

NEWS IN
brief

Pope visits Kenya

BBC ONLINE

Pope Francis warned poverty fuelled "conflict and terrorism" as he kicked off a landmark first trip to Africa yesterday in Kenya, landing to a rapturous welcome from cheering crowds and traditional dancers. Pope Francis's five-day visit will also see him go to Uganda and Central African Republic, which has been hit by Christian-Muslim conflict.

Net migration to UK hits new record

REUTERS, London

Net migration to Britain has hit a new record high, official data showed yesterday, with a rise in the number of European Union citizens likely to pile pressure on Prime Minister David Cameron ahead of a vote on Britain's membership of the bloc. The Office for National Statistics said net migration to Britain was 336,000 in the year to June, up from 254,000 a year earlier.

India test-fires nuke-capable missile

PTI, Odisha

India yesterday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, as part of a user trial by the Army. The last user trial of Prithvi-II was successfully conducted on February 19, 2015 from the same test range in Odisha.

Chopper crash in Serbia kills 10

REUTERS, Moscow

Ten people on board a Mi-8 helicopter, including employees of Russia's state oil company Rosneft, died when the aircraft crashed in the Krasnoyarsk region in Siberia yesterday, regional transport prosecutors said. There were 25 people total on board, the prosecutors said in a statement.

Pak Taliban leader 'killed by drones'

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

A senior commander of Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been killed in US drone strikes in Afghanistan's Khost province, Pakistani intelligence officials told Al Jazeera. Khalid Mehsud - alias Khan Said Sajna - was killed with 12 fighters on Wednesday when four US drones carried out strikes in the Damma area of Afghanistan.

'Ideals of constitution under attack': Sonia

Rajnath attacks Congress on secularism, says it's the 'most misused' term

NDTV ONLINE

With a sharp attack on the Modi government, Congress president Sonia Gandhi led the opposition yesterday in a special discussion on the Constitution as Parliament convened for the winter session.

"There is a threat to the principles of the Constitution these days... What we have seen in the past few months, is total violation of the values of the constitution," said Gandhi, clearly setting the stage for a confrontation.

Her party has indicated that its primary agenda in the session will be to attack the BJP-led government over what it calls "rising intolerance".

The Congress chief quoted BR Ambedkar, to whom the two-day discussion pays tribute, saying, "No matter how good the Constitution is, if the people who implement it are bad, then the Constitution will also turn out bad. And no matter how bad the Constitution is, if the people who implement it are good, it will turn out to be good," and smiled at protests from the treasury benches, adding, "This is for you and us."

Meanwhile, Union Minister Rajnath Singh sparred with the opposition Congress yesterday over the word "secularism" during a special discussion in Parliament on the Constitution.

"Secularism is the most misused word in the country... This must stop. Because of the rampant misuse of the word, there have been instances of tension in society," Singh said, taking on the Congress, which has come to Parliament this session prepped to attack the government over what it calls "growing intolerance."

Singh contended that BR Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will intervene in the discussion.



Sonia Gandhi



Rajnath Singh

considered the not believe it was necessary to include the words "secular" and "socialist" - added later to the Preamble in the Congress regime of Indira Gandhi - as "these are values core to the Indian ethos."

Singh's argument that the word secular translates in Hindi not to "Dharam Nirpeksh" or non-religious but "Panth Nirpeksh" or non-sectarian, too has drawn counter-attacks from Congress and other opposition leaders.

"Whoever you are and whatever faith you practice, you are respected by the government of India. Splitting hair on the word secularism is mere wordplay," said Shashi Tharoor of the Congress outside Parliament.

The Left's Sitaram Yechury said, "The Home Minister's speech shows the real agenda, why this government wanted a Constitution Day. They want a Hindu Rashtra as the RSS never accepted secular."

He pointed out that "all our official parliament bills that are translated in Hindi use the term dharm nirpeksh."

Parliamentary affairs minister Venkaiah Naidu said, "The nation knows who has subverted the Constitution for personal reason or who has amended it by putting people behind bars. It is the history of the Congress. They have no moral right to criticize."

It was clear that battle-lines are firmly drawn for the session when soon after Singh's speech, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi alleged, "we have seen in the past few months, a total violation of the values of the constitution."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will intervene in the discussion.

INTOLERANCE ROW
85pc Indians back BJP over Aamir Khan

TNN, New Delhi

Actor Aamir Khan's onscreen popularity might be indisputable, but his comment on intolerance doesn't seem to have impressed many.

An online poll on timesofindia.com shows little support for the actor who said his wife Kiran Rao had wondered if they should move out of the country, as she feared for the safety of their son in a climate of insecurity.

Aamir's comments evoked strong, negative reactions from the BJP as well as from some Bollywood actors.

BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain on Tuesday said no country in the world is better for Muslims than "incredible and 'atulya' (unmatched)" India and no neighbour better than a Hindu.

We asked our readers if they agreed with Hussain's remarks against the actor.

A whopping 86.5 percent of respondents agreed with Hussain's reaction to Aamir Khan's comments.

Of a total 22,694 people who participated in our poll, 19,627 said they agreed with Hussain and only 2,747 said they didn't agree with him.

A total of 320 respondents voted, but refrained from taking sides.

The actor on Wednesday issued a statement saying he is proud to be an Indian and that while he does not plan to leave the country,

DEADLY STRIKE ON MSF HOSPITAL
Heat grows on US for int'l probe

AFP, Kabul

Pressure was growing yesterday for an international inquiry into a catastrophic US strike on an MSF hospital in Afghanistan, after the military detailed "tragic but avoidable" errors but refused to say if there would be an independent investigation.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) slammed American forces for "gross negligence" Wednesday after the US commander in Afghanistan said the October 3 strike on the charity-run hospital in the northern city of Kunduz was "caused primarily by human error".

The raid killed 30 people and forced the charity to close the trauma centre -- the only one in the region -- while stirring an avalanche of global condemnation.



General John Campbell, speaking at Nato headquarters in Kabul Wednesday, blamed in part the fatigue of US troops who had been battling a Taliban offensive in Kunduz for five days, adding that the mistake was "compounded by process and equipment failures".

The general said during Wednesday's press conference that individuals involved in the attack had been suspended pending "standard military justice", but refused to give details.

"The frightening catalogue of errors outlined today illustrates gross negligence on the part of US forces and violations of the rules of war," MSF general director Christopher Stokes said.

Human Rights Watch demanded an independent investigation, saying "serious questions" remained about "whether the attackers knowingly or recklessly fired on a functioning hospital".

The rights group added: "This warrants a criminal investigation into possible war crimes, but the Pentagon did

North, South Korea hold rare talks

AFP, Seoul

North and South Korean officials sat down yesterday for rare talks aimed at setting up a sustainable high-level dialogue that has constantly eluded the two rivals.

The meeting at the border truce village of Panmunjom began shortly before 1:00pm and marked the first inter-governmental interaction since August when the two sides met to defuse a crisis that had pushed them to the brink of an armed conflict.

That meeting ended with a joint agreement that included a commitment to resume high-level talks, although no precise timeline was given.

Yesterday's talks in Panmunjom will try to avoid a repetition of that failure by thrashing out an agenda, a venue and such protocol issues as who should attend the full-fledged dialogue.

The start of the talks was delayed by several hours due to a problem with the communication links that allow senior officials in Seoul and Pyongyang to monitor proceedings.

After an initial round lasting about 90 minutes, both sides took a break to confer with their respective capitals, a Unification Ministry official said.

"The mood was sincere, but there were differences," he acknowledged.

Although any dialogue between the two Koreas is generally welcomed as a step in the right direction, precedent offers little hope

New cabinet to include ethnic groups, parties

Says Myanmar's Suu Kyi

REUTERS, Yangon

language service broadcast yesterday.

"As I said earlier, we will cooperate with others with the spirit of sharing our success with them based on building national reconciliation. Of course the NLD will lead. It is the mandate the people have given to us at our request.

"We will include ethnic representatives who are not NLD members and others who can benefit the country."

The interview did not touch on the persecuted minority Rohingya Muslims who were not allowed to vote in the election and are effectively stateless in their own land.

The NLD captured enough seats in the national-level legislature to have its choice of president, who is elected by members of parliament. The president then selects the cabinet. Suu Kyi has said that regardless of who is appointed president, she will call the



People pay tribute at the Gymkhana police memorial marking the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, in Mumbai, India yesterday. A total of 166 people were killed and more than 300 others were injured when 10 heavily-armed Islamist militants stormed the city on November 26, 2008.

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Invitation for Tender

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| 1 | Agency | Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO) |
| 2 | Procuring Entity Name | Procurement Division, DESCO |
| 3 | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka |
| 4 | Invitation for | Procurement of Cable Accessories |
| 5 | Tender No. | 39/2015 |
| 6 | Invitation Ref No. | DESCO/Procurement/Local Tender/2015/1003 |
| 7 | Date | 24/11/2015 |

KEY INFORMATION

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|---|--------------------|--|
| 8 | Procurement Method | Open Tendering Method (Single Stage Single Envelope) |
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FUNDING INFORMATION

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|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| 9 | Budget and Source of Funds | DESCO's own fund |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

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| 10 | Tender Name | Procurement of Cable Accessories |
| 11 | Tender Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time | Last Selling Date 21 /12/2015 Closing & Opening Date 22/12/2015 Closing Time 12.00 Noon Opening Time 2.30 PM |

| | Selling | Receiving & | Opening |
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