China.

ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan said "India started development of the rocket a decade ago and today completed the first experimental flight. The performance of the solid and the liquid engines were as expected."

Yesterday's test came after successful launch India's Mars mission last year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated ISRO scientists for the successful test flight of the rocket.



GSLV Mk-III

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Inspector General
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka

Date: 17 December 2014

Invitation for Re-Tender

For financial year 2014-2015, sealed tenders are hereby invited from the manufacturers/suppliers in their official pad for the purchase of the uniform item for Bangladesh Police.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Police.
3	Procuring entity name	Assistant Inspector General (Logistics), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
4	Invitation for	Police Uniform Item.
5	Invitation Ref No.	k/22-2014/8247.
6	Date	17 December 2014.

KEY INFORMATION

7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB).
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9	Tender publication date	17 December 2014.
10	Tender last selling date	05 January 2015.
11	Tender closing date and time	06 January 2015 at 12:00 noon.
12	Tender opening date and time	06 January 2015 at 12:30pm.

Name & address of the office

13	Name & address of the office	Police Headquarters, 6, Phoenix Road, Fullbaria, Dhaka -1000.
- Selling tender document	i) AIG (Logistics), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka -1000.	ii) AIG (Admin), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka -1000.
- Receiving tender document	AIG (Logistics), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka -1000.	
- Opening tender document	Conference Room (3rd Floor), NCCOM Building, 6, Phoenix Road, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.	

14	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	28 December 2014 at 12:00 noon. Conference Room (3rd Floor), NCCOM Building, Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
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INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15	Eligibility of tenderer	1) Up-to-date trade license; 2) Current income tax certificate; 3) VAT registration; 4) Bank solvency certificate and 5) Other requirements described in the standard tender document (PG-2/PG-3).
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16 Brief description of goods

Item	Quantity	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tender security (Tk)	Completion time (days)
i) Oxford Shoe	6650 Pair	800/-	2,50,000/-	90
ii) Lanyard	52500 Pcs	700/-	55,000/-	90
iii) Umbrella	3200 Pcs	700/-	35,000/-	45
iv) Woman Police Hat	250 Pcs	700/-	600/-	45

Name of official inviting tender

Designation of official inviting tender

Address of official inviting tender

Contact details of official inviting the tender

Special Instructions

a) No tender will be received after the deadline of submission.

b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason.

c) The procuring entity also reserves the right to omit, increase and/or decrease the quantity of any item(s) from the tender.

d) If not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue.

e) The procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Regulation -2008.

Md. Sarwar
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Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
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GD-4723

Palace denies Queen's abdication rumours

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Buckingham Palace has been forced to deny rumours the Queen is to stand down in her Christmas Day broadcast, after a bookmaker said it was suspending bet following a flurry of "unusual" activity.

Coral said it had been offering odds of 10-1 that the monarch would stand down during the address, which goes out at 3pm in every Commonwealth nation.

A spokesperson for the Queen said that it was the Palace's policy "not to comment on any bookmakers' work".

And while there have been a number of royal abdications involving other European monarchs in recent years, the source pointed to the Queen's oath on her coronation that "whether long or short, her entire life would be in service of the nation".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Environment and Forests
Bangladesh Forest Department
Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and R