

NEWS IN brief

22 Morsi supporters get death in Egypt

AFP, Cairo
An Egyptian court Wednesday sentenced 22 supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi to death for an attack on a police station in which one officer was killed. The attack in the town of Kerdasa on the outskirts of Cairo on July 3, 2013 came on the same day that army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi -- who is now president -- announced the dismissal of Morsi.

Caroline Kennedy gets death threats

REUTERS, Washington
Tokyo police are investigating death threats against US ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and another American diplomat, according to media reports. The US embassy in Tokyo received the threats by telephone last month, according to the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper. There were several phone calls made by an English-speaking man, the Japanese newspaper said.

One killed in US shooting spree

AFP, Los Angeles
A gunman killed one person and wounded five others in a shooting spree in Arizona on Wednesday, sparking an hours-long manhunt by SWAT teams before he was caught, police said. One of the injured was in critical condition after the shooting in Mesa, a suburb of Phoenix, said local police spokesman Esteban Flores.

Moscow to host Syria talks on April 6

AFP, Moscow
Representatives of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and opposition figures will meet for peace talks in Moscow on April 6, a Russian foreign ministry spokesman told AFP. The ministry spokesman did not specify which opposition representatives and officials from Assad's government would attend the talks.



A father and son on a makeshift boat made from styrofoam paddle through a garbage filled river as they collect plastic bottles that they can sell in junkshops in Manila, yesterday. The Philippines will be observing World Water day on March 22, a global event that focuses on finding access to clean and safe water. In an annual report, the UN said abuse of water was now so great that on current trends, the world will face a 40-percent "global water deficit" by 2030 -- the gap between demand for water and replenishment of it.

NUN RAPE IN INDIA 'Protect humans, not just cows'

REUTERS, New Delhi
The head of India's Catholic bishops, speaking out after a nun was raped in the east of the country last week, has said the country should be as concerned about the welfare of its people as it is about its cows.

The comments appeared directed against hardline Hindu nationalists who have stirred up animosity against India's Christian and Muslim minorities, while successfully lobbying for tougher laws against killing cows.

Cows are considered sacred by many Indians, but beef is eaten by some poor and lower-caste Hindus as well as by Christians and Muslims. Campaigns to protect cattle are often used to vilify religious minorities. "The country has a responsibility towards all of us -- every human being -- and not just cows," Cardinal Basileos Cleemis told journalists. The comments, reported in newspapers on Wednesday, were confirmed by his office.

The western state of Maharashtra banned the selling of beef in February and the northern state of Haryana has since imposed stringent penalties for cow slaughter.

Cleemis spoke before visiting the hospitalized nun who was raped at a convent school in West Bengal, an attack which has triggered protests on city streets and in parliament.

Police have not established whether the assault motive was religion or money. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "deeply concerned" and demanded a detailed report into what happened.

The attack was the most serious in a series of incidents that have spread fear among Christians since activists, emboldened by Modi's election victory last year, began their "ghar wapsi" (homecoming) campaign to convert followers of "foreign religions" to Hinduism.

Indian Christians emphasize their religion's long history in India and say it is an integral part of the country. Some Hindu hardliners, however, are seeking to define the country as primarily an Hindu nation, in which other religions are guests.

NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY Thai ex-PM to face trial

AFP, Bangkok
Thailand's former premier Yingluck Shinawatra was yesterday ordered to stand trial on charges of negligence over a bungled rice subsidy scheme, in a case that could see her jailed for up to a decade.

The decision is the latest legal move against Yingluck -- Thailand's first female prime minister and sister of fugitive ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra -- that could spell the end of her family's political dominance.

The Shinawatras, or parties allied to them, have won every Thai election since 2001.

"The panel (of judges) has decided that this case falls within our authority," said judge Veeraphol Tangsuwan at Bangkok's Supreme Court, adding that the first hearing will be held on May 19.

Thailand's attorney general filed criminal charges against Yingluck in February, accusing her of "dereliction of duty" in relation to the populist but economically disastrous rice scheme, which paid farmers in the rural Shinawatra heartland twice the market rate for their crops.

She is not accused of corruption herself but of failing to prevent alleged graft in the programme which cost billions of dollars and inspired the pro-

tests that eventually felled her elected government and led to May's military coup.

The court's decision comes less than two months after the retroactive impeachment of the former premier, also over the rice scheme, by an assembly appointed by the ruling generals -- a move that carries an automatic five-year ban from politics.

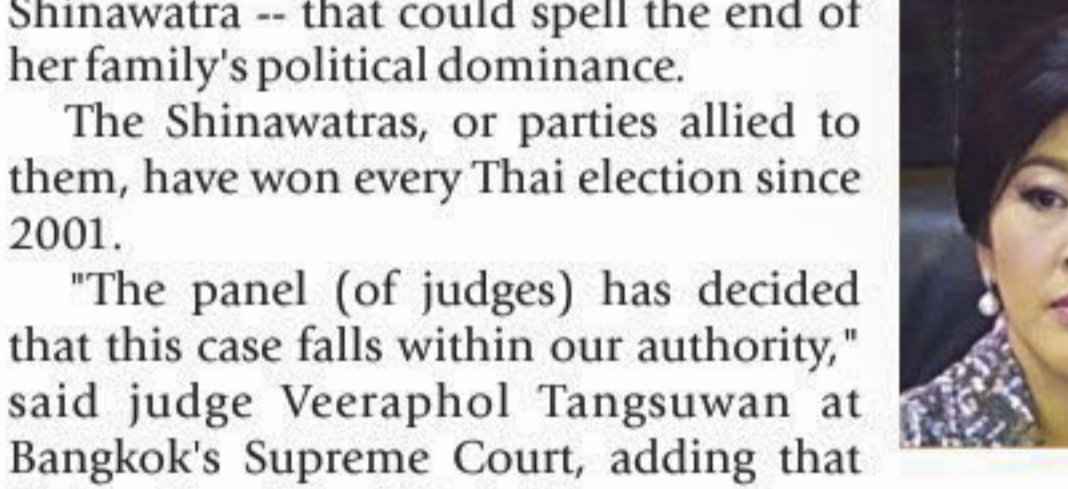
Yingluck did not attend the Bangkok court yesterday but will be legally obliged to attend the first hearing in May.

In a statement on her Facebook page published shortly after the ruling she defended the controversial scheme as one which "lifted the quality of life for rice farmers".

"As prime minister I was always honest and served the Thai people, who voted for my government," she said. "I have not done anything wrong at all."

The army takeover last year was the latest twist in Thailand's turbulent political landscape, at the heart of which sits Thaksin, who was toppled by a previous coup in 2006 and now lives in self-exile to avoid jail on a corruption charge.

Yet his influence persists in Thai politics with Shinawatra-allied parties still drawing the loyalty of the rural north as well as urban working-class voters for their populist policies.



Singapore founding father critically ill in ICU

STAR REPORT
Singapore's 'founding father' Lee Kuan Yew is critically ill in hospital, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said yesterday.

Lee, 91, the island state's first and longest serving prime minister, has been hospitalised in the Singapore General Hospital since Feb 5, when he was admitted for severe pneumonia, and is now in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The politician oversaw Singapore's separation from Malaysia and guided it to prosperity. He led the country for three decades since June 1959.

Concerns rose on Wednesday after news broke that Lee was critically ill and that his condition had deteriorated further.

On Wednesday night, screenshots were circulated of a fake website bearing the PMO logo and announcing his death.

The hoax led some foreign outlets, including CNN and China's CCTV, Sina and Phoenix Chinese News to report that Lee had died, only to retract the reports later. CNN Breaking News said in a tweet shortly after 10:00pm that Lee had died, citing a "government website".

Lee was visited on Wednesday by family members and relatives, including his eldest child, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, 63, and grandson Lee Yipeng, 32.

In a Facebook post early yesterday, PM Lee's wife, Ho Ching, expressed hope that the fake news would be cleared and thanked everyone for their prayers.



Tibetan monks dressed as demons attend the Beating Ghost festival at the Yonghe Temple, also known as the Lama Temple, in Beijing, yesterday. The Beating Ghost festival, or Da Gui festival in Chinese, is an important ritual of Tibetan Buddhism and is believed to expel evil spirits and shake off troubles.

India HM accuses Pakistan of aiding terrorism

Says South Asia's security will improve if it stops doing it

TNN, Jaipur
Launching a scathing attack on Pakistan, Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh yesterday said if the neighbouring country stops supporting terrorists, the security situation in South Asia will improve significantly.

"I sincerely believe that Pakistan should rethink its strategy of using terrorism as an instrument of proxy war," Rajnath Singh said.



The home minister said the source of most terrorist activities in India lies across the borders and it is unfortunate that even after paying such a heavy price for itself, Pakistan and its associates find it difficult to understand that there are no "good terrorists and bad terrorists".

"Differentiating terrorists into good and bad categories has failed miserably. If the ISI and the Pakistan Army stops their support to certain terror outfits, I have no hesitation to say that the security situation in South Asia will improve significantly," he said after inaugurating an international conference on counter terrorism here.

Indian state minister robbed on train

TNN, New Delhi

Madhya Pradesh finance minister Jayant Malaiya and his wife Sudha Malaiya were robbed yesterday onboard the Jabalpur-Nizamuddin Express train near Mathura, following which the railways has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

According to railway spokesperson Anil Saxena, three RPF personnel who were escorting the train have also been suspended in connection with the issue.

Gold chain, ring and some cash were looted from the couple in the AC compartment of the running train. The couple had boarded the train at Damoh for Delhi.

Sudha said the accused also robbed passengers in the adjoining coupe.

কুতুবদিয়া ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জে বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর জংগী বিমান কতৃক আকাশ হতে আকাশে তাজা গোলা বর্ষণের জন্য সতর্কবাণী

৩৭ কি. মি.

৪৫ ক্র. মি.

কুতুবদিয়া ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জের নকশা

২২ মার্চ ২০১৫ হতে ১৬ এপ্রিল ২০১৫ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ সকাল ০৮০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৭৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর জংগী বিমান চট্টগ্রামের কুতুবদিয়া ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জে সাগরের উপর নকশায় প্রদর্শিত ৪৫ কিঃ মিঃ x ৩৭ কিঃ মিঃ বিস্তৃত আকাশ সীমায়, আকাশ হতে আকাশে তাজা গোলা বর্ষণ করবে।

কুতুবদিয়া দ্বীপ হতে ০৫ (পাঁচ) কিঃ মিঃ পশ্চিমে আকাশে নিষ্ক্ষিপ্ত গোলা সাগরের ৪৫কিঃ মিঃ x ৩৭ কিঃ মিঃ বিস্তৃত এলাকার উপর পতিত হবে। তাজা গোলা বর্ষণ চলাকালীন সময় বিমান, জাহাজ, ছোট ছোট নৌযান ও জনসাধারণকে গোলা বর্ষণের এলাকা পরিহার করে নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রেখে চলাচলের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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ঢাকা, সেনানিবাস**

আইএসপিআর/বিমান/২০১৫/২৯
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