

TI sees 'high risk of corruption'

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The percentage of overall marks determined which band the government was placed in. The countries were assessed in five risk areas: political risk, financial risk, personnel risk, operations risk, and procurement risk.

The report claimed that the Bangladesh military spending had increased by 202 percent over the last decade while China military by 441 percent, India by 147 percent, South Korea by 106 percent, Pakistan by 107 percent, and Sri Lanka by 197 percent.

At the institutional level, the military operates a range of businesses directly and indirectly through the Sena Kalyan Sangstha, a retired officials' welfare association, it added.

The report said while there were legislative provisions for parliamentary approval of defence budgets and oversight of policies and activities, those needed to be stronger in practice to be more effective.

"A specific parliamentary standing

committee overseeing defence issues has been formed but there is little evidence of parliament's impact on budgets, procurement decisions, or overall defence policy," it said.

The TI recommended that parliament uses its prerogatives to the full, to further develop a comprehensive and robust process for defence oversight.

The report lauded Bangladesh government for completing a review of the anti-corruption index 2015 research, saying it showed "a willingness to open dialogue with an international NGO on defence corruption issues".

Praising the government's commitment to an anti-corruption agenda, it said the Anti-Corruption Commission was somewhat active in nationwide investigations and the government could further build on this anti-corruption strategy to address issues of parliamentary and independent external audit oversight of the defence sector.

On the region, the survey said in

some rising Asian powers, there was a gulf between growing military spending and adequate checks and balances on military elites, posing a threat to regional stability.

The region has some of the most rapidly growing defence budgets in the world. The 17 countries spent approximately \$432.7 billion on the military in 2014, or 24.5 percent of global military spending, it said.

"Oversight of defence budgets, essential to holding the sector to account, is often minimal. And the argument that openness can undermine national security is frequently exploited to avoid accountability to citizens.

"This is even more pronounced when it comes to "secret" budgets, expenditure relating to intelligence services and national security, where mechanisms for scrutiny are almost entirely non-existent," it said.

The report said, "In 65 percent of the countries we studied, public trust in the military's ability and will to

Owners' high Dipan's family pleads

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The Dhaka Auto Rickshaw Sramik Union on Tuesday filed an application with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to take action against the owners for violating the government rule.

The union has also enclosed a list naming owners of 39 auto-rickshaws who are allegedly charging additional rent.

"Everybody blames the drivers in the face of any indiscipline or chaos. But the owners are equally responsible for additional fare," Hanif Khokon, general secretary of Dhaka Auto Rickshaw Sramik Union, told The Daily Star.

MH Iqbal Miraz, general secretary of Dhaka CNG-Auto Rickshaw Malik Samity, admitted that some owners are still charging high rent.

"We have issued a notice to all the owners of auto-rickshaws to follow the government rules. If they disobey, the authorities concerned will take legal action against them," he said.

BRTA Director (Admin) Moshir Rahman said they are conducting drives against violators of rules. He warned that whoever -- be it owners or drivers -- breaks the rules will be punished.

The road transport and bridges ministry from November 1 increased passengers' fare and also the rent of CNG-run auto-rickshaws in Dhaka and Chittagong metropolises.

As per the revised fare chart, a passenger will have to pay Tk 40 for travelling the first two kilometres in place of the previous Tk 25. For additional travel, a passengers will have to pay Tk 12 for each kilometre instead of previous Tk 7.64.

Waiting charge for per minute has also increased from Tk 1.4 to Tk 2.

Besides, drivers will have to pay Tk 900 on daily basis to the owners, while the previous rent was Tk 600.

Around 13,000 CNG-run auto-rickshaws are now plying in the capital.

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at the TSC. From there, Quasem took him in his car to Razia's apartment to talk.

While entering the flat, this correspondent saw a journalist and a teacher of journalism at Jagannath University coming out.

"I have kept calm all along [since Dipan's death]. But I lost it today and have broken down," Razia said.

She then went on to narrate how the journalist and the teacher sat in the living room hour after hour and asked all sorts of "unpleasant questions".

"As I was sending my son to sit for his exam, they asked for permission to take pictures of my bedroom, living room and even my son's study table," she said.

"While the boy was going out, they repeatedly wanted to know exactly how tall he was," she added.

"Why would a journalist need to know my son's height? And do they have any right to sit in my living room for hours?"

"My son's exam is going on. He won't be able to take the exam if he sees me upset. But I lost it after they asked those questions," she said.

Trying to calm her down, Prof Quasem said, "They [journalists] came here for their business interest." He also asked her not to bring her son in front of the journalists.

Razia also described how traumatised her son was when cameras surrounded him as he went to attend his father's namaz-e-janaza.

"One of them even went on to ask 'what was it like to sit for an exam now that your father just died?' How can someone ask a child such a question?" she said.

Gayeshwar sent

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arrested in India for illegal trespass and is now in jail there.

In March, police pressed charges against 49 BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists, including the BNP leaders, in a case filed for torching a vehicle at Malibagh Chowdhury Para on December 29, 2013.

On the day, police and the then BNP-led 18-party alliance (now 20-party alliance) activists were locked in a clash after the combine brought out a procession in support of BNP's March for Democracy which was set for that day.

Of the 49 charge-sheeted, 14 people, including BNP leaders Amanullah Aman and Mirza Abbas, were earlier given bail in the case.

Zia's brother hosts curious

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same time, he told around 300 people in the audience that he would inform everyone if he had decided to join politics.

Speaking as if he was in a public rally, Kamal said, "This is not democracy, the way the present government is defining it. This is dictatorship. We all have to come forward to restore democracy and fair politics for the betterment of the country."

Of the participants, many were youths. The Daily Star correspondent talked to at least 15 of them who claimed that local Awami League men had taken them there.

They could not say what the programme was for.

Policemen were seen at the entrance and exit of the venue. Shaful, a Dhaka Metropolitan Police official,

said they were deployed there to prevent any untoward incidents.

Asked, Kamal said he had invited many BNP leaders but did not know why they failed to show up.

Replying to a query, BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon, at a briefing at the party's Naya Paltan central office yesterday, said they had another programme scheduled which clashed with the *milad*.

On another query, Ripon called upon the media to reveal whether the government was behind the *milad* to create a division and confusion among BNP men.

A BNP vice-chairman, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that a fresh plot might have been hatched to split the BNP, just like it was hatched after the 1/11 changeover. "This time the conspirators might try to use Ahmed

Gaibandha MP denied bail

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another case filed for looting and vandalising houses of one Hafizer Mandal in Bamandanga village of Sundarganj upazila.

Liton is in jail but was not produced before the court during yesterday's hearing.

Defence lawyer Sirajul Islam Babu said they moved bail petitions of the two cases against Liton for the third time. After hearing, the court passed the orders.

Around 6:00am on October 2, 10-year-old Sourav was shot in the legs in Gopalcharan village allegedly by the lawmaker for no reason. Sajju Mia, the victim's father, lodged an attempt to murder case against Liton with Sundarganj Police Station the next day.

On October 14, a team of Dhaka DB police arrested Liton from his sister's house in the capital's Uttara and was produced before Gaibandha additional chief judicial magistrate court the following day. After hearing, the court sent Liton to jail, rejecting his bail prayer.

The court also fixed December 14 for hearing the case of attempting to murder the schoolboy and December 18 for hearing the looting and vandalism case.

On October 25, the court also rejected two bail petitions filed by Liton.

Spending almost a month at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, Sourav returned to his Gaibandha home on 27 October.

Liton slams RU VC

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take more than 24 to 48 hours for city Awami League to have you ousted," he threatened and said, "This [university] administration is ours."

He alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance, without paying heed to anything, had recruited 544 people at once (for different university posts) during its tenure. "Can't you do this for just 144 ones [now]? Have you become so transparent?" he said.

Later on, Liton called upon the leaders and supporters of BCL to follow the ideals of the four national leaders, killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Speaking there, Dablu Sarker, general secretary of Rajshahi city Awami

League, asked the RU authorities to appoint the BCL men, who were injured in attacks by Shibir men in the past, in the university administration.

Contacted, RU VC Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin told The Daily Star that some ruling party leaders were threatening him to appoint their men to different university posts, without considering their qualifications and university rules and regulations.

"Every appointment will be made as per the procedures," he added.

Pro-VC Prof Chowdhury Sarwar echoed him.

Both of them rejected the allegation of Liton that they became the VC and pro-VC due to their affiliation with the AL.

The restaurant where you pay

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kale slaw, a Banh Mi sandwich and a rotisserie chicken meal that comes with two sides. Patrons pick their portion size as to not waste food.

The items are not priced, but the menu highlights suggested donations.

"I've always lived by the principal it is better to give than to receive," Combee said. "It's kind of degrading a lot of times when people that are in need are just given a free handout."

If a person can't pay for their dish, they can volunteer for an hour at the restaurant or at the ministry to receive a token worth one meal.

Some people who want to give back also purchase tokens for those in need.

"We have folks who want to give back to

their community, but don't necessarily have the time to volunteer," Combee said.

She added that these tokens help a variety of people, including the "many, many senior citizens who live on a fixed income".

Approximately 17.4 million US households 'were food insecure at some time during 2014', according to the US Department of Agriculture.

Combee has said in a Facebook video that her ministry has fed people in her community who are homeless and struggle with addiction as well as elderly people on fixed incomes and low-income families.

And Mosaic Community Cafe allows those people to have a more traditional dining-out experience and encourages

Matin held at Benapole

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Russell, one of the four suspects already in custody in connection with the murder, said Muntasirul Islam, DMP deputy commissioner (media).

However, Matin's family members claimed that plainclothes men identifying themselves as detectives picked up Matin from in front of his Madhya Badda home on October 20 evening.

Tavella, 50, was shot dead by armed criminals in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone on September 28. He was working as a project manager of a Netherlands-based NGO.

The other three arrested in this connection are Tamjid Ahmed Rubel, Sakawat Hossain Sharif, and Russell Chowdhury. Just like Bhagne Russell, they are all from Badda.

After their arrest, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia had said, "We have information about the so-called Boro Bhai [big brother]. After

his arrest, it will be known who are backing him."

Detective sources had then claimed that the "big brother" is a mid or lower-mid level leader of the BNP.

MA Quayum late last month told The Daily Star, "After detectives picked up my younger brother [MA Matin], and the home minister's statement that a big brother hired and financed hitmen to kill the Italian citizen, I feared that the government was going to implicate me in the matter to malign my image and that of the BNP."

Quayum alleged that the government wanted to make him the "scape goat" by branding him the "Boro Bhai".

Just a few hours after his talks with this paper, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told The Daily Star and a number of other media outlets that Quayum was that big brother.

36 killed in South Sudan plane crash

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the final toll, as some debris is too heavy to be lifted and needs some heavy machinery," Hillary added.

The five-member Armenian crew were all killed, the Armenian foreign ministry said in a statement.

Farmer Ibrahim Mohamed said the plane crashed near to his home, with debris scattered around the hut where his four children were inside, but all were safe.

"The sound was so loud... the plane started descending and landed near my door," Mohamed told AFP.

"One of the tyres broke off and ran into the house -- but thank God it did not injure anyone."

Cargo planes to remote parts of South Sudan often carry passengers as well as goods, and are commonly overloaded.

The main fuselage of the plane ploughed into thick woodland, with debris scattered in a wide area around the riverbank, according to an AFP reporter at the site.

Radio Miraya, a United Nations-backed station, said the plane had been heading to the northern Upper Nile state, crashing some "just 800 metres from Juba International Airport runway."

Police said they did not know how many had been on board the plane when it crashed -- nor if anyone had

been killed or injured on the ground -- and so were unable to give an official death toll.

Large chunks of metal were scattered across the island, which is home to several small farming communities.

The UN peacekeeping mission, which is based close to the airport, said it was aiding the search and recovery operation, and had provided ambulances and troops to help.

Juba's airport is the busiest in the war-torn country, which is the size of Spain and Portugal combined but has only a few tarmacked roads.

The airport hosts regular commercial flights, as well as a constant string

of military aircraft and cargo planes delivering aid to remote regions cut off by road.

Civil war broke out in December 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of planning a coup, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings that has split the poverty-stricken, landlocked country along ethnic lines.

Fighting continues despite an August peace deal, but battles today are far from the capital.

Tens of thousands have been killed, and UN-backed experts have warned of the "concrete risk of famine" before the end of the year, if fighting continues and aid does not

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৪
পাইকপাড়া, মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০১৫-২০১৬ অর্থ বছরের ০১ জানুয়ারি ২০১৬ হতে ৩১ মার্চ ২০১৬ পর্যন্ত র‍্যাব-৪ এর সদস্যদের নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য "The Public Procurement Regulation-2006 এবং 2008" মোতাবেক টিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী টিকাদার/দরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এতদসংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যসমূহ নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হলো:-

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দপ্তরের নাম	অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৪, পাইকপাড়া, মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা।
৪।	কাজের নাম	ভোজ্য তৈল (সয়াবিন) সরবরাহ ০১ জানুয়ারি ২০১৬ হতে ৩১ মার্চ ২০১৬ পর্যন্ত (৩৯ কোয়ার্টার)।
৫।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির স্মারক নং ও	স্মারক নং-৪৯০০/১/পিএলএ/
৬।	তারিখ	০২ নভেম্বর ২০১৫।
৭।	দরপত্রের প্রকৃতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
৮।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব/পিএলএ খাতে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ হতে।
ইত্যাদিঃ		
৯।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	০৫ নভেম্বর ২০১৫।
১০।	দরপত্র/সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৬ নভেম্বর ২০১৫ তারিখ ১৫০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তাং ও সময়	৩০ নভেম্বর ২০১৫ তারিখ ১১০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাব-৪, পাইকপাড়া, মিরপুর-১ চাকায় রক্ষিত সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্রের বাস্কে।
১২।	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার সময় ও তারিখ	৩০ নভেম্বর ২০১৫ তারিখ ১২০০ ঘটিকা। দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তার প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে।
অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা		
১৩।	দরপত্র (সিডিউল) বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	১। অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাব-৪, পাইকপাড়া, মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা। ২। অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাব-২, শেরে বাংলা নগর, আদারগাঁও, ঢাকা। ৩। অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাব-১, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।
	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী/অফিস	১। অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাব-৪, পাইকপাড়া, মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা। ২। অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাব-২, শেরে বাংলা নগর, আদারগাঁও, ঢাকা।
	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	১। অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাব-৪, পাইকপাড়া, মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা।
১৪।	প্রাক দরপত্র সভা	০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৫খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২০০ ঘটিকা।
১৫।	টিইসির সভা	০৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৫খ্রিঃ বেলা ১১০০ ঘটিকা।
১৬।	দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয়ের প্রাক যোগ্যতা এবং শর্তাবলী	১। হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ২। আয়কর সনদপত্র ৩। ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ ৪। ব্যাংক সার্ভিসেস সনদ ৫। অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা বা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।
মালাকাশের বিবরণঃ		
ক্রঃ নং	পরিমাণ/সংখ্যা	দরপত্র তফসিল এর মূল্য/টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)
১৭।	ভোজ্য তৈল (সয়াবিন) সরবরাহ	৭৫০/-
	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	৭০,০০০/-
	কাজের সময়সীমা	০১ জানুয়ারি ২০১৬ হতে ৩১ মার্চ ২০১৬ পর্যন্ত
দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী বিবরণঃ		
১৮।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	শব্দকার লুৎফুল কবির, পিপিএম (সেবা)।
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি।
২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৪, পাইকপাড়া, মিরপুর-১।
২১।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	৯০২৯৫৩৫।
২২।	বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ	ক। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। খ। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবে। গ। দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে। ঘ। দরপত্রে সকল শর্তাবলী পিপিআর/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক কার্যকর হবে।
শব্দকার লুৎফুল কবির, পিপিএম (সেবা) অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি অধিনায়ক		
জিডি-৩৪৭৪		

Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Nalka, Sirajganj

Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2.	Agency	Petrobangla
3.	Procuring entity name	Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited.
4.	Procuring entity district	Sirajganj
5.	Invitation for (including Invitation Ref No. & date)	i) Construction of car parking at PGCL Complex, Nalka, Sirajganj. Tender No: 77.Dev.28(25)/2015-16; Date: 26/10/2015 ii) Repair & maintenance works of Accounts Building, Generator Room and Main Surface Drain at PGCL Complex, Nalka, Sirajganj. Tender No: 77.Dev.28(26)/2015-16; Date: 26/10/2015
6.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
7.	Source of funds	Company Revenue Budget.
8.	Tender selling date (for both works)	From 08/11/2015 to 22/11/2015 during office hour.
9.	Name & address of the office(s) selling tender document (for both works)	i) Accounts & Finance Department, Paschimanchal Gas Co Ltd., Nalka, Sirajganj ii) Dhaka Liaison Office, Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited, Petrocentre (13 th Floor), 3, Kawan Bazar CA, Dhaka-1215.
10.	Name & address of the office receiving and opening tenders (for both works)	Conference Room, Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited, Nalka, Sirajganj.
11.	Last date and time for submission of tenders (for both works)	11:00am on 23/11/2015.
12.	Date and time for opening of tenders (for both works)	11:15am on 23/11/2015.
13.	Eligibility of tenderer (for both works)	a) The contractor shall have current enlistment certificate of civil construction from gov./semi-gov./autonomous organisation. b) The contractor shall have satisfactory completion certificates of similar works (building construction) of at least Taka ten (10) lac under single contract over a period of last five (05) years. c) Average annual construction turnover not less than Taka twenty-five (25) lac over the best three (3) years in the last five (5) years. d) Liquid assets not less than six (06) lac (from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh as per (Form PW2a-3), without alteration issued not earlier than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the day of the original deadline for submission of tenders).
14.	Brief description of the works	The works consist of earth work in excavation, BFS, CC, brick works, CGI sheet roofing, truss, window grill, aluminium window shutter, door frames and shutters, painting works, parking tiles, floor and wall tiles, PVC false ceiling, sanitary and electrical works etc.
15.	Time of work completion (for both works)	120 (one hundred twenty) days.
16.	Price of tender document (for both works)	Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) non-refundable.
17.	Tender security (for both works)	Tk 45,000.00 (forty-five thousand).
18.	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Planning & Development), PGCL.
19.	Address of official inviting tender	Nalka, Sirajganj.
20.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 0751-63818, Fax: 0751-63820, E-mail: planning_pgcl@gmail.com
21.	Details terms & conditions will be available in the tender document.	
22.	If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.	
23.	For any false/incorrect or forged certificate, tender security money shall be forfeited and shall be declared informal.	
24.	Tenderer can submit their proposal directly or by Post Office/Courier Service to the authorised personnel of inviting tender (General Manager, PKD) as per PPR-2008.	
25.	During submission of tender the bidders are requested to enter their proposal record in the respective register at the office.	
26.	One tenderer can submit only one tender of the above two works otherwise both tenders will be declared cancelled.	
27.	The tender shall be processed according to the PPR-2008, PPA-2006 and its subsequent amendments (if any).	
28.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.	

PGPR-9/2015-16
GD-3459

Engr Md. Mahub-Ul Hoque
General Manager (Planning & Development)

Maldives declares

FROM PAGE 16
This week the Maldivian National Defence Force said it had found a remote-controlled bomb near the president's official residence and defused it.

Over a third of the country's 340,000 Sunni Muslim population lives on the capital island Male, where authorities said the device was found.

Yameen has used allegations of an assassination plot to order a major shake-up of his security.

He sacked several of his ministers before arresting Vice President Adeen, who is also due to be impeached.

Yameen's former vice president and running mate in the November 2013 election, Mohamed Jameel, was impeached in July while he was abroad and has not returned to the country.

Yesterday, Jameel accused Yameen of using emergency laws to try to crack down on the opposition.

"Emergency is a ploy to halt planned opposition rally. Nothing to justify this measure," he tweeted.

The Maldives' image as a luxury holiday destination has been badly dented by political unrest in recent years.

Yameen, who came to power in November 2013 following a controversial election, faces international censure over his crackdown on opponents of his regime.

They include opposition leader Nasheed, the country's first democratically elected leader, who was jailed in March after a rushed trial which the UN said was seriously flawed.

The MDP rally in the capital Male is aimed at pressuring Yameen to release Nasheed, whose incarceration has been severely criticised by the UN and international rights groups.

US Secretary of State John Kerry spoke in May of "troubling signs" for democracy in the Maldives, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi this year shelved plans to visit the islands, a move seen as a rebuke to Yameen.

Despite the political unrest, tourism -- the archipelago's mainstay -- is booming with more than one million visitors a year.

Holidaymakers paying top dollar to relax on one of the atolls are usually whisked away by seaplane or boat, bypassing the restive capital Male where extra police have been deployed in recent months.

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