



Good morning India!

Obama, Modi plan radio show to reach out to masses

REUTERS, New Delhi

The leaders of the world's largest democracies will next week take to India's radio airwaves, the main source of news and information for many in the country, to get their message out.

U.S. President Barack Obama, who will be the chief guest at New Delhi's showpiece Republic Day military parade on Jan. 26, will join Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a special edition of the latter's radio programme next Tuesday. Listeners have been asked to pre-submit questions by Sunday to the leaders on the programme "Mann Ki Baat," or "Talking from the Heart".

"This month's 'Mann Ki Baat' episode will be a special one, where our Republic Day guest @BarackObama & I will share our thoughts together," Modi tweeted on Thursday.

Modi makes radio speeches at least every month to communicate with two-thirds of India's 1.2 billion people who regularly listen to the radio.

Obama's decision to appear on the show during his visit is a sign of the bond the two leaders share. In a unique departure from protocol, Obama accompanied Modi on a motorcade drive from the White House to the memorial honouring slain U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. during the leader's visit to Washington last year. Modi and Obama also issued a joint editorial before that trip, a first for an Indian leader, according to the Indian media.



Nepalese opposition lawmakers turn desks over as they obstruct the meeting of Nepal's constituent assembly ahead of the midnight deadline to agree on a new constitution in Kathmandu yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Nepal in limbo over draft charter

Leaders in emergency talks to bridge gap as constitutional deadline looms

AFP, Kathmandu

Opposition protests brought Nepal's parliament to a grinding halt yesterday, with hopes fading fast of an eleventh-hour agreement on a new constitution before a midnight deadline expires.

Lawmakers rushed into the well of the parliament chamber as they reconvened late yesterday, in a chaotic bid to prevent politicians from the ruling party proposing a vote on disputed issues in the constitution.

"We want a constitution based on consensus," the opposition lawmakers shouted. Nepal's rival parties have spent years mired in deadlock while trying to reach agreement on a constitution for the young republic.

Parliament speaker Subash Nembang called an emergency meeting of top leaders in the afternoon in a last-ditch push for a deal on the national charter, but talks ended without an accord.

"The country is watching us... what kind of message are we giving?" said Nembang.

"Let us work together and conclude the process."

Analysts say the protracted stalemate raises the risk of unrest in the impoverished Himalayan nation, where lawmakers this week threw chairs and scuffled in parliament as tempers frayed.

Authorities have deployed 1,000 police to guard parliament after the violence spilled over onto the streets, and on Thursday 2,000 flag-waving protesters demonstrated outside.

"I am very sad today. We voted for them... and they have failed to deliver," said Kathmandu-based x-ray technician Moti Lal Sharma Thakur, reflecting a growing sense of frustration over the delayed charter.

"We had high hopes and they have disappointed us yet again," the 28-year-old told AFP. The constitution was intended to conclude a peace process begun in 2006 when Maoist guerrillas entered politics, ending a decade-long insurgency that left an esti-

mated 16,000 people dead. Six prime ministers and two elections later, discord between the opposition Maoists and ruling parties has intensified, paralysing the drafting process.

Hours before parliament opened, former Maoist premier Baburam Bhattarai urged lawmakers to "commit to drafting a constitution based on common agreement".

"Only a constitution based on consensus will ensure long-term peace in the country," he wrote in a message on his official Facebook page.

A key sticking point concerns internal borders, with the opposition pushing for provinces to be created along lines that could favour historically marginalised communities.

Other parties have attacked this model, calling it too divisive and a threat to national unity. The ruling parties and their allies have the two-thirds parliamentary majority they need to approve a constitution without Maoist support. But the former insurgents have

warned of further conflict if they fail to take opposition views into account.

A missed deadline will prolong instability and hurt economic growth in a country where one out of four people survive on less than \$1.25 a day, according to World Bank data.

Several lawmakers from the ruling coalition told AFP that a vote was the only way forward, after a string of missed deadlines.

But analysts say such measures would alienate marginalised communities and spell disaster for the country. "A constitution achieved with only minimum consensus will have no scope of success," said Lok Raj Baral, executive chairman of the Nepal Centre for Contemporary Studies.

"Both sides need to realise that a compromise formula is the only way out," Baral told AFP. The prospect of instability has worried neighbouring India and China, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November urging politicians to hammer out a charter based on consensus.

POLITICAL CRISIS IN THAILAND

Ousted PM slams impeachment vote

AFP, Bangkok

Ousted Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra yesterday attacked impeachment proceedings against her ahead of a crunch vote that could see her banned from politics for five years and deepen the country's bitter divide.

Yingluck, the kingdom's first female premier and the sister of former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, was toppled from office by a controversial court ruling shortly before the army staged a coup in May.

She faces impeachment today by the junta-picked National Legislative Assembly over her administration's populist rice subsidy programme, which funnelled cash to her rural base but cost billions of dollars and inspired protests that felled her government.

Yingluck arrived at heavily policed Parliament House in central Bangkok accompanied by a handful of other party members.

"There is no position to remove me from as the Constitutional Court has already removed me as prime minister," she told assembly members, also saying she should not be impeached for violating a constitution that no longer exists under junta rule.

Yingluck robustly defended the rice scheme as an attempt to support Thailand's rural poor, who historically receive a disproportionately small slice of government cash.

"I am not corrupt, I was never careless," she said, rejecting accusations that had been levelled against her and urging members to consider her case with fairness and "without being guided by anyone".

But a junta spokesman rejected Yingluck's allegation that the impeachment process had no basis in law.

"The process is legal and appropriate so that the country can move forward because it will stop conflicts and allow the facts to be seen by the people," deputy government spokesman Sunserm Kaewkummer said.

A successful impeachment needs three-fifths of the 220-strong assembly to vote in favour when they meet today.

A guilty verdict would bring an automatic five-year ban from politics and risks enraging her family's 'Red Shirt' supporters, who have laid low since the coup.

Speaking before the hearing yesterday, Jatuporn Prompan, chairman of the Red Shirts, cautioned against street protests on his television show, after noting signs he believed would "lead to impeachment".

"From tomorrow, we will see more clearly... If we are not patient, Red Shirts will be accused of being responsible for bad things," he said on Peace TV. Experts say the impeachment move is the latest attempt by Thailand's royalist elite and its army backers to nullify the political influence of the Shinawatras, whose parties have won every election since 2001. Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission has led the probe into the rice programme, which paid farmers up to twice the market rate for their grain but left Thailand with a mountain of unsold rice.



Yingluck Shinawatra

CAMBODIA KHMER ROUGE ATROCITIES

'Soldiers slit prisoner throats, ate organs'

AFP, Phnom Penh

A witness told Cambodia's UN-backed court Wednesday that Khmer Rouge soldiers slit prisoners' throats and ate their gall bladders during the 1970s, as the genocide trial of the two most senior surviving leaders resumed.

Nuon Chea, 88, known as "Brother Number Two", and former head of state Khieu Samphan, 83, face charges over the killing of ethnic Vietnamese and Muslim minorities, forced marriage and rape during the 1975-1979 regime that left up to two million people dead.

In August the pair were given life sentences for crimes against humanity after a two-year trial focused on the forced evacuation of Cambodians from Phnom Penh into rural labour camps and murders at one execution site.

The genocide trial, which began last July, has faced repeated delays due to boycotts by the defendants' lawyers and most recently because of the brief hospitalisation of Khieu Samphan.

The prosecution's first witness, Meas Sokha, told the court that he saw Khmer Rouge soldiers kill hundreds of



inmates at Kraing Ta Chan prison in Takeo province, around 80 kilometres south of Phnom Penh, where he was detained along with 11 other family members.

"While I was tending cows and buffaloes, I could see how prisoners were killed. Most of them had their throats slit," said the 55-year-old.

"Two would hold a prisoner tight and another would slit the throat of the prisoner," he said, adding that the Khmer Rouge played

music through a loudspeaker "to hide the sounds of the killing".

He told the court that at least 20 prisoners were killed per day after a week of starvation at the prison, where he was held for more than two years from 1976. His father and younger siblings also died at the jail.

The witness added that soldiers killed small children by throwing them against a tree before dropping their bodies into the mass grave at the prison. He also told the court that Khmer Rouge cadres would eat the gall bladders of executed prisoners after drying them in the sun.

Both Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan deny all charges against them and are appealing their life convictions.

Lanka pledges to recover stolen Rajapakse billions

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new government pledged yesterday to trace billions of dollars in stolen wealth stashed abroad by members of the previous regime and said experts from the IMF and World Bank had agreed to help.

Former president Mahinda Rajapakse and his powerful family are accused of siphoning large sums of money from the public coffers during his decade in power, which ended when he was voted out this month.

The new cabinet agreed at its first meeting Wednesday to track down the cash, and said forensic experts from India's central bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund would assist.

"We will go after the foreign assets of Sri Lankans," health minister and cabinet spokesman Rajitha Senaratne told reporters in Colombo.

"Billions of dollars have been stolen and taken out of the country. We are taking steps to bring them back."

Sri Lanka's anti-graft body has already slapped overseas travel bans on the former central bank governor Nivard Cabraal and Sajin Vass Gunawardena, a key Rajapakse aide, pending a corruption investigation.

Energy Minister Champika Ranawaka said a preliminary study by a local university showed the cost of new road construction in Sri Lanka in 2013 had been inflated by 200 billion rupees (\$1.53 billion).

Rajapakse was the minister in charge of highways in the former administration.

Ranawaka accused Rajapakse and his immediate family, who controlled nearly 70 percent of the national budget, of siphoning off 700 billion rupees (\$5.38 billion) from the national economy.

US Sikhs seek to put terror label on RSS

AFP, New York

Sikh activists said they filed a lawsuit Wednesday in New York demanding the United States blacklist as a terrorist organization a hardline Hindu group linked to India's ruling party.

The federal court issued a summons for US Secretary of State John Kerry to respond to the suit within 60 days, according to court papers sent to AFP by US-based advocacy group "Sikhs For Justice."

The 26-page complaint likened Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh to Nigeria's armed group Boko Haram. It held the RSS, the ideological mentor of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, responsible for instigating multiple acts of violence.

Activists accused RSS of "running a passionate, vicious and violent campaign to turn India into a 'Hindu' nation with a homogeneous religious and cultural identity." The lawsuit comes with US President Barack Obama to be guest of honor at India's Republic Day celebrations on January 26. A New York judge last week dismissed on grounds of immunity a lawsuit that accused Modi of "attempted genocide" over deadly 2002 anti-Muslim riots that killed at least 1,000 people.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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INVITATION FOR TENDERS				
1	Ministry / Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.		
2	Agency	Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.		
3	Procuring Entity name	Corporate Office.		
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Works (Single Lot)		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	C-189-EGCB/PUR/01/33/2015		
8	Date	22/01/2015		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	NCT (Open Tendering Method.)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (Own fund of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.)		
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A		
13	Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A		
14	Tender Package No	N/A		
15	Tender Package Name	Interior Decoration Works for Corporate Office of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. at "Unique Heights" 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.		
16	Tender Publication Date	23/01/2015		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	15/02/2015 up to 15:00 Hr (BST)		
18	Tender Submission Date & Time	16/02/2015 up to 12:00 Hr (BST)		
19	Tender Opening Date & Time	16/02/2015 on 12:30 Hrs (BST) (Tenderers or their authorized representatives, if any, are allowed to attend).		
20	Name and Address of the office(s)	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
	- Selling Tender Document	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
	- Receiving Tender Document	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
	- Opening Tender Document	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre Tender Meeting	N/A.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	a) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of five (5) years of general experience in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor. b) The Tenderer shall have minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor in construction works of at least one (01) contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology successfully completed within the last three (03) years, with a value of at least Tk. Two Crore (2,00,00,000/-). c) The Tenderer shall have average annual construction turnover of greater than Tk Three Crore (3,00,00,000/-) over the last three (03) years. d) The Tenderer shall have the minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of Tk Two Crore (2,00,00,000/-). e) The Tenderer should have valid Trade License, should be financially solvent, Income Tax payee, should have the legal capacity to enter into the contract, and shouldn't have a conflict of interest pursuant to Rule 55 of the Public Procurement Rules-2008. Note: Years will be counted backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.		
23	Brief Description of Work	Interior Decoration Works (Civil, Electrical, Furniture-Fixture (Work Station), CC Camera, PABX System, Fire Fitting System, Air Conditioning (VRF) System etc. Supply & Installation and other related works) for Corporate Office of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. at "Unique Heights" 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.		
24	Brief Description of Physical Services	NA		
25	Price of Tender Document	BDT 2000/= (Two Thousand Taka Only) to be paid in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order in favor of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.		
26	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount
	N/A	Interior Decoration Works for Corporate Office of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. at "Unique Heights" 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.	Level-15 & 16 at "Unique Heights" 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.	Tk. 10,00,000/- (Ten Lac taka only)
				04 (Four) months from the commencement date.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
27	Name of Official Inviting the Tender	Mohammad Noore Alam Siddiki		
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer (Procurement)		
29	Address of Official Inviting the Tender	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.		
30	Contact details of Official Inviting the Tender:	Tel: +88-02-8124197, 9134029, 9134032 Ext.-116, Fax: +88-02-9118345 E-mail: m.proc@egcb.com.bd		
31	a) The Full Tender Document will be available in PDF format in the EGCB website			
	b) The tenderers are requested to read the tender document carefully before submission of their offer.			
32	The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.			

(Mohammad Noore Alam Siddiki)
 Executive Engineer (Procurement)
 Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd., Dhaka.