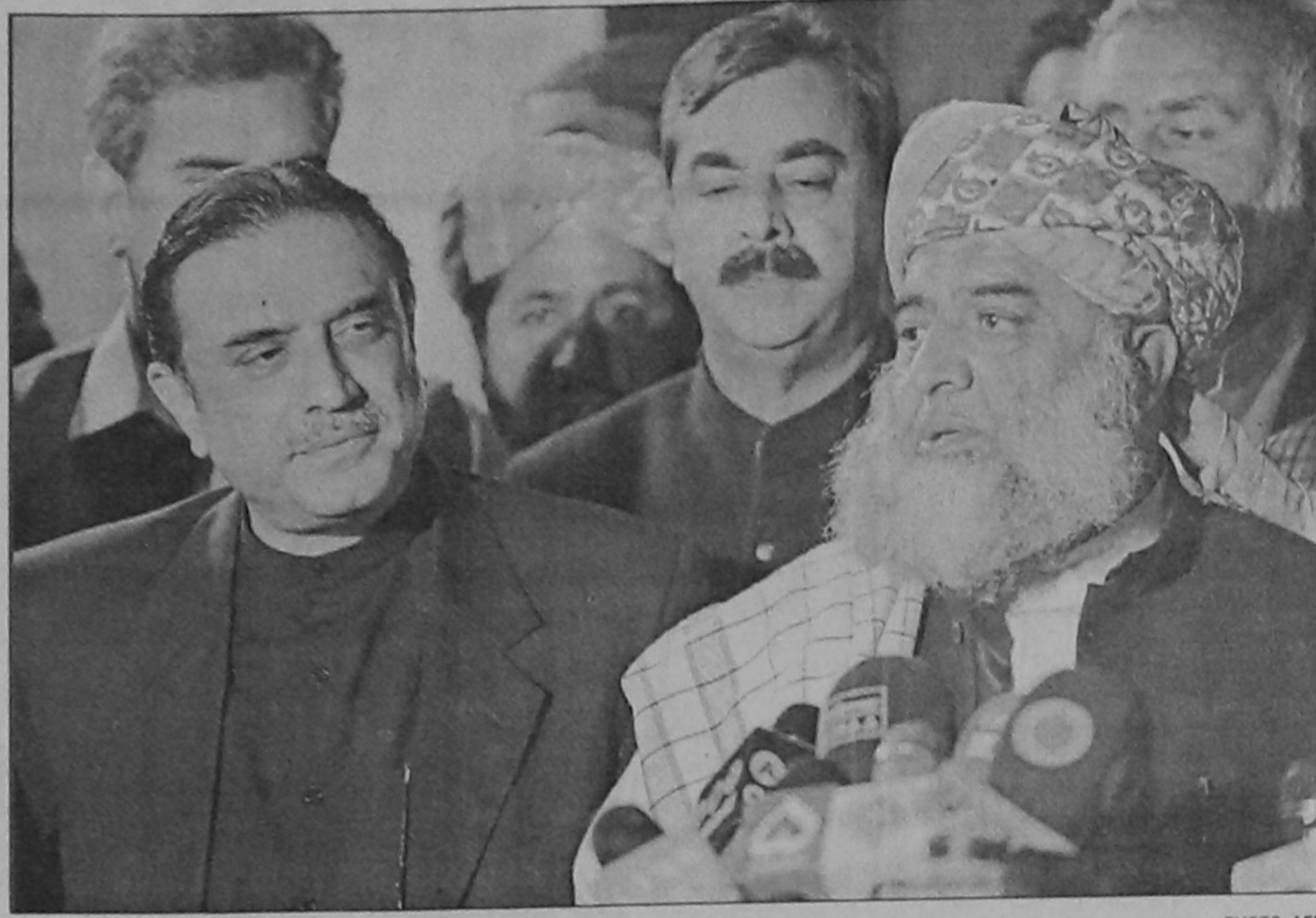


Senators irked over Musharraf's Rs 63-lakh hotel bill

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistani Senators have questioned President Pervez Musharraf's fat hotel bill of Rs 63 lakh during his recent three-day visit to Britain, saying it caused a deep hole for the state exchequer.

Musharraf, who undertook a 10-day tour of the European countries last month, stayed in a royal suite of an expensive hotel near Hyde Park in London. His three-day stay cost Rs 63 lakh.



Widower of slain former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto Asif Ali Zardari (L) and leader of hardline religious party Maulana Fazlur Reham (R) attend a joint press conference following their meeting in Islamabad on Thursday.

'Good news' soon on Pak consensus govt: Zardari

THE DAWN, Islamabad

The Pakistan People's Party, which has emerged as the largest parliamentary group in the National Assembly in the Feb 18 elections, on Thursday formally invited a fractured Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal to become part of the proposed government of national consensus in order to steer the country out of the present crisis.

The invitation was extended by PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari during a meeting with Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam Amir Maulana Fazlur Reham at the residence of Senator Talha Mehmood.

Mr Zardari was accompanied by Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Raza Rabbani, Yusuf Raza Gillani, Syed Khurshid Shah, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi and

Farhatullah Babar.

Maulana Mohammad Khan Sherani, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, former NWFP chief minister Akram Durrani and Senator Talha Mehmood assisted Maulana Fazlur in the talks.

PPP spokesman Farhatullah Babar told Dawn that another round of talks between the PPP and the MMA would be held on Friday. The Jamaat-i-Islami-less MMA won only seven seats in the National Assembly.

Talking briefly to reporters after the meeting, a visibly happy Maulana Fazlur said the two sides had agreed that the country needed political unity and a government of national consensus.

He said the MMA had presented to the PPP leaders its list of priorities and the two sides would hold further

negotiations in the next few days. He said the MMA wanted to see parliament's sovereignty, rule of the Constitution, end of dictatorship and elimination of army's role in politics.

Zardari said his party had previously worked with Maulana Fazlur and expressed the hope that they would be able to work together in future as well. He said the nation would soon hear good news about the formation of a national consensus government.

Sources told Dawn that Maulana Fazlur briefed the PPP delegation on the circumstances under which the MMA was forced to support the 17th Constitutional Amendment. They said that the MMA chief agreed to support the PPP's move to abolish the National Security Council and Article 58-2(B) from the Constitution.

The PPP leadership had in the past called the MMA a "Mullah Military Alliance" and held them responsible for the breaking away of a joint opposition in the previous assembly. They had also accused the MMA of strengthening President Musharraf's hold on power by providing indemnity to his unconstitutional acts through the controversial 17th Amendment.

On Wednesday, 171 MNAs-elect of the PPP, PML-N and the ANP attended a "show of strength" luncheon hosted by Mr Zardari to prove their majority in the National Assembly. Heads of the three major parties vowed to form a coalition government at the centre and in the four provinces. They also pledged to fight against dictatorship and to end establishment's role in politics.

Musharraf may reinstate sacked Pak judges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

In a major climbdown, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has sent a message to the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chief Asif Ali Zardari that sacked judges of the higher courts can be reinstated provided they don't hear cases against him, said an official privy to the developments.

The olive branch to the PPP, which is discussing details of government formation with former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) has apparently come in the form of a message conveyed through a common friend.

"The presidency is ready to restore the judges provided they don't sit on benches hearing cases against the President," said the top government official. He said the presidency has also suggested that

judges appointed by President Musharraf after 2007 November 3 emergency would be accommodated in the same positions or transferred to government positions usually held by serving judges.

"President Musharraf has also agreed to forego powers of sacking Parliament and appointing services chiefs," the official said, adding that in return he wants an assurance that no impeachment move would be tabled.

On Wednesday, in a rare show of strength, the PPP, PML(N) and the Awami National Party (ANP) and independents challenged President Musharraf to accept his defeat.

The PPP won 88 seats, the PML(N) 66 and the ANP 10 in the elections. Further, 27 independents have expressed their willingness to join the coalition. The Musharraf-backed PML(Q) could only win 39 seats.

US support for Musharraf causes Pak anger

AP, Islamabad

The US has a puzzle to crack in Pakistan.

The Bush administration wants to ensure military pressure is kept up on militants in the lawless tribal areas, but US support for President Pervez Musharraf risks deepening anti-American sentiment among a public already fuming over Islamabad's role in the war on terror.

Despite Washington's denials of any meddling in Pakistani politics, influential commentators and average citizens are convinced it is propping up the unpopular former army chief to sustain the fight against al-Qaeda, even as it calls for more democracy.

"I want to ask President Bush, will he allow any other country to

intervene in the ongoing US election?" said Ibrar Christi, 31-year-old car dealer in Lahore. "Now America wants our political parties to cooperate with Musharraf. Why? Just because he is their yes man? We have voted against Musharraf and his policies."

President Bush called Musharraf shortly after the Feb. 18 election and the White House has also praised him for working hard in the counterterrorism fight.

That irked many Pakistanis who feel they have sent a loud message to Musharraf and by extension the US with a resounding defeat of the pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League-Q party, which won just 15 percent of National Assembly seats.

The victors the Pakistan

People's Party of slain former leader Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League-N of another ex-prime minister, Nawaz Sharif have both pushed for an end to military rule since Musharraf took power in a 1999 coup. But the US cannot be certain they will press the fight against al-Qaeda and Taliban militants as hard as Musharraf has.

"There is an anguish about the statements from the White House," said Asma Jehangir, head of the nongovernment Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. "They are again giving a breath of life to the old establishment, which is what the people wanted to change."

But Washington is increasingly weighing its words.

US 'ready to lift sanctions' on North Korea

THE KOREA HERALD/ ANN, Seoul

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Japan on Wednesday that Washington is ready to remove political sanctions on North Korea in order to move to the next phase of denuclearisation.

Her remarks came as chief US nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill extended his stay in Beijing this week for further discussions.

"North Korea now needs to file a declaration that can give confidence that we know what we are dealing with going forward. We are ready to discharge our obligations, the United States is ready to discharge its obligations," Rice said in an interview with Japan's NHK television.

While behind-the-scenes negotiations have continued, the six-party talks remain at a standstill in terms of getting North

Korea's full declaration of its existing nuclear programmes. The original deadline was Dec 31, 2007.

The restrictive regime has also demanded prompt delivery of incentives, particularly Washington's promise to remove it from the list of state sponsors of terrorism and terminate the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act.

"There is always a 'you-go-first' kind of instinct by everybody, and we have to figure out a way that everybody can be confident that the obligations are being carried out," Rice added.

Washington has remained resolute that the North's declaration must include the exact quantity of plutonium extracted from its reactor, clarification of a suspected uranium enrichment

programme, and any proliferation activities.

"Whenever you have a nuclear programme that is as advanced as the North Korean nuclear programme, in a country that is as opaque and has had very little contact with the outside world, you need to worry about proliferation as a near-term and a long-term concern," Rice said.

Despite a change of administration in South Korea and Washington's preoccupation over the Iraq situation, the envoys responsible for the nuclear negotiations have maintained their support for the six-party talks.

The six-party talks have been progressing under the Sept 19 Joint Statement of principles from 2005 and an implementation version of the agreement on Feb 13, 2007.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission
 Anchor Tower (7th Level), 108, Bir Uttam C. R. Datta Road
 (Former 1/1-B, Sonargaon Road), Dhaka-1205.

No.-BERC/Est. 001(Part - 1)/1599 Date: February 27, 2008.

PUBLIC-NOTICE

Subject: Invitation of opinion, advice, objection, addition/amendment proposal on draft regulations.

The undersigned is directed to notify all concerned that Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has framed the following 4(four) draft regulations by exercising the power as provided in Clause 59 of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act, 2003:

1. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Electricity Transmission Tariff Regulations, 2008
2. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Electricity Distribution Tariff Regulations, 2008
3. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Gas Transmission Tariff Regulations, 2008 and
4. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Gas Distribution Tariff Regulations, 2008.

All concerned are invited to send their valued opinion, advice, objection, addition/amendment on the draft regulations in writing addressing the Secretary of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission or at e-mail address chairmanberc@yahoo.com by March 31, 2008. Please send subsequently a hardcopy of your opinion sent by e-mail; otherwise it may not be possible by the Commission to confirm your opinion. It may be mentioned here that the copies of the above draft regulations are available at the Commission, which can be procured in person for free. These drafts can also be down-loaded from Commission's web-site-www.berc.org.bd. Any proposal received after the specified date will not be considered.

Meskat Ahmed Chowdhury
 Meskat Ahmed Chowdhury
 Secretary
 Phone: 862 7434.

GD-991

Japanese scientists eye new planet

AFP, Tokyo

Scientists at a Japanese university said Thursday they believed another planet up to two-thirds the size of the Earth was orbiting in the far reaches of the solar system.

The researchers at Kobe University in western Japan said that theoretical calculations using computer simulations led them to conclude it was only a matter of time before the mysterious "Planet X" was found.

"The possibility is high that a yet unknown, planet-class celestial body, measuring 30 percent to 70 percent of the Earth's mass, exists in the outer edges of the solar system," Kobe University said in a statement.

The study comes two years after school textbooks had to be rewritten when the Pluto was booted out of the list of planets.

Pluto was discovered by the American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh in 1930 in the so-called Kuiper belt, a chain of icy debris in the outer reaches of the solar system.

This illustration released from Japan's Kobe University Thursday shows another planet half the size of the Earth, which is believed to be in the outer reaches of the solar system.

PHOTO: AFP

Prince Harry to quit Afghanistan

AFP, London

Prince Harry will be withdrawn from active service in Afghanistan after a news blackout on his deployment was broken, British media reports said Friday.

The British army had been widely expected to pull the 23-year-old prince out of the war-torn country after a US website broke a news embargo imposed for security reasons when the prince was deployed in mid-December.

Prince Harry's posting to Afghanistan makes him the first British royal to be sent into combat in more than a quarter of a century.

A photograph made available on Thursday shows Britain's Prince Harry (R) talking with Lance Corporal of Horse Chris 'Dougie' Douglass atop a Spartan armoured vehicle, in the desert in Helmand province in Southern Afghanistan on February 18, 2008.

PHOTO: AFP

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position	Department / Section	Qualifications
Professor	Pharmacy	Ph.D. 11 years of teaching experience with 03 years as Associate Professor in relevant branch. Minimum 10 publications.
Associate Professor	Pharmacy	M.Pharm Degree or Ph.D. in relevant branch. 05 years as Assistant Professor. Minimum 05 publications.
Assistant Professor	Business Administration, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Law & Human Rights and Pharmacy	First Class BBA/B.Sc. Engg./LL.B./B.Pharm and MBA/M.Sc./LL.M./M.Pharm Degree. Minimum 03 years of teaching experience. Minimum 01 publication.
Lecturer	Architecture, Business Administration, Computer Science & Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Law & Human Rights and Pharmacy	Minimum CGPA-3.00 or First Class B.Arch. / BBA / B.Sc.Engg./ LL.B. / B.Pharm Degree or equivalent in relevant discipline.
Departmental Admin. Officer	Business Administration	Masters with Administrative experience. Computer literacy is essential.
Accounts Assistant	Administration	Commerce Graduate with skill in "Tally Accounting Software."
Office Assistant	Law & Human Rights	Graduate with office management experience and computer skill.
Laboratory Attendant	Pharmacy	H.S.C. (Science) with Biology.

Applications along with CV, photograph and copies of relevant certificates to reach Registrar, UAP by **March 06, 2008.**

Registrar

শাখা স্থানান্তর মহাখালী কর্পোরেট শাখা আজ থেকে নব আঙ্গিকে নতুন ঠিকানায়

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের উন্নত ও আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে আমাদের মহাখালী কর্পোরেট শাখাটি আজ ০১ মার্চ ২০০৮, শনিবার নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে নবপর্যায়ে কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।

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