to Pakistan govt: Gates

Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov (L) shakes hands with US

ence at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof on Saturday in Munich, southern Germany.

Former rebel Maoists faced have genuine consensus. It (the

can hold.

Vishnu.

cal rallies.

There is a lot of jealousy and rivalry

(in the interim government) so it's

saying the worsening tensions

have highlighted the fragility of the

piece of paper does not mean you

interim government) is a conver-

gence of interests that may or may

designed to elect a body that will

rewrite Nepal's constitution, now

look set to take place amid ques-

tions over whether the peace pact

interim parliament -- made up of

Maoists and mainstream parties --

approved a motion to scrap the

monarchy and declare a republic

that 49.3 percent of Nepalis wanted

some form of monarchy preserved.

The monarch is considered by

devout Hindus to be an incarna-

tion of the Hindu god of protection

festering ethnic unrest in the south

that has killed at least 200 people in

the last year, and dozens of small

bombs have been thrown at politi-

In addition, there has been

But a survey last week showed

immediately after the election.

In December, the country's

The elections on April 10,

"Just because you have signed a

country's 2006 peace deal.

not last," said Chalmers.

not surprising," said Chalmers,

between Nepali

peace partners'

AFP, Kathmandu

Congress.

gency.

Mounting tensions between the

partners in Nepal's peace deal are

posing a serious challenge to its

stability two months ahead of polls

meant to transform the country

heavy criticism this week after their

supporters were accused of attack-

ing and wounding 17 people,

including a member of parliament,

who were campaigning in the west

for Nepal's biggest party, the Nepali

police raided the headquarters and

offices of the controversial Maoist

Young Communist League, with

local media reporting that the raids

announcement that they will

revive local-level Maoist organisa-

tions prompted accusations they

are restarting the parallel govern-

ment they ran in areas under their

control during the bitter insur-

few weeks," said analyst Rhoderick

Chalmers, Nepal's country director

for the International Crisis Group, a

would bubble up at some point.

conflict prevention think-tank.

"We are approaching a critical

"It was inevitable that things

On Wednesday, a Maoist

were retaliation for the beatings.

Later the same day, hundreds of

into a republic, analysts say.

AFP, Munich

al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in Pakistan's northwest frontier region pose a direct threat to the Islamabad government, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates warned here Sunday.

The presence of the Islamic extremists in the tribal region is not just "a nuisance" to Pakistan, but "is potentially a threat to their government," Gates told an international security conference in this States. southern German city.

Nato reinforcements to defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda in neighbouring Afghanistan, suggested the time had come for a Pakistani anti-insurgency sweep on its own forces. side of the Afghan border.

Pakistan Saturday dismissed US claims that al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar were operating from its northwestern

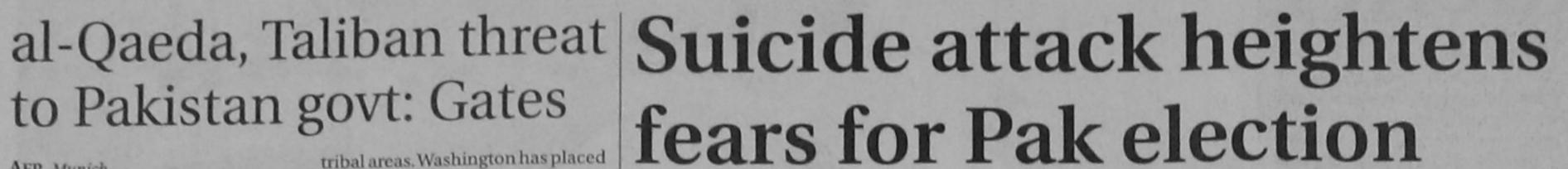
tribal areas. Washington has placed multi-million dollar rewards on the two men's heads.

A top al-Qaeda operative, Abu Laith al-Libbi, was recently killed in a suspected US missile strike in Pakistan's north Waziristan tribal area early this month.

The Islamic extremist Taliban militia ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 and gave sanctuary to bin Laden, who masterminded the September 11 attacks in the United

A US-led invasion in October Gates, who has been calling for 2001 ousted the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, but they have regrouped and are putting up increasingly stiff resistance to Nato-led international

> Meanwhile the international community and the Afghan government alike must raise their game this year to stop Afghanistan from tearing itself apart, Britain's Foreign Secretary said yesterday.



REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistani police said yesterday they suspected Islamist militants based in the tribal areas on the Afghan border were behind a suicide attack that killed up to 20 people at an election rally in the northwest a day earlier.

The lone bomber blew himself up in the midst of a rally of the opposition Awami National Party (ANP) in Charsadda town in the North West Frontier Province lose.

(NWFP). Provincial police chief Sharif Virk told Reuters that the severed head of the bomber had been found, and militants from the nearby Mohmand tribal region could have been responsible.

Pakistan votes for a new National Assembly and four provincial assemblies on February 18, and, while it is not a presidential election, President Pervez Farman Ali, deputy mayor of

Musharraf's future could be at stake if the polls result in a hostile

parliament. party competing with Musharraf's allies who were in charge of the central government and religious parties who have held power in Pashtun tribes across the border.

A party spokesman said ANP believed the attack was part of a plot to spoil or delay elections that the parties in power were likely to

"This attack is carried out by the forces who want to subvert elections," Zahid Khan, ANP's top spokesman, said. The attack took place inside a

house where ANP leaders were addressing around 200 supporters. "The bomber appears to be standing in a corner and all of a sudden pushed his way to the

middle and blew himself up,"

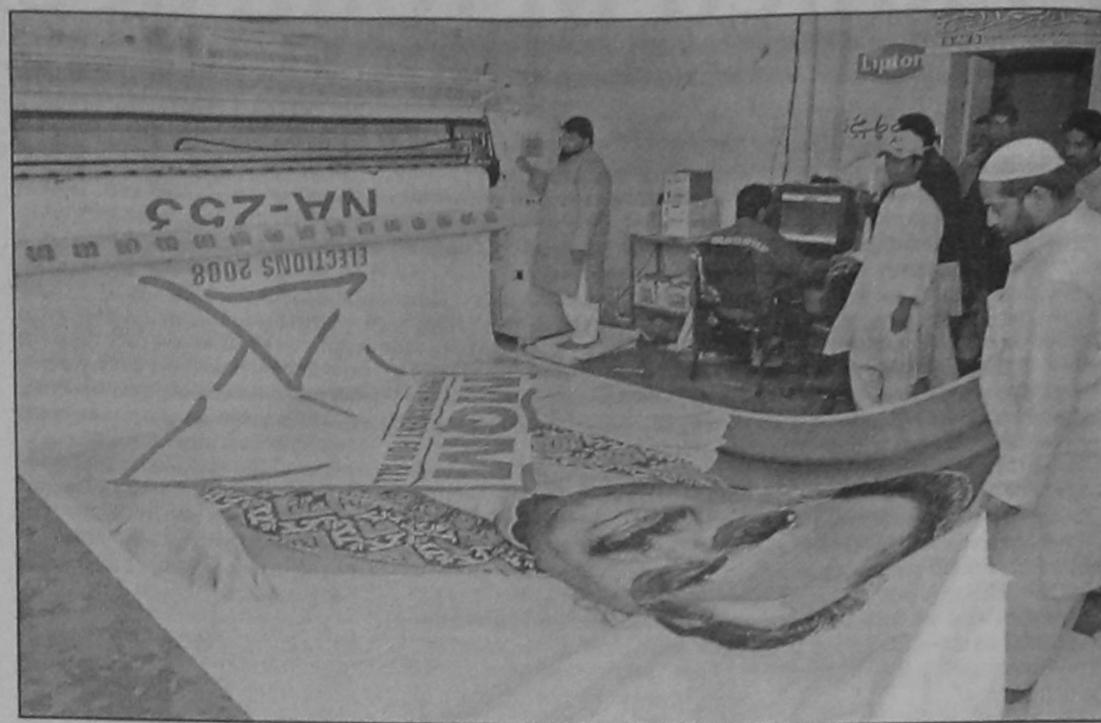
Charsadda, said.

Pakistan's lawless tribal regions are known as safe havens for al ANP is a secular, ethnic Pashtun Qaeda and Taliban militants, who fled Afghanistan after U.S.-led strikes following the September 11 attacks and took refuge with ethnic

Security forces have been battling militants in tribal areas since 2003, but after the army crushed a militant movement at Islamabad's Red Mosque last July violence has escalated in towns and cities across Pakistan, particularly in the north-

More than 400 people have been killed in militant-related violence since the start of this year alone.

Saturday's suicide attack was the third in the tiny town of Charsadda in less than a year. Two earlier attacks targeted Aftab Ahmed Khan Sheparo, a former interior minister and close ally of President Pervez Musharraf.



Pakistani labourers print election posters at a market in Karachi. Elections are normally a raucous affair in Pakistan, and the vote on February 18, was also meant to be good news for the nuclear-armed nation's path to democracy after eight years of iron rule by President Pervez Musharraf. Musharraf has promised that the general elections will be free, fair, transparent and peaceful and rejected opposition predictions of widespread rigging

Pak bomb blast toll rises to 25 AFP, Peshawar

The death toll climbed to 25 from a

suicide bombing at a weekend election rally in northwest Pakistan, officials said Sunday.

The bomber struck as hundreds of people gathered for a meeting of the Awami National Party (ANP), a small, nationalist ethnic Pashtun party, in the town of Charsadda in North West Frontier Province on Saturday.

Interior Minister Hamid Nawaz linked the attack to a wave of other bombings blamed on al-Qaeda and Taliban militants that have claimed more than 70 lives this year.

"Twenty-five people have died and more than 35 are injured," provincial health minister Syed Kamal Shah told AFP.

The government has formed an investigation team comprising senior police officials to probe the attack, he said.

Stampede at Defence Secretary Robert Gates during the international security confer-Indonesian Tensions worsening concert kills 10

AP, Jakarta

A stampede at an Indonesian punk rock concert left 10 people dead and dozens injured, most of them teenagers, police said Sunday.

The deadly crush happened AFP, Yangon Saturday night as hundreds of people tried to leave a concert by local band, Beside, in Bandung the provincial capital of West Java. Hundreds of people tried to leave the venue at the same time, causing a panic, said local police chief Col. Bambang

Ten people were trampled to death and scores of others were treated for breathing difficulties, said Noorman, a doctor, who like many Indonesian goes by a single name.

Villagers kill 15 bandits in Pakistan

AFP, Multan

Suparsono.

Villagers in central Pakistan surrounded and killed at least 15 bandits early Sunday during an attempted robbery, police said.

The incident took place in a village near Sahiwal district, some 160 kilometres (100 miles) east of Multan city, senior police official Malik Daud Ahmad told AFP.

"Fifteen bandits of a notorious gang were shot dead by villagers after they broke into a compound for looting," Ahmad said.

Pakistani nukes safe despite militancy rise

Says US general

AFP, Islamabad

The chief of the US military said Saturday that Pakistan's atomic weapons were secure despite rising Islamic militancy in the nucleararmed South Asian country.

Admiral Mike Mullen told reporters after talks with President Pervez Musharraf and Army Chief Ashfaq Kayani that his discussions focused on the security situation in

As the general spoke, a suspected suicide bombing killed at least 20 people and injured about two dozen others at an election rally in northwest Pakistan, a hotbed of Islamic militancy.

"Certainly the threat is going up. We are both concerned about that. Certainly in my meetings today, all the leadership expressed concern about being able to eliminate that command in October.

threat over time," Mullen said. But he added: "I am very comfortable that the nuclear weapons are secure and that proper procedures are in place. I am not concerned that they are going to fall into the hands of any terrorists."

Mullen also ruled out direct US intervention to deal with the al-Qaeda and Taliban militants who he said had found safe havens in the country's rugged tribal region.

Pakistan has reacted angrily to suggestions that US forces based in Afghanistan could carry out operations in Pakistan's troubled tribal areas, branded a safe haven for al-Qaeda militants.

"I give no credence to the notion that the United States could in any way, shape or form invade or attack Pakistan," said Mullen, on his first visit to Pakistan since assuming

Suu Kyi still junta's main challenger, even in detention

Aung San Suu Kyi's soft voice and demeanour belie a steely resolve in the long and painful struggle to bring democracy to Myanmar after decades of military dictatorship.

A slender woman who often wears flowers in her hair and prefers traditional Myanmar clothing, she has spent 12 of the past 18 years under house arrest in a rambling, lakeside home after leading her party to a landslide victory in 1990 elections.

With the nation now seemingly on track for a constitutional referendum in May and new elections in 2010, she remains the leading opponent to the junta despite efforts to silence her by keeping her under house arrest.

Her confinement has only heightened her stature as a symbol of the nation's struggle against

Aung San Suu Kyi is the daughter of Myanmar's founding father General Aung San, but came relatively late to the political scene after spending much of her life

She studied at Oxford, married a British academic, had two sons and seemed settled into a life in Britain.

Yangon in 1988 to tend to her ailing mother, she found the city gripped by protests against the military.

Later that year she saw the aspirations for democracy evaporate as soldiers fired on crowds of demonstrators, leaving thousands

Within days she took on a leading role in the pro-democracy movement, petitioning the government to prepare for elections and delivering impassioned speeches to hundreds of thousands of people at the city's glittering Shwedagon Pagoda.

In September 1988 she helped found the National League for Democracy (NLD), an alliance of 105 opposition parties, and campaigned across Myanmar for peaceful change.

Aung San Suu Kyi mesmerised huge crowds with her intelligence, poise and rhetoric, helped by her family's legacy in the liberation movement. Her father had been assassinated just months before independence from Britain in 1948.

Alarmed by her fearlessness and the support she commanded, in 1989 the generals ordered she be placed under house arrest, and she has spent most of the intervening years under home deten-

But when she returned to tionorinjail. Sympathy for Laden drops in Pakistan

Sympathy for al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and the Taliban has dropped sharply in Pakistan amid a wave of deadly violence, according to the results of a recent opinion poll.

month for the US-based Terror Free Tomorrow organization, also identified the party of assassinated opposition leader Benazir Bhutto as the country's most popular ahead of Feb. 18 elections, and said most Pakistanis want President Pervez Musharrafto quit.

The poll suggests Pakistanis are looking to peaceful opposition groups after months of political turmoil and a wave of suicide

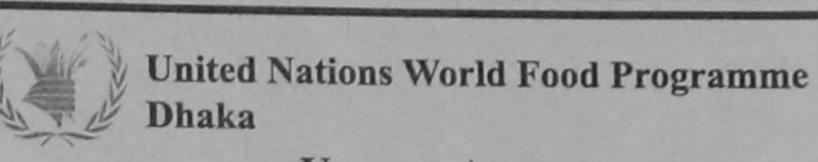
In the latest bloodshed, a bomber blew himself up at an opposition rally in the northwestern town of Charsadda on Saturday, killing 27 people and should quit immediately.

According to the poll results only 24 percent of Pakistanis approved of bin Laden when the survey was conducted last month, compared with 46 percent during a

similar survey in August. Backing for al-Qaeda, whose The survey, conducted last senior leaders are believed to be hiding along the Pakistani-Afghan border, fell to 18 percent from 33

> Support for the Taliban, whose Pakistani offshoots have seized control of much of the lawless border area and have been engaged in a growing war against security forces, dropped by half to 19 percent from 38 percent, the results

Also, in a sharp rebuke to Musharraf who seized power in a 1999 coup and whose standing has slumped since he tried to fire Pakistan's chief justice last March 70 percent of voters think he



Vacancy Announcement The World Food Programme, Bangladesh is seeking applications from the qualified

candidates for the following position for its Emergency Operations (EMOP): Post Title National Consultant on Nutrition

Type of Contract: Special Service Agreement (SSA) Duration 6 (Six) months **Duty station** Dhaka

The National Consultant will provide support to the WFP-Micro-nutrient Consultant responsible for the design and implementation of the Micro Nutrient Powder (MNP) Programme; study the on-going EMOP and WFP Country Programme (CP) activities and get oriented in design, implementation and M&E modalities, particularly EMOP; closely follow up the ethical clearance and other GoB issues related to MNP implementation under EMOP; Assist in preparation of MOU/FLAs with the EMOP implementation partner NGOs; assist technically in designing, implementation, M&E of EMOP activities; Liaise with the counterpart organisation(s) responsible for development of IEC materials on MNP; also follow- up planning and implementation of training programmes including ToT on MNP; liaise with the agencies responsible for conducting baseline and outcome surveys on the interventions; make field visits in the intervention areas and prepare feedback reports for the management; coordinate with the implementing partner agencies in respect of preparation and implementation of their work plans; provide technical support to the implementing partner agencies for preparing their plans on movement and distribution of commodities; assist and participate in monitoring the outputs and outcome of the nutrition interventions; accomplish other relevant responsibilities assigned by the management as required.

Qualifications and Experiences: University degree in relevant subject areas (e.g. Nutrition, Nutrition Planning, Public Health Nutrition). At least 6 years of progressive relevant work experience at field level in implementing nutrition interventions.

Submission of application: Only candidates meeting the above requirements are requested to submit their applications, quoting this vacancy announcement along with filledin Personal History Form (P-11, available on http://www.wfp.org/bangladesh or http://bangladesh.wfp.org) with name & addresses of three references to: Human Resources Officer, WFP, UN Offices, IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh or e-mail to: Bangladesh Vacancy Announcement@wfp.org . Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Last date of application submission 25 February 2008

WFP is an equal opportunity employer and promotes affirmative action principles to achieve gender balance among its staff.

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উনুয়ন কর্পোরেশন

অফিস ষ্টেশনারী সংগ্রহের স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (গুড়স)

160	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ			তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয়।			
021	এজনী			বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উনুয়ন কর্পোরেশন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৮।			
001	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম			ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, বিএফডিসি, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।			
081	সংগ্রহকারী সন্তার জেলা			ঢাকা।			
1 20	কি জন্য আহবান			টেভার ফর গুড্স।			
051	আহ্বানের সূত্র			এফডিসি/পিডি-এলপি/২০০৭-২০০৮/২৬/৫৬।			
091	তারিখ			তারিখঃ ০৭/০২/২০০৮।			
061	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি			উনুক্ত দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
160	বাজেট এবং সোর্স অব ফাভ			রাজস্ব খাত।			
301	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম			বিভিন্ন প্রকার অফিস ষ্টেশনারী সরবরাহ।			
221	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ			তারিখঃ ০৯/০২/২০০৮।			
251	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ			তারিখঃ ০৯/০৩/২০০৮ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
101	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়			তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০০৮ দুপুর ২.০০টা।			
184	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়			তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০০৮ দুপুর ২.৩০টা।			
701	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা			হিসাব ক্যাশ শাখা, বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উনুয়ন কর্পোরেশন, তেজগাও ঢাকা।			
	(ক) দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণকারীর দপ্তর			উপ-পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ), বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উনুয়ন কর্পোরেশন তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।			
	(খ) দরপত্র দলিল খোলার দগুর			পরিচালক (কারিগরী ও প্রকৌশল), বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উনুয়- কর্পোরেশন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।			
261	মালামাল সংগ্রহ অথবা কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা			 (১) সরবরাহকারী মালামাল সরবরাহ কাজের ৩ (তিন) বছরে সার্বিক অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (২) এ জাতীয় মালামাল সরবরাহের কমপক্ষে ১ (এক) বছরে সুনির্দিষ্ট অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (৩) হালনাগাদ ইনকাম ট্যাক্স পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যারেজিস্ট্রেশন, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সার্টিফিকেট্র্রাদি। 			
101				বিভিন্ন প্রকার অফিস ষ্টেশনারী সরবরাহ।			
741	41-11-11-1				দট সিডিউলের মূল্য ৮৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।		
791	न हो। नश	লট লট (সংগ্ৰহতব্য		বেস্থান টেভার সিকিউরিটি সরবরাহে		সরবরাহের সময় সপ্তাহ/মাস	
	031	বিভিন্ন প্রকার অফিস ষ্টেশনারী সরবরাহ	বাংলাদেশ কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা-১২০৮		হাজার)	(টাকা নয় মাত্র পে- ড্রাফট আকারে	সিডিউল মোতাবেব
201	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম			এস এম কায়সার হোসেন মল্লিক।			
571	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী			উপ-পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ)।			
221	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা			বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন।			
201	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের			त्कान न ४५२०४४१।			
	মাধ্যম			क्याञ्च नः ४४०-०२-৯১७१२४०।			

এস এম কায়সার হোসেন মল্লিক উপ-পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ)

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র উনুয়ন কর্পোরেশন তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা জিডি-৬৮৪

যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে

Iraqi men shout slogans during an anti-US rally in Baghdad's impoverished district of Sadr City on yesterday. The Demonstrators asked for the evacuation of US troops from a nearby tobacco factory, which they occupied and transformed into a military post.