

Aussie PM suffers historic defeat over refugees

Australia's conservative minority government suffered a damaging political defeat yesterday, becoming the first administration in nearly a century to lose a vote on major legislation and sparking calls for a snap election.

Despite a bruising and highly personal lobbying effort, Prime Minister Scott Morrison was defeated by MPs who insisted refugees held in offshore facilities have the right to be transferred to Australia for medical treatment.

Asylum seekers in offshore camps welcomed the move. It is the first time in decades that an Australian government has lost a vote on a substantive piece of legislation, sparking applause and cheers from observers in the parliamentary viewing gallery in Canberra.

Morrison lost his parliamentary majority last year and has been relying on crossbenchers to keep control of the lower House of Representatives.

But the 75-74 vote -- which came on the first sitting day of parliament this year -- in favour of the refugee bill opposed by the government is a blow to the already embattled prime minister and raised questions about whether he can remain in office.

When the sitting government last lost a vote on substantive legislation in 1929, then prime minister Stanley Bruce immediately called an election, and lost it.

The government of prime minister Arthur Fadden lost a symbolic budget vote in 1941 and immediately resigned. Morrison ruled out calling a snap election, saying the

vote was not a no-confidence motion in his government and he was still planning for a national poll in May.

"These are not matters that go to issues of confidence and I don't consider them in those terms," Morrison told reporters in Canberra.

The bill passed with the support of the main opposition Labor Party and crossbenchers from the left-leaning Greens and independent MPs.

Many of the independent MPs have indicated they want the government to serve its full term, which ends in May.

The bill, which is an amendment to government legislation, was first passed by the upper house in December, and will return to the Senate for a vote today after several changes were made to it.

It is expected to pass as the coalition does not have the numbers in the upper house to block it.

The push to speed up medical evacuations was first made by independent MP Kerryn Phelps last year after she won the Liberal Party stronghold of Wentworth when former PM Malcolm Turnbull was ousted in a party coup.

Since then, the government had lurched from crisis to crisis, and a disastrous showing in elections in Victoria state intensified expectations it is heading for defeat in May.

The vote in favour of the bill came amid growing concern about the wellbeing of asylum-seekers sent to Nauru and Papua New Guinea, with reports of abuse, suicide and lengthy detention periods.

Lower House passes asylum bill in rebuke to govt

Move welcomed by asylum seekers in offshore camps



Japan demands apology from South Korea

'COMFORT WOMEN' ROW

Japan demands apology from South Korea

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan said yesterday it had lodged a complaint with South Korea and after a Korean lawmaker said the Japanese emperor should apologise to "comfort women" forced to serve in Japanese military brothels in World War Two.

Relations between Japan and South Korea, both US allies, have amid an intensifying row over their wartime history. That includes Japan's 1910-45 occupation of the Korean peninsula and its use of comfort women, many of them Korean.

South Korea's National Assembly Speaker Moon Hee-sang said in an interview with Bloomberg last week Japanese Emperor Akihito, "as the son of the main culprit of war crimes", should apologise to the women before he steps down at the end of April.

That would be a sign that Tokyo wanted to end the prolonged dispute, Moon said. Japan fought World War Two in the name of Akihito's father, Emperor Hirohito.

Pak censors NYT article by activist critical of military

AFP, Islamabad

An opinion piece in the International New York Times criticising Pakistan's powerful army was censored by its local publisher yesterday, replaced by a blank space in a country where it can be dangerous to reprimand the military.

The article by Manzoor Pashteen, the leader of a movement which calls for an end what it says are enforced disappearances and extra-judicial murders of ethnic Pashtuns by security officials, was widely available online, however.

It was headlined "The Military Says Pashtuns Are Traitors. We Just Want Our Rights". In it, the former veterinary student detailed how the impoverished northwest, along the Afghan border, has been "desolated" in Pakistan's long fight with militancy.

He described his group, the Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM), as "peaceful". "We held numerous sit-ins and protests and continued to hope that Pakistan's leaders would try to address our concerns.

Instead, they responded with intimidation and violence," he wrote.

"After every major protest, police arrests and charges PTM activists and supporters with rioting, treason or terrorism," he continued.

He also accused the security establishment of ensuring that "almost nothing is reported about our movement in the mainstream Pakistani newspapers and television networks".

The piece was "removed for print by our publishing alliance in Pakistan. The New York Times and its editorial staff had no role in its removal," a note at the bottom of the empty single column on the front page said.

The New York Times did not immediately respond to a request for comment from AFP.

The paper is printed in Pakistan by the local English-language Express Tribune, which regularly censors NY Times articles, including a 2017 piece on an anti-gay crackdown in Chechnya and a piece from 2016 entitled "SexTalk for Muslim Women".



Sylhet City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet
www.scc.gov.bd

Memo No. SCC/Engr/PW-1/100/986 Date: 11/02/2019

e-Tender Notice-13/2018-19 (Re-Tender)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives.	
2. Agency	Sylhet City Corporation.	
3. Project/program name	Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP), LGED.	
4. Tender ID No.	Description of work	Last date of tender submission
284025	Maintenance of street light	13/03/2019
5. Name, designation & address of PE	Engr. Nur Azizur Rahman Chief Engineer, Sylhet City Corporation, 0821-719534	
6.	This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.	
7.	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.	
8.	Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).	

Chief Engineer
Sylhet City Corporation

N Korea may have made more nukes

Says study as planned second summit between Trump and Kim looms

REUTERS, Washington

North Korea has continued to produce bomb fuel while in denuclearization talks with the United States and may have produced enough in the past year to add as many as seven nuclear weapons to its arsenal, according to a study released just weeks before a planned second summit between the North Korean leader and US President Donald Trump.

However, the country's freeze in nuclear and missile testing since 2017 mean that North Korea's weapons program probably poses less of a threat than it did at the end of that year, the report by Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation found.

Siegfried Hecker, a former director of the US Los Alamos weapons laboratory in New Mexico who is now at Stanford and was one of the report's authors, told Reuters analysis of satellite imagery showed North Korea's production of bomb fuel continued in 2018.

He said spent fuel generated from operation of the 5 megawatt reactor at its main nuclear plant at Yongbyon from 2016-18 appeared to have been reprocessed starting in May and would have produced an estimated 5-8 kg of weapons-grade plutonium.

This combined with production of perhaps 150 kg of highly enriched uranium may have allowed North Korea to increase the number of weapons in its arsenal by between five and seven, the Stanford report said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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স্মারক নং ৩৭.০৩.৬৪০০.০০০.২০.০১.১৮.৩৭৯ তারিখঃ ০৯/০২/২০১৯খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়।
২	এজেন্সি	কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর।
৩	সংগ্রহকারীর নাম	অধ্যক্ষ, টেকনিক্যাল স্কুল ও কলেজ, নওগাঁ।
৪	অর্থ বছর	২০১৮-১৯
৫	বাজেট	রাজস্ব।
৬	সংগ্রহের ধরণ	মালামাল।
৭	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	০১
৮	প্যাকেজের বিবরণ	কাঁচামাল ও যুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ।
৯	অনুমোদনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষ।
১০	সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি	খোলা দরপত্র।
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	১২/০২/২০১৯ হইতে ২৫/০২/২০১৯খ্রিঃ বিকাল ০২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান ও তারিখ	অধ্যক্ষ, টেকনিক্যাল স্কুল ও কলেজ, নওগাঁ এর দপ্তর, ২৬/০২/২০১৯খ্রিঃ বিকাল ০২.০০টা পর্যন্ত। ডাকযোগে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	অধ্যক্ষ, টেকনিক্যাল স্কুল ও কলেজ, নওগাঁ এর দপ্তর, ২৬/০২/২০১৯খ্রিঃ দুপুর ০৩.৩০টা।

মোঃ রমজান আলী
অধ্যক্ষ

ROW OVER DIVISIVE STATUE

Myanmar cops crack down on protesters

AFP, Yangon

Police fired rubber bullets into a crowd of several thousand demonstrators in eastern Myanmar yesterday, activists said, as protests mount over a new and controversial statue.

The bronze structure depicts the father of de facto civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi -- Aung San -- on horseback and was unveiled early this month in the capital of Kayah state despite strong opposition.

Aung San is widely revered by the majority ethnic Bamar (Burmese) population as an independence hero for his role in the struggle against British colonial rule.

But the general, who was assassinated before independence in 1948, is viewed less favourably among many ethnic minority groups, who see him as a symbol of Bamar domination.

Yesterday, several thousand people marched to the Kayah state parliament only to be blocked by police in riot gear, who were lined up behind rolls of barbed wire.

One protest leader, Myo Hlaing Win, told AFP by phone that 10 people had been injured after police fired rubber bullets into the crowd.

"They attacked unarmed people," he said. "This should not happen under a democratic government."

Images showed medics cleaning up blood streaming from wounds of dazed-looking protesters, many dressed in local traditional red woven garments.

Statues of Aung San have been defaced in border states and the Suu Kyi-led government's plan to rename a bridge after him triggered mass protests in eastern Mon state in 2017.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Natore PWD Division, Natore
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Memo No: 1015 Date: 10/02/2019 Eng.

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mentioned below:

Tender ID No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Opening date and time
278561	Construction of Model Mosque and Islamic Cultural Center at Boraigram Upazila of Natore District including Civil Internal Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification External Water Supply & Electrification and Ancillary works under the project Establishing 560 Model Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centers in each Zila & Upazila 1st Revised	03-Mar-2019 17:00	04-Mar-2019 12:00

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Zahidul Islam
Executive Engineer (cc)
Natore PWD Division, Natore

Human triumphs over AI debater

CNN ONLINE

People are great at arguing. But a project from IBM shows that computers are getting quite good at it, too.

On Monday, Harish Natarajan, a grand finalist in 2016's World Debating Championships, faced off against IBM's Project Debater -- a computer touted by the company as the first artificial-intelligence system built to meaningfully debate humans. Natarajan won, but the computer demonstrated the increasingly complex arguments that AI is starting to make.

Project Debater, which has been in the works since 2012, is designed to come up with coherent, convincing speeches of its own, while taking in the arguments of a human opponent and creating its own rebuttal. It even formulates its own closing argument. To generate its arguments and rebuttals, Project Debater uses newspaper and magazine articles from its own database, and also takes in the nuances of the human opponent's arguments. It is not connected to the internet and cannot crib arguments from sites like Wikipedia.

Monday's debate, which was organized by non-profit debate-hosting company Intelligence Squared US, was held in front of an audience in San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Invitation for Tenders

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
Local Government Division (LGD)
Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP)-JAWTNO Project
DPHE Bhaban, Level-08
14, Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000
Memo No. ISPP/PMU-37/GME/2016/473 Date: 12 February, 2019

1. Ministry/division	Local Government Division.
2. Agency	Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP)-JAWTNO Project.
3. Procuring entity name	Project Director, Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP)-JAWTNO Project.
4. Procuring entity code	N/A
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6. Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Growth Monitoring Equipment.
7. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method-National (OTM-National)-Framework contract.

FUNDING INFORMATION

8. Budget & source of funds	Development Budget/International Development Association (IDA).
9. Selling of tender document will commence on	Date of publication of the IFT (During office hours).
10. Selling of tender documents will close on	10 March, 2019 at 4:00pm.
11. Tender closing date & time	11 March, 2019 at 2:00pm.
12. Tender opening date & time	11 March, 2019 at 2:30pm.
13. Name & address of the office for selling tender document, pre-tendering meeting, receiving tender and opening tender	Office of the Project Director, Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP)-JAWTNO Project, Level 8, DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
14. Place, date/time of pre-tendering meeting	As mentioned above, 26 February, 2019 at 11:00am.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15. Eligibility of tenderer	1. The tenderer should be a manufacturer/distributor/sole agent/ supplier of growth monitoring/medical equipment; 2. The tenderer should have experience in supply of similar goods of at least two (2) contracts successfully completed within the last five (5) years, each with a value of at least Tk. 25,00,000.00 (Taka twenty five lakh). Years counting backward from the date of opening of the tender. 3. The tenderer must submit samples fully complying with the required technical specifications. 4. Tenderers shall have to fulfill the criteria stipulated in the tender documents.			
16. Brief description of the goods	Growth Monitoring Equipment: Height-length Measuring Board Wooden; Spring type scale for infants with trouser; and Digital weighing scale.			
17. Brief description of related services	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Growth Monitoring Equipment.			
18. Price of tender documents	BDT 2,000.00 (Taka two thousand) in the form of Payment Order in favour of the Project Director, Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP) Project.			
19. Package No.	Identification of Lot-single lot	Location	Tender security amount	Completion time in weeks/months
G-8	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Growth Monitoring Equipment	444 Unions in 43 Upazilas of Mymensingh and Rangpur Division	Tk 4,00,000.00 (Taka four lakh)	Delivery date will be as per call-off order within duration of the contract.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

20. Name of the official inviting tender	Shaikh Md. Kابدul Islam.
21. Designation of the official inviting tender	Project Director (Additional Secretary).
22. Address of official inviting tender	Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP)-JAWTNO Project, Level-8, DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
23. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 88-02-55130514 E-mail: pd.ispp.lgd@gmail.com
24. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender without assigning any reason or cause whatsoever.	

Shaikh Md. Kابدul Islam
Project Director (Additional Secretary)