

International

Pakistan steps up mortar attacks in Kashmir: India

JAMMU, India, Sept 19: Pakistani gunners have stepped up mortar attacks on Indian posts in southern Kashmir, a day after Indian troops gunned down 15 Muslim guerrillas in the region, an army spokesman said here today, reports AFP.

Unofficial reports have placed the number of militants killed at 25, but there was no immediate confirmation.

Defence Ministry spokesman Major Sanjay Khanna said Pakistani gunners since Monday night had fired at least 450 mortar shells in Kashmir's Poonch district, some 90 km north of the winter capital of Jammu.

"The firing began late Monday night and is still continuing," Khanna said, adding that Indian artillery was responding to the intensified attack from across the border of the divided Himalayan region.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the artillery duels between the two rival armies, positioned along the Line of Control that divides the Indian and Pakistani zones.

The military spokesman added that similar firing was also taking place at the village of Mengana in Poonch district, some 250 km north-

west of Jammu.

Mengana was the site of a fierce gun battle Monday between Indian soldiers and cross-border Islamic guerrillas which left at least 15 suspected militants dead.

Major Khanna said a military operation was still taking place in Mengana to flush out nine remaining guerrillas, and added that Pakistani gunners had so far fired some 100 mortar shells to bog down the Indian offensive in the rugged region.

The Muslim separatist campaign in the Indian zone of Kashmir has claimed some 34,000 lives since 1989.

India, which controls the southern two-thirds of Kashmir, accuses Pakistan of arming and training separatist rebels, a charge Islamabad denies.

The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since 1947.

The two South Asian adversaries came dangerously close to a fourth war last summer when India launched a full-scale military offensive to evict Pakistani-backed forces from the Kargil peaks of Kashmir.

'Olive oil may protect against colon cancer'

LONDON, Sept 19: British doctors added olive oil today to the list of foods that may help to prevent colon cancer. A new study by researchers at the University of Oxford adds to the growing body of evidence that shows olive oil, a staple of the Mediterranean diet, is as good as fresh fruit and vegetables in keeping colon cancer at bay, reports Reuters.

Dr Michael Goldacre and a team of researchers at the Institute of Health Sciences compared cancer rates, diets and Olive oil consumption in 28 countries including Europe, Britain, the United States, Brazil, Colombia, Canada and China.

Tension rises in Peru, official dismisses possibility of coup

Elections in March

LIMA, Sept 19: The political climate in Peru was increasingly tense Monday night as an opposition rally demanded President Alberto Fujimori step down following his shock call for elections, but a top government official dismissed the possibility of a coup d'etat, reports AFP.

Some 5,000 people gathered in San Martin Square, just a kilometre away from the presidential palace, to cheer on opposition leader Alejandro Toledo, who demanded that Fujimori step down.

"For the health and stability of the nation let us form an emergency government presided by

someone who has the credibility and the moral and democratic resolve to call new general elections," Toledo told the crowd.

The former presidential candidate also called on Fujimori to dismantle the National Intelligence Service (SIN) by decree and arrest its head and former top presidential aide Vladimiro Montesinos.

His call came amid conflicting reports that Montesinos, viewed here as the real power behind the presidency, had been arrested, after the release of a video showing him bribing an opposition lawmaker.

Authorities said intelligence chief was merely helping them

with their investigations.

The release last week of the clandestinely filmed video triggered a major political crisis in the country, leading Fujimori to announce new elections in which he said he would not run again as a candidate.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Alberto Bustamante announced Monday that Peru would hold a new general election in March 2001.

The election date was given in the wake of President Alberto Fujimori's surprise announcement Saturday that the country would hold new elections, after his government was compromised by the release of a video showing a top presidential aide bribing an opposition lawmaker.



Spanish King Juan Carlos (R) talks with Moroccan King Mohammed VI (C) as his sister Lalla Meryem looks on at Orient Palace in Madrid at a gala dinner for the Moroccan monarch on his state visit to Spain on Monday. — AFP photo

Sharif's trial

Pak court urged to summon Musharraf as complainant

KARACHI, Sept 19: A lawyer for deposed Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif today urged the Appeal Court to summon military ruler General Pervez Musharraf to give evidence about a power struggle that led to the October coup, reports AFP.

If General Musharraf's first speech after the coup on October 12 is the case against Sharif, as stated by the prosecution, he must appear as a complainant and record his statement," Bar-

ister Azizullah Sheikh said. Musharraf should be called to tell about the power struggle between him and Sharif, Sheikh said, arguing the tussle commenced amid a border conflict in the Kargil region of the disputed state of Kashmir last year and culminated with Sharif's ouster.

Sharif was convicted by an anti-terrorism court in Karachi on April 6 for trying to prevent the landing in Pakistan of a jet carrying Musharraf and 198 passen-

gers from Sri Lanka.

Shortly before the coup, Sharif had replaced Musharraf by general Khwaja Ziauddin as the country's army chief.

"I have to seek instruction from the government before giving any reply to the defence application," Chief prosecutor Raja Qureshi told the Sindh High Court.

The court is hearing the prosecution's arguments in Sharif's appeal against a sentence of life imprisonment imposed for hijacking and terrorism.

Barak casts doubt over peace accord with PA

JERUSALEM, Sept 19: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak voiced doubt today on the likelihood of striking a peace deal with the Palestinians, with negotiations stumbling over Jerusalem and its holy sites, reports AFP.

"I'm not sure there will be an accord, and if there isn't we will be united in the knowledge that the current government has done everything to conclude a deal and to avoid the tragedy that could occur in the event of failure," he said.

Barak told public radio there could not be a deal without settling the most sensitive issue of Jerusalem, the holy city claimed by both Israel and the Palestinians as their capital.

"To reach an accord without Jerusalem would be a return to the policy of the ostrich sticking its head in the sand," he added.

Although the two sides have been in contact since the collapse of the US-hosted Camp David peace summit almost two months ago, there have been no formal negotiations and they missed a mid-September deadline for a final pact.

Barak also hailed what he said was a "spectacular turnaround" in the international position towards Israel over the past 18 months and worldwide support for its stance in the peace process.

Flood in SE Asia affects 4m

PHNOM PENH, Sept 19: More than four million people are now affected by the worst floods in a generation sweeping down the Mekong River basin, the heart of mainland Southeast Asia's rice bowl, officials and international aid workers said today, reports AFP.

Many flooded areas in southern Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam could not be reached to deliver emergency relief, according to the International Red Cross which has begun issuing lifebelts as a last resort to residents in the Mekong delta.

"We are talking about the highest floods in a generation right down the Mekong," Peter Walker, Southeast Asia chief for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, told AFP on a flood-inspection stop-over in Cambodia.

"The total level is starting to reach some of the peaks of the 1960s," he added.

Walker said more than four million people may be affected by the flooding brought on by early monsoon rains.

"It is very difficult to estimate. Almost by definition, the worst hit areas are impossible to get to. You can't get there by road, and small boats are not able to navigate the fast flowing waters," he said.

"I think we are going to be in crisis mode, certainly as far as the Mekong delta in Vietnam is concerned until the end of October. Further upstream in Cambodia,

Laos and Thailand it may go down earlier."

The national committee for disaster management in Cambodia -- where the human tragedy caused by rising flood waters has been greatest -- reported three more deaths Tuesday, bringing the total toll to 119.

The committee said in a report obtained by AFP that floods were now affecting 17 of the country's 23 provinces, raising the number of people affected to in excess of 1.4 million.

At least 30 people have died and 500,000 affected in neighbouring Vietnam, according to local authorities.

And in Thailand the interior ministry's civil defence department said in a statement as many as 1.9 million Thais had been affected by the floods, while 28 people had died.

Cambodia's Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology, Lim Kean Hor, told AFP Tuesday Phnom Penh was in regular contact with authorities in neighbouring Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

"We are in regular contact over the flood situation. In Laos there is less rain, so we expect the water flowing (down the Mekong River) to Phnom Penh to lessen," he said.

But Walker said less rainfall in Laos and northern Cambodia would not translate into flood relief further downstream.



Security officials examine the fruit market bomb blast site scattered with blood-soaked shoes in the capital Islamabad yesterday. — AFP photo

N Z offers amnesty to illegal immigrants

WELLINGTON, Sept 19: The New Zealand government today announced an amnesty for up to nearly 8,000 illegal immigrants who have over-stayed their visitor permits ahead of tough new laws coming into effect on October 1, reports BSS.

Immigration Minister Lianne Dalziel said it was a one-off mea-

sure offering "well-settled" over-stayers who have been in the country for five years or more to regularise their status before new laws allow them to be deported immediately with no appeal.

She said New Zealand had an estimated 18,900 to 22,400...

Iraq urges UN to end ban on humanitarian contracts

BAGHDAD, Sept 19: Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf has urged UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to put an end to the US and British blockages of humanitarian contracts; the official INA news agency reported today, says AFP.

According to INA, Sahhaf met with Annan in New York Monday and explained that Washington and London were "blocking aid contracts and deliberately delay-

UN envoy to visit Myanmar next month

YANGON, Sept 19: UN special envoy Razali Ismail is expected to visit Myanmar in early October, local press said today, reports AFP.

The envoy, who first came to Yangon in early July, is expected to visit again in October, the Myanmar Times said.

On his first visit, Razali, a Malaysian who served as an ambassador to the UN, met with military and opposition leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi in an attempt to overcome the stalemate between the junta and Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD).

BRIEFLY

Indian UN troops hurt in Lebanon:

Three Indian peacekeepers in the UN force in Lebanon were injured, two seriously, in an overnight road accident at the country's borders with Israel, a UN spokesman said, AFP says from Rashaya.

The soldiers were injured when their military vehicle accidentally overturned on a border road in Abbasiyyeh, he told AFP. Two peacekeepers were transported in serious condition to Israel by helicopter, he said. A third suffered moderate injuries and was taken to the hospital of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the Lebanese coastal border town of Naqoura, he said.


Man abducted in Philippines:

Unknown gunmen abducted a grocer here Tuesday in the third kidnapping in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao in a week, police said, AFP reports from Cotabato.

The gunmen blocked 28-year-old Michael Ang's car while he was on his way to his store and forced him into another vehicle. He was later put onto a boat which slipped out of the city by way of a tributary of the Rio Grande river, said Superintendent Amerudin Hamdag of the Cotabato police.



A Cambodian woman holding a child walks through a flooded area in Phnom Penh yesterday. — AFP photo



বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ঋণ সংস্থা

প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কৃষি নির্ভর শিল্প এবং কম্পিউটার সফটওয়্যার ও তথ্য প্রযুক্তি শিল্প খাতের জন্য বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ঋণ সংস্থা ১০ শতাংশ হারে সুদ ধার্য করেছে।

দেশের সম্ভাবনাময় দু'টো শিল্প খাত যথ - কৃষি নির্ভর শিল্প এবং কম্পিউটার সফটওয়্যার ও তথ্য প্রযুক্তি শিল্প খাতে উদ্যোক্তাদেরকে বিনিয়োগে উৎসাহিত এবং আকর্ষিত করার লক্ষ্যে বিশেষ হ্রাসকৃত সুদের হারে অর্থাৎ শতকরা মাত্র ১০ ভাগ হারে সুদে ঋণ প্রদানের সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হয়েছে। উল্লেখ্য অন্যান্য খাতগুলোর জন্য সংস্থার প্রচলিত সুদের হার বলবৎ থাকবে।

দেশের শিল্প খাতে কাংখিত প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনকরতঃ দেশের আর্থসামাজিক অবস্থার উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ঋণ সংস্থা কতিপয় শিল্প খাতকে অগ্রাধিকার প্রাপ্ত শিল্প খাত হিসাবে চিহ্নিত করেছে। অগ্রাধিকার প্রাপ্ত শিল্প খাতগুলো হচ্ছেঃ (১) কৃষি নির্ভর শিল্প যথা- দেশীয় ফল সংরক্ষণ ও প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ শিল্প (আলু সংরক্ষণের নিমিত্তে হিমাপার ব্যতীত); (২) কৃত্রিম ফুল উৎপাদন; (৩) কম্পিউটার সফটওয়্যার এবং তথ্য প্রযুক্তি; (৪) ইলেকট্রনিক্স; (৫) হিমায়িত খাদ্য; (৬) পুষ্প চাষ; (৭) উপহার সামগ্রী; (৮) অবকাঠামো; (৯) পাটজাতপণ্য; (১০) জুয়েলারী এবং ডায়মন্ড কাটিং ও পলিশিং (১১) চামড়া; (১২) তৈল ও গ্যাস; (১৩) গুটি পোকাকার চাষ ও রেশম শিল্প; (১৪) খেলনা (Stuffed toys); এবং (১৫) বস্ত্র শিল্প (তৈরি পোশাক ব্যতীত)।

জিডি-৮৭৩



Bangladesh Power Development Board

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Invitation of Local Tender

1. Local sealed tenders are invited by BPDB Project Director 18-Towns Power Distribution Project from renowned manufacturers for the procurement of materials for 18-Towns Power Distribution Project (Phase-II), as detailed below.

SL No	Tender enquiry No & date	Description of equipment/materials	Quantity	Cost of tender document	Tender receiving and opening date
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	PUR-18T/29/2000 Dt 07.09.2000	Lot-1 Galvanized Fittings for SPC Pole (Type-A) Lot-2 Galvanized Fittings for SPC Pole (Type-9/200)	Lot	Tk 1000/-	02.10.2000

2. A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of written application to the undersigned and upon payment of non-refundable fee of taka as mentioned in column-5 above against the tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Project Director, 18-Town Power Distribution Project, PDB, Dhaka.


3. A bid bond equivalent to 2.5% of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.

4. Tender will be received in the office of the undersigned upto 11.00 am and will be opened at 11.15 am in the prescribed date as mentioned in column-6 above in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives, if any. Tender shall neither be sent by post nor it will be sold on the opening day. Offer send by Post/Telex/DHL/Fax will neither be received nor it will be accepted.

5. Due to unavoidable circumstances (if any) selling and receiving date shall be shifted to immediate next working days.

Project Director
18-Town Power Distribution Project
BPDB, Dhaka

Biddut/Jana-505(5)/2000-2001
GD-869



URBAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECT

Nagar Bhaban
6th Floor, Room # 620, Bulbaria
Dhaka City Corporation

VACANCY NOTICE

HEALTH FINANCE SPECIALIST

Under the Urban Primary Health Care Project, Jointly Financed by Government of Bangladesh & Asian Development Bank applications are invited from dynamic persons to work as consultant to fill-up the following position purely on temporary basis for a period of 30 months. The position is Dhaka based and 20% of the time may have to be spent in the other three City Corporations.

DUTIES:

- The Health Financing Specialist will assist Project Director (PD) & City Corporations (CCs) to track expenditure for Urban Primary Health Care Project with each CC, Local Government Division (LGD) & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, visit four project cities to obtain accurate & up-to-date information regarding health expenditure, track & inform of budget allocation for Primary Health Care, provide training on financial planning, budgeting, accounting and presentation of financial data for staff of the four CCs, liaison with the different Ministries, on financial matters, supervise accounting, budgeting, record keeping and reporting on financial matters of the project, advise senior LGD and CC staff on financial policies and other specific task as may be assigned by the PD.
- Candidate should be a Chartered Accountant/MBA/Masters in Accounting & Relevant Subjects. Minimum of 10 years experience including at least five years in a similar position. Experience of working with ADB, World Bank and other similar projects will be given preference.
- Excellent computer skills and proficiency both in English & Bangla is essential for the above position.
- Remuneration will be based as per the existing ERD & ADB regulation (Equivalent of US\$ 1,000 per month).
- Female candidates are encouraged to apply.
- Closing date for applications will be 10th October 2000 up to office hours. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.
- No TA/DA will be permissible for the interview.
- Candidates with the above qualifications and requirements are invited to apply by submitting their detailed curriculum vitae with all academic, experience & other supporting papers duly attested, correspondence address, telephone number and at least three references with their current telephone number to the following address.

Project Director
Urban Primary Health Care Project
Room # 620, 6th Floor,
Dhaka City Corporation

DCC/PRD/108/00-01
GD-871