

Pakistan executes six murder convicts

AFP, Islamabad
Pakistan yesterday hanged six prisoners condemned for murder, officials said, bringing the total executed since the death penalty was resumed in December to 61. Human rights group Amnesty International estimates that Pakistan has more than 8,000 prisoners on death row, most of whom have exhausted the appeals process.

US charges Bergdahl with desertion

AFP, Washington
The US soldier who was held by insurgents for five years after disappearing from his post in Afghanistan, Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, has been charged with desertion and "misbehavior before the enemy", officials said yesterday. Bergdahl, 28, was released last year in a swap for Taliban detainees held at the US-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Two missing as India navy plane crashes

AFP, Mumbai
A naval aircraft crashed off the western Indian coast leaving two pilots missing, the navy said yesterday. Rescue operations were underway after the Indian navy's Dornier aircraft plunged into the sea some 25 nautical miles off the western holiday state of Goa around 10:00pm local time (1630 GMT) Tuesday.

Italy SC extends Knox drama to Friday

AFP, Rome
Italy's top court has put back a ruling on Amanda Knox's murder conviction to Friday, delaying what could be the final act of an eight-year legal drama that has captivated a global audience. The court met yesterday to examine the verdict that found Knox and her ex-lover Raffaele Sollecito guilty of killing British student Meredith Kercher in a case rich with sub-texts of drugs, alleged sexual debauchery and police bungling. Judges will either uphold one or both of the murder convictions, or send the entire case back to the appeal stage -- which could eventually see the pair acquitted.



The body (L-in case) of Singapore's former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew is transferred atop a gun carriage from the Istana state complex to Parliament House where it will lie in state for public viewing ahead of his funeral, in Singapore, yesterday. Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew, one of the towering figures of post-colonial Asian politics, died at the age of 91 on March 23. PHOTO: AFP

Thai junta chief threatens to hold onto power

AFP, Bangkok
Thailand's junta chief warned detractors yesterday that he would hold onto power indefinitely if they continued to oppose his plans for the kingdom in a heated press briefing ahead of an overseas trip. Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who was appointed as prime minister a few months after seizing power in a coup last May, appeared irritated when he met reporters shortly before flying to Brunei, frequently raising his voice and shaking his head. "If the situation remains like this I can tell you that I will hold on to power for a long time," he said after denouncing those who criticise the country's lack of democratic progress.

"Why is there all this fuss about elections?" he also asked. "(If there's no election) will anyone die?" The former army chief imposed martial law two days before the military takeover that followed the ousting of Yingluck Shinawatra's democratically elected government after months of often violent street protests. He has vowed to return power to an elected civilian government but only once reforms to tackle corruption and curb the power of political parties are codified in a new constitution. Rights groups say basic freedoms have fallen off a cliff since the military took over with political gatherings banned, the press muzzled and tough lese majeste legislation increasingly used to stifle political opposition.

COALGATE SCAM Manmohan moves SC

THE HINDU ONLINE
Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday moved India's Supreme Court against the order of a trial court that summoned him as accused in a coal scam case. Hindalco chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla and former Coal Secretary P.C. Parakh, who were also summoned as accused in the case, have also filed petitions challenging the trial court order. On March 12, 2015 a special CBI court had summoned Singh, along with five others including Birla and Parakh in a case involving the allocation of Odisha's Talabira coal

blocks in 2005 to Hindalco, a Birla group company. A special CBI Judge summoned the six accused on April 8, 2015 for alleged offences punishable under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 409 (criminal breach of trust by banker, merchant or agent) of the IPC and under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The court summoned the former Prime Minister despite the CBI filing a closure report and telling the court that there was no prosecutable evidence against him.



Taliban slams US troops plan

Say move will hamper peace efforts

AFP, Kabul
A suicide car bomber killed seven people in Kabul yesterday as the Taliban warned that Washington's decision to slow the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan will hamper peace efforts.

US President Barack Obama on Tuesday reversed plans to withdraw around 5,000 US troops from Afghanistan this year, an overtone to the country's new reform-minded leader, President Ashraf Ghani.

Hosting Ghani at the White House for their first presidential head-to-head, Obama agreed to keep the current level of 9,800 US troops in Afghanistan until the end of 2015.

"Obama's announcement to continue to keep troops in Afghanistan is a response to the peace efforts," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP.

"This damages all the prospects for peace. This means the war will go on until they are defeated," he said.

Hours later, a suicide car bomber struck close to the presidential palace in Kabul, killing at least seven people and wounding dozens more. It is the first suicide bombing in the Afghan capital in nearly a month and highlights the fragile security situation as the country prepares for the start of the traditional spring-summer fighting season.

Ghani condemned the attack as "inhuman and un-Islamic", while police said the target of the rush-hour blast appeared to be civilians.

The Taliban, who have waged a bloody insurgency since being toppled from power in 2001 in a US-led invasion, have always denied talks with the government. They maintain they will not negotiate while foreign troops remain on Afghan soil.

Nato's combat mission ended in December, leaving the 350,000-strong Afghan security forces to lead the fight against the Taliban.

The joint US-Afghan decision means they will have air and other crucial US support through this year's fighting season, which begins in weeks.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's military said it had killed 30 militants in air strikes on a tribal region near the Afghan border as part of a major anti-insurgent offensive that began last year. The strikes hit the strategic Tirah valley in Khyber tribal district, where the Pakistani Taliban and Lashkar-e-Islam groups have strongholds.

- Suicide attack in Kabul kills seven
- Pakistan kills 30 militants in air strikes

Maldives ex-president says his jailing appeal scuttled

AFP, Colombo
Jailed former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed has been prevented from appealing against his controversial 13-year jail sentence after authorities refused to release documents needed to prepare his case, his spokesman said yesterday. The spokesman said the honey-moon islands' first democratically elected president has been denied a copy of the trial proceedings, which he needs to lodge an appeal before a looming deadline. "The criminal court has tried to block the appeal at every step of the way," spokesman Hamid Abdul Ghafoor told AFP in Colombo. "It is not that he does not want to appeal, but he is not being allowed to file his papers." Nasheed's office said the deadline for

filing the appeal is today. A Maldivian high commission (embassy) spokesman in Colombo, Hussain Mazin, said it was not until Sunday. The Maldives government has resisted international pressure to release Nasheed, jailed this month under tough anti-terror laws for ordering the arrest of a chief judge in 2012 when he was president. Western countries, India and the UN's human rights chief have expressed concern over his trial, while his lawyers have said the case was aimed at destroying his political career. The high commission in Colombo denied Nasheed has been stopped from lodging the appeal, saying he had refused to sign a copy of the case file and thereby had prevented it from being finalised.



সম্মানিত গ্রাহক
সঠিক নিষ্পন্ন ব্যতীত আপনি মোবাইল সংযোগ ব্যবহারে অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হতে পারেন

বর্তমান গ্রাহকরা যদি এখন পর্যন্ত মোবাইল সংযোগের গ্রাহক তথ্য আপডেট না করে থাকেন তাহলে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র (এনআইডি, পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি) এবং সচল সিম/রিম নিয়ে আপনার মোবাইল অপারেটরের নিকটস্থ সার্ভিস সেন্টারে আজই উপস্থিত হয়ে গ্রাহক তথ্য আপডেট করুন। অন্যথায় আপনার অনির্ভুক্ত সংযোগ দ্বারা সংগঠিত কোন প্রকার বেআইনি কার্যক্রমের জন্য আপনি আইনগত জটিলতায় জড়াতে পারেন। শুধুমাত্র সঠিক গ্রাহক তথ্যই আপনার সংযোগের যথাযথ ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করবে।

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