

## CPI (M) TO MANMOHAN GOVT Stop IAEA talks or face elections

PTI, New Delhi

In a fresh threat against going ahead with the Indo-US nuclear deal, the CPI (M) has asked the government to end the talks with IAEA by this month or be prepared for mid-term polls to Lok Sabha.

"When they (officials) come back from talks with IAEA, we will tell them (government) there is no need to go ahead (with the deal). The issue must be resolved by end of December. If they still go ahead, then we will have to be prepared for Lok Sabha mid-term polls," CPI (M) General Secretary Prakash Karat told the Delhi state CPI (M) meeting on Saturday.

In perhaps the clearest threat with a definite deadline, Karat made his remarks even as a team of Indian officials left for Vienna to resume their second round of talks with IAEA for India-specific safeguards from Monday.

The first round of talks was held after the Left parties allowed

the government to carry on negotiations with IAEA with the condition that no agreement will be signed but would be brought back for the UPA-Left committee to go through.

Karat said the Left parties did not want the government to fall before Gujarat assembly elections lest the BJP benefited from it. "You may not be worried but we are. We don't want the BJP to win the polls. We have to defeat the Modi government so we don't want to disturb the situation now," he said.

The Left parties have been warning the government not to go ahead with the deal but the prime minister has expressed hopes that the opponents of nuclear deal could be persuaded to accept it.

After the debate on the nuclear deal in the recently ended Parliament session, the opposition BJP and Left parties and the SP had asked the government not to go ahead with the deal.

## Opposition alliance mulls boycott of Pak polls

Diplomats asked not to comment on domestic politics

AFP, Lahore/ Islamabad

An alliance of Pakistani opposition parties was set to meet in the eastern city of Lahore yesterday and was expected to make a decision on whether to boycott January 8 polls, party officials said.

The All Parties Democratic Movement including the parties of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan and Islamist alliance Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal have called for boycotting the elections.

APDM component parties say that free and fair elections were not possible under the hand-picked judiciary and emergency rule imposed by President Pervez Musharraf on November 3.

The attorney general has said that emergency rule would be lifted on December 15.

But opposition parties accuse the election commission of being biased and say that it could not hold free and transparent polls.

"The APDM meeting would start in the afternoon and it is expected that it would endorse the decision of

boycotting the election," Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz spokesman Zaem Qadri told AFP.

Central leader of Islamist alliance Liaquat Baloch said that his party was already "firm" on the boycott decision.

Talks between the APDM and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party have deadlocked over the drafting of a joint list of demands they want Musharraf to meet to ensure the January 8 vote is not rigged, should they decide to take part in it.

Sharif and Benazir are expected to meet next week to hammer out an agreement, party officials said.

A senior leader of Sharif's party, Raja Zafar-ul Haq, has said the committee could not agree on the reinstatement of judges ousted by Musharraf under emergency rule or a time-frame for the government to meet the demands.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has asked foreign diplomats stationed here not to publicly comment on the domestic political situation, officials said Sunday.

The advice came after ambassa-

dors of the United States and European Union member countries last week held a series of talks with Pakistani opposition leaders and gave on-spot television interviews after the meetings.

"We have no objection to their meeting with anyone, but diplomats should not make public comments after such meetings," foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Sadig told AFP.

"We expect them to follow the standard behaviour and diplomatic etiquettes," Sadig said.

He added that it was general advice and whenever there is a violation diplomats are summoned and told not to interfere.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf sacked senior judges, suspended the constitution and imposed emergency rule on November 3 fearing an adverse court ruling on his election candidacy.

The hand-picked judiciary later validated Musharraf's election and his imposition of emergency rule.

Musharraf said that emergency rule was needed to tackle rising militancy in the country.

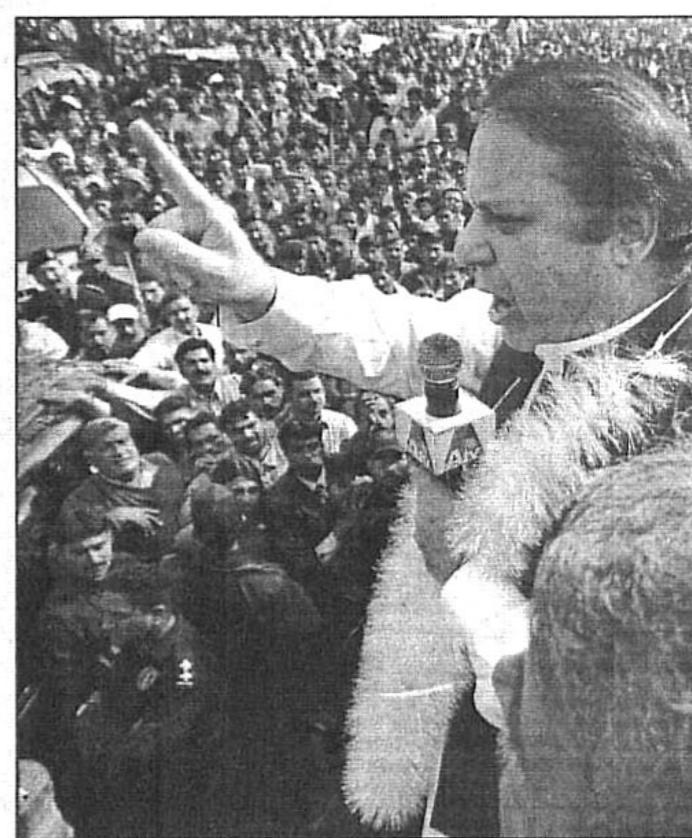


PHOTO: AFP

Former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif speaks to supporters during an election campaign in Muredka Saturday. Former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Sharif are trying to draw up a joint list of demands they want President Pervez Musharraf to meet to ensure the January 8, 2008 vote is not rigged, failing which they are threatening to boycott the election.

EC issues notice to Sonia over 'merchants of death' remarks

PTI, New Delhi

In the face of strong BJP demand, the Election Commission on Sunday issued a notice to Congress president Sonia Gandhi on her 'merchants of death' remarks relation to Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi even as it deferred a decision on his response to its notice.

The full Commission also decided to issue a notice to Congress leader Digvijay Singh for his remarks about 'existence of Hindu terrorism in Gujarat'.

Commission sources said that both the Congress leaders have been asked to give their reply by Tuesday.

"Modi's reply requires careful examination. Therefore, no decision has been taken by the EC. His reply would be examined by the Commission," the sources said.

In his reply to the EC, Modi said on Saturday that Gandhi had referred to him by suggesting that those who are ruling the state are "liars, dishonest people and merchants of fear and death" (Mautke-Saudagar). Similarly Singh referred to the statement on "Hindu terrorism".

## al-Qaeda in Pakistan a 'wild guess'

Says Musharraf

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE,  
Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has denied that al-Qaeda leaders were present in the country.

In an interview to CNN, Musharraf said, "It is just their guess. So, I don't want to make such wild guesses."

The Pakistani president challenged anyone to provide him with firm intelligence, adding, "They (al-Qaeda) can be anywhere."

Musharraf also underlined that he would not support any political party in the upcoming polls, stressing that all political parties would be given an equal chance, according to Daily Times.

He said the elections would be held in a free and fair manner, and that foreign observers would be welcome to review the polls.

The president reiterated emergency would be lifted by the second week of December.

Musharraf said once the emergency was lifted on December 15, the situation in Pakistan would be

much better. The legislation to revoke the Provisional Constitution Order (PCO) was in its final stages and the constitution would be reviewed by December 15, he added.

He said growing militancy in Pakistan's north was a reason for imposition of the state of emergency, and added that the Swat operation was going on successfully.

He said security forces have managed to destroy important militant bases, which is a good sign for the country.

He also maintained that Pakistan is determined to fight terrorism and will continue its role in the war against terror.

Musharraf declared a state of emergency in the country on November 3, citing a growing rift between the country's three pillars of state as one of the reasons for its necessity.

The move has been met with international criticism, including the suspension of the country's Commonwealth membership. It has also raised concerns that the upcoming general elections would not be held in a free, fair and transparent atmosphere.



Congress Party President and Chairperson of India's Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government Sonia Gandhi (R) meets with supporters during her 61st birthday celebration at her residence in New Delhi yesterday. Thousands of party supporters offered their greetings to Sonia.

PHOTO: AFP

## Afghan forces winning Musa Qala battle

AFP, Kandahar

Afghan and British troops are winning the battle to retake the Taliban-held town of Musa Qala, officials said yesterday, warning the rebels to surrender after deadly gunbattles near the southern stronghold.

Soldiers exchanged fire with the militants two kilometres (one mile) from the centre of the town in Helmand province and captured two Taliban commanders, a statement from the Afghan defence ministry said.

"The enemy has lost their morale and our troops are advancing with success," the statement said.

"The Taliban must leave Musa Qala or face waves of attacks."

Musa Qala has become a base for the Taliban, who were in government between 1996 and 2001

and are now waging an intensifying insurgency that has this year left around 6,000 people dead.

British and Afghan troops are leading the operation officially launched on Friday to take it back from the rebels, who moved in 10 months ago breaking a deal which led British forces to pull out.

The ANA (Afghan National Army) troops backed by NATO forces continue advancing from south and west directions and this past night the troops advanced from the north too," the statement said.

Britain has already lost a soldier in a mine explosion, while two children and about a dozen Taliban have also been killed, defence officials said Friday.

A British military spokesman in Helmand, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Eaton, said the operation would continue until the door to Musa Qala was "kicked in."

## 16 more rebels killed in Lanka fighting

AFP, Colombo

At least 16 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed in fresh clashes with government forces in northern Sri Lanka at the weekend, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The military fired mortar rounds at suspected rebel positions on Saturday that killed 10 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cadres in the Periyathampatti area, the ministry said.

Six more guerrillas were killed in two other clashes in the same region also on Saturday, the ministry said adding that three soldiers were wounded in the confrontations.

There was no immediate word from the LTTE. Independent verification of battlefield deaths are not possible and both sides are known to offer wildly contradictory figures.

The latest reported deaths came as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch repeated calls for a UN human rights monitoring mission in Sri Lanka where fighting between troops and Tamil rebels has risen since December 2005.

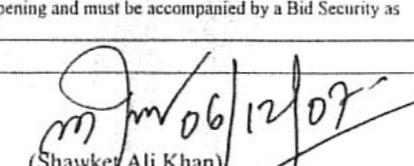
Since September, more than 20,000 people have been displaced by the fighting, the rights groups said in an open letter ahead of a UN meeting on human rights in Geneva next week.

Both the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE have failed to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians from harm," the statement said.

Sri Lanka has strongly resisted calls for a UN monitoring mission in the country where more than 60,000 people have been killed in the ethnic conflict since 1972.

**"বিদ্যুতের অপচয় রোধ করন"**

**Invitation for Bids (IFB)**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Re-Tender)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division				
2. Agency	Rural Electrification Board.				
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Project Director, System loss Reduction Project, REB.				
4. Invitation for	Renovation of Distribution lines taken over from PDB/DESA.				
5. Invitation Ref. no. & Date	REB/LR/SL-10/2007/630, Date: 06-12-2007.				
6. Procurement Method	Restricted Tendering Method (RTM)				
7. Budget & Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh & World Bank. Credit No. IDA 3679-BD.				
8. Project Name	System Loss Reduction Project				
9. Tender Package No.	SL-630				
10. Tender Package name	Renovation of Distribution lines taken over from PDB/DESA.				
11. Last Date & Time for selling Tender	03-01-2008 up to 5.00 PM.				
12. Last Date for Submission of Tender	06-01-2008 up to 12.00 Noon.				
13. Name & Address of the offices, Date & Time for opening of Tender	Project Director, System Loss Reduction, House No. # 3, Road No.#12, Nikunja-2, Joarshahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229 at 1.00 PM on 6 <sup>th</sup> January' 2008				
14. Name & Address of the offices, selling Tender Document	Project Director, System Loss Reduction, House No.# 3, Road No.#12, Nikunja-2, Joarshahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229 from 12 <sup>th</sup> December' 2007 during office hours.				
15. Name & Address of the offices of the Receiving Document	(i) Chief Engineer (Project), Rural Electrification Board Head Quarter, 3rd floor, Nikunja-2, Joarshahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Tel: 8916414, Fax: 8917138. or (ii) Project Director, System Loss Reduction, House No.#3, Road No.#12, Nikunja-2, Joarshahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Tel: 8960998, on or before 12.00 PM on 6 <sup>th</sup> January' 2008				
16. Eligibility of Tenders	(a) Enlisted Line Construction Contractors of REB ( Only A & B Category ) are eligible. (b) The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents (SBD): Procurement of Works, National Competitive Bidding, and will follow the Procurement regulatin-2003.				
17. Price of Tender Document	Tk. 750/- (non-refundable) (Per Sub Package) for each tender document in the from of Bank Draft/Pay order in favor of REB, Dhaka from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh (except REB black listed Bank i. e. Al-Arafa Islamic Bank Ltd.)				
18. Short Description of the Sub Packages:					
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Number of Sub Package (No's)	Name of PBS	Bid Security (Taka) Per Sub Package	Time for Completion of Work.
1	WSL-573 & WSL-574	02	Satkira	Tk. 27,000.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May '08
2	WSL-575	01	Laxmipur	Tk. 11,000.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May '08
3	WSL-576	01	Tangail	Tk. 25,000.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May '08
4	WSL-577 to WSL-579	03	Chittagong-1	Tk. 27,000.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May '08
19.	Special Instruction	(a) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all tenders prior to acceptance. (b) Tenderer and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening of Tenders. (c) Contract will be awarded & conducted as per PPR 2003. (d) Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after the bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security as mentioned in column 6 <sup>th</sup> of Serial no 18.			
20.	Name, Designation, Address & contact details of official Inviting tender:	 (Shakir Ali Khan) Project Director Rural Electrification Board House No.3, Road No.#12, Nikunja-2, Joarshahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Tel: 8960998			

Course Schedule of Bangladesh Computer Council January – June 2008					
Sl.	Title of the course	Duration (hours)	Starting Date	Course Fee (Tk)	Last Date of Registration
1.	Application Development using .NET Framework	90 (5PM-8PM)	01-1-2008	7000	30-12-2007
2.	Introduction to Office Applications under WID	66 (10AM-01PM)	01-1-2008	2500	30-12-2007
3.	Electronic Governance: Understanding e-Governance and related ICT issues for Implementation of e-Government	33 (5PM-8PM)	01-1-2008	5000	30-12-2007
4.	Computer Networking using Linux	69 (5PM-8PM)	02-1-2008	6000	31-12-2007